# Seaholm High School

## Class of 2027

## Junior Year and Planning for the Future

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## Agenda

- Creating your college list
- Researching programs and schools
- Choosing a college & campus visits
- Overview of college application process
- Transcripts
- Testing: ACT vs SAT, or not at all
- Scheduling: Quality over quantity
- Upcoming events

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## Creating Your College List

Michigan Association for College Admissions Counselors recommends an average of six colleges on "your list":

2- safety schools,

2 target schools,

and 2 reach schools.

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## College Search

Identify the factors in a college that are most important to you:

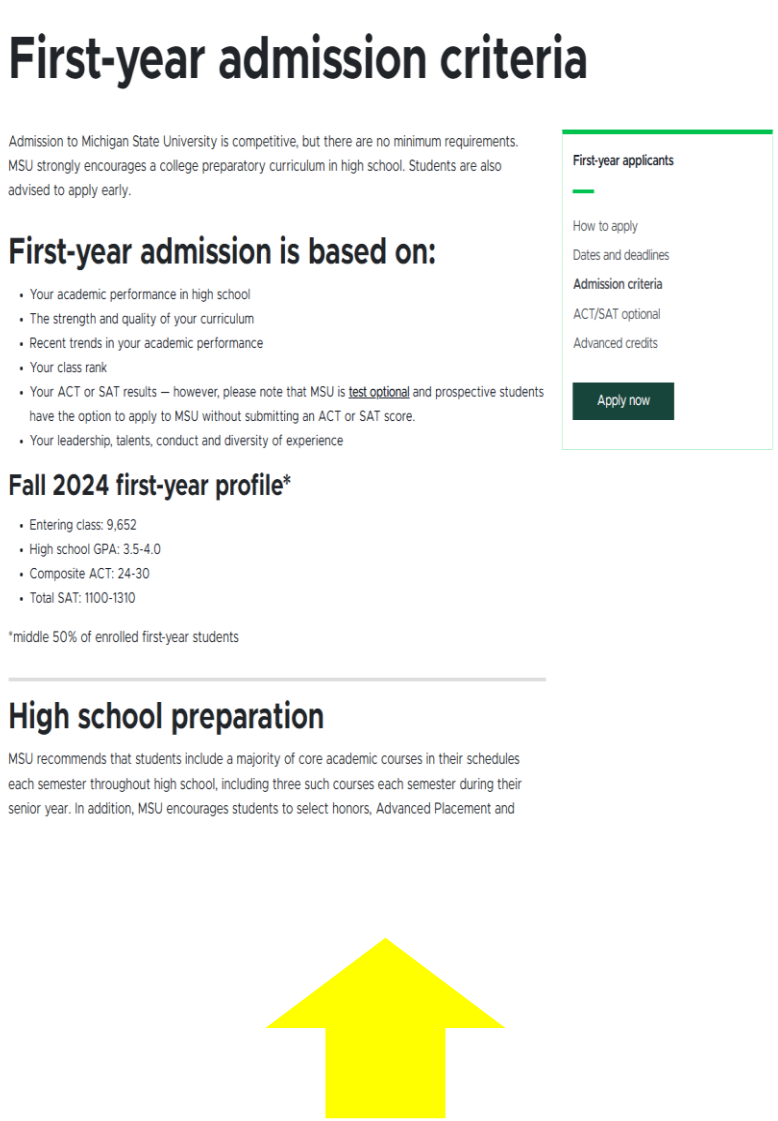
- –Location
- –Cost
- –Programs/Majors
- –Public vs. private vs. religious affiliation
- –Social environment, groups and clubs
- –NCAA or other sports
- –College Visits or College Fairs

Visit College Board – Search for Schools

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## Researching Admission Requirements

- The requirements for admission into college can vary depending on which schools you choose.
- The 2026-27 applications are available early to mid-August.
- See your counselor for information about waivers and financial assistance



First-year admission criteria

Admission to Michigan State University is competitive, but there are no minimum requirements. MSU strongly encourages a college preparatory curriculum in high school. Students are also advised to apply early.

First-year applicants

How to apply
Dates and deadlines
Admission criteria
ACT/SAT optional
Advanced credits

Apply now

First-year admission is based on:

- Your academic performance in high school
- The strength and quality of your curriculum
- Recent trends in your academic performance
- Your class rank
- Your ACT or SAT results — however, please note that MSU is test optional and prospective students have the option to apply to MSU without submitting an ACT or SAT score.
- Your leadership, talents, conduct and diversity of experience

Fall 2024 first-year profile*

- Entering class: 9,652
- High school GPA: 3.5-4.0
- Composite ACT: 24-30
- Total SAT: 1100-1310

*middle 50% of enrolled first-year students

High school preparation

MSU recommends that students include a majority of core academic courses in their schedules each semester throughout high school, including three such courses each semester during their senior year. In addition, MSU encourages students to select honors, Advanced Placement and

# Seaholm High School – College Application Process

| Spring | Summer | Fall |
| --- | --- | --- |
| • Secure letter(s) of recommendation<br>• Attend the June Student and Parent Night<br>• Work on essays | • Send transcript through Parchment in July or August<br>• Continue to refine essays<br>• Start college applications – most open in August<br>• Send test scores, if applicable | • Complete and return Brag Sheet to counselor<br>• Continue to work on applications and submit |

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## Your Transcript and Parchment

- Register with Parchment www.parchment.com

- When setting up your account:

  - This needs to be a student account, NOT a parent account.
  - Identify CORRECT graduation year – **2027**
  - Double check to make sure your birthday is correct

- Prospective D1 or D2 athletes must set up an account with NCAA Eligibility Center - (http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/how-register)

- Contact Carey Balow if you have any Parchment issues at cbalow@birmingham.k12.mi.us

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## Post-Secondary Options

- Community College
- Military
- Gap Year
- Trade Schools and Apprenticeships
- Consider OSTC for senior year



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## ACT VS. SAT, or Not At All

COLLEGEBOARD moved the PSAT and SAT to a digital format in the 2024/2025 school year. To register or send SAT scores http://collegeboard.com

ACT - http://www.actstudent.org

**NOTES:** Many schools have remained test-optional, visit http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional. Test-Optional, Test-Flexible, and possible impact on scholarships

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## SCHEDULING – QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

*Our recommendations when scheduling your senior year……*

- Focus on quality over quantity.
- Ensure your schedule meets college requirements while maintaining balance.
- Choose rigorous courses that fit your strengths without overload.
- Success and challenge should go hand in hand.

# Seaholm High School - Mark Your Calendar

| DATE | EVENT |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, April 14 | SAT WITH ESSAY – 11th grade students |
| Thursday, April 16 | M-STEP - 11th grade students |
| Thursday, April 23 | WIN Career Readiness - 11th grade students |
| Monday, May 4 - Friday, May 15 | Advanced Placement Testing |
| Junior Student and Parent Night (Part 2) – Tuesday, June 9 - 6-7:30 pm (Virtual) | |
| Birmingham Area College Fair on March 18 at Brother Rice - 6-7:30 pm | |
| Career Day for Juniors – March 24 | |
| Junior Series in May – More info to come | |
| Notes: If you have financial need, please work with your counselor (Fee and application waivers may be available.). | |

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## Highlights of Junior Student & Parent Night Part 2 – June 9 at 6 pm

- Review of the college application process
- College deadlines
- *Deep dive* into Common App
- Letters of recommendation
- Essays
- Testing updates
- Timeline

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## Final Thoughts!

- Continue to work hard!
- Attend: Birmingham Area College Fair, Career Day, Junior College Series in May, and Junior Student & Parent Night Part 2 in June
- Create/finalize list of extra-curricular activities, employment, awards, and community service (grades 9-11)
- Visit colleges
- This is a process, you don't have to have all the answers right now.
- Let's work together and have fun!

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## Resources:

•**CollegeBoard – Campus Visit Checklist** - Campus Visit Checklist – BigFuture | College Board

•**5 tips to get the most out of virtual visits**: https://wheatoncollege.edu/admission/visiting-wheaton/5-tips-for-getting-the-most-out-of-virtual-college-visits/

•**College Search** - BigFuture | College Board

•**Xello (EDP/Educational Development Plan)** – Career Development/College Search
Students log-in through ClassLink

•**ACT vs. SAT** https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act and https://blog.prepscholar.com/act-vs-sat

•**Check out our College and Career Center** website for more resources.

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| Counseling Breakdown | Contact Info |
|---|---|
| **A-D** | Samantha Canfield- 248-203-3758<br>scanfield@birmingham.k12.mi.us |
| **E-H**<br>**DEPARTMENT CHAIR** | Nicole McWilliams - 248-203-3759<br>nmcwilliams@birmingham.k12.mi.us |
| **I-M** | Jenn Vanderveen - 248-203-3760<br>jvanderveen@birmingham.k12.mi.us |
| **N-S** | Mary Golonka - 248-203-3757<br>mgolonka@birmingham.k12.mi.us |
| **T-Z** | Mackenzie Wolf - 248-203-3740<br>mwolf@birmingham.k12.mi.us |
| **College & Career Specialist** | Brenda Guinan Huddy - 248-203-4253<br>bguinanhuddy@birmingham.k12.mi.us |
| **Counseling Secretary** | Carey Balow - 248-203-3751<br>cbalow@birmingham.k12.mi.us |