MHS College and Career Center Meeting Checklist

No idea what you want to do after high school? College isn't for everyone.

- Onboard with **SchooLinks**
- Career Exploration with Partners in Education https://www.rsdmo.org/pie
- Explore other career websites: https://www.careeronestop.org/, https://www.mynextmove.org/, https://www.onetonline.org/

Military, Trades, and Workforce Options

We recognize that college is not for everyone. We can still help you as you transition from high school to the next step along your journey. We have resources available to assist you if you are considering the military, a technical or trade school, or planning to enter the workforce.

How to find information about colleges:

- Visit College Websites (Specifically **Admissions**, **Financial Aid & Scholarships**)
- Search the College Navigator: https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/
- Find college-specific information on https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/
- Explore websites like https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/and https://journeytocollege.mo.gov/
- Use our website https://marquette.rsdmo.org/learn/college-and-career

Make a list of colleges you plan to apply to, including some from each category:

- **REACH** - may be highly selective and difficult to get into
- **TARGET** - may have a higher acceptance rate, you meet or are very close to meeting admission criteria
- **SAFETY** - guaranteed acceptance criteria, backup plan

Make a list of the **degree programs/areas of study** you are interested in:

- Is the program direct-admit, or does it require a separate application?
- Is a bachelor's degree enoug,h or will the career require a higher degree?

Visit College Campuses and/or Take Virtual Tours:

- **"Questions to ask on a College Campus Visit"**
- **Get the Most out of a Campus Visit**

What you need to fill out an application or SRAR - "**self-reported** academic record" filled out by YOU, the student:

- Transcript - you have access to an unofficial copy in Infinite Campus
- Test Scores - you may be asked to self-report scores for AP, ACT, SAT
- List of Activities/Involvement/Awards - include EVERYTHING
- Senior Year Courses - **keep a copy of your course requests this Spring!**

How to apply:

- **College Website** - if applying to fewer than 4 schools, the school's website is often the most efficient way to apply
- **Common App** - Over 900 colleges and universities participating. One application that can be submitted to multiple schools vs. filling out multiple applications - much more time efficient if applying to more than 4 schools.. Sections include: Student Info, FERPA, School Report, Personal Statement, Essays, Recommendations, Optional Report, Mid-Year Report, Final Report

When to apply:

- **Early Decision (ED)** - Often on November 1st, a "*binding agreement".* If admitted, you will attend that college and withdraw all other applications. You are telling the college that you will attend if admitted, regardless of financial aid or scholarships. You can only apply ED to 1 school. If you cannot afford the school without financial assistance, Early Decision may not be your best option. Some schools may have ED 1 and ED 2 deadlines. Be sure to read the fine print so that you understand the differences and implications of each.
- **Early Action (EA) -** Often in November or December, indicates a strong interest in the college, is non-binding, and usually receives an admission decision early
- **Priority** - Usually associated with scholarship consideration and incentives
- **Regular Decision** - Often December-February, non-binding, widely available
- **Rolling Admission**- Applications accepted at any time - usually a very late deadline or no deadline at all

How to **request a transcript**:

1. Complete onboarding process in **SchooLinks**
2. Add colleges you are applying to and follow the process for each

***Keep in mind you must allow a minimum of **10 school days** for requests to be processed by the College and Career Center. >>>>>>>>>>

It can then take another 2-3 weeks for colleges to process the receipt of documents and update your application file/portal.

Letters of Recommendation:

- Required vs. Recommended
  - Is it necessary and beneficial? Will the college consider it or even read it?
- **WHO** should the letter come from?
  - Teacher vs. Counselor vs. Other Recommender - Core Subject Teacher, College and Career Counselor, Coaches, Sponsors, or Mentors
- **Request Early**: 2-3 weeks' advance notice before the deadline
- Send the recommender(s) the appropriate link or email address to upload or send the letter
- Letters will be requested through **SchooLinks**

Financial Aid:

- Parents/Guardians complete the **FAFSA**
- Check college deadlines for submitting FAFSA information - could affect scholarships and other aid opportunities https://studentaid.gov/

- **Net Price Calculator** - every college website should have one https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price
- Some colleges will have a separate financial aid application specific to the institution or require the **CSS Profile** (https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/)in addition to the FAFSA
- **Types**: Merit (based on grades), Need-Based (income), Grants (free money), Loans (must be paid back w/ interest)

Scholarships:

- Check college websites for separate scholarship applications
- The Scholarships List document includes a list of reputable scholarship search sites and other suggestions for where to look. NEVER PAY TO SEARCH OR APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS - BE CAREFUL!
- Juniors can start applying for certain scholarships NOW!

Sports/Activities in college:

Register with the appropriate **Eligibility Center**:

- NCAA - www.ncaa.org
- NAIA - www.naia.org

How to stay connected:

- Check your email **DAILY!**
- Look for updates on the **College and Career Center Website** and Parent/Student Square

Additional Tips

- Create and use an appropriate and professional **personal email address** to use for everything college and/or career-related. Do not register for events or sign up for anything using your Rockwood (rsdmo.org) email address because you will not have access to it after graduation.

- **School Profile** - Some applications may ask for your class rank. Rockwood does not rank students. Colleges have access to our **School Profile,** which gives them a breakdown of the ***current Senior Class*** GPAs and other important information about Marquette. You can view this document on the College & Career website.

- **SchooLinks**- If you have not already logged into your account, do so ASAP and complete the onboarding process. You will not be able to request transcripts or recommendation letters until this is done.

- Enroll in, or continue to work toward, the **A+ Program.** Even if you do not attend a community college, some schools in the state of Missouri offer incentives for completing A+. A+ Coordinator Website

- Remember, every grade matters, so take classes that challenge you but don't overwhelm you. Continue to stay active in your extracurricular activities and volunteer efforts. Your College and Career Counselors are here to help you!

- **When registering to take the ACT, make sure to have scores sent to MHS. We will not have access to your score reports if you do not add Marquette's High School Code/CEEB code: 260591 to your registration!!!!**

How to schedule an appointment with your College Counselor (Junior appointments are taken 2nd semester only):

- Students can email their College and Career Counselor. Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend the meeting via phone or Zoom. **Students must indicate intended parent/guardian participation when scheduling an appointment to ensure adequate time is reserved.**
    - Mrs. Torgoley (Last names A-K) torgoleylayla@rsdmo.org
    - Ms. Ake (Last names L-Z) akepaula@rsdmo.org
- NO SAME-DAY APPOINTMENTS! Because of the volume of the students we meet with, and so we can better manage our workload, we do not take same-day appointments. Plan accordingly!

IMPORTANT: Even though some colleges will open their applications as early as July 1st, the College and Career Center is CLOSED during the summer. All transcript requests will be processed when school starts in the Fall.