Senior Year:
Planning for After High School

Parent & Student Presentation

September 14, 2026

Agenda

- Senior class information
- Post-secondary options – process & timeline
- Q&A / short break
- Financial aid information
- Q&A

Aaron Arneson - Scholarship Coordinator

Tom Yashinsky - Senior Class Advisor

- Measure for caps & gowns during Resource on October 15. I will send specific instructions on what is needed when I receive the information. Cost is $33.99 plus tax and shipping. Deadline is November 9. Late fee will be an additional charge. We encourage use of the many units that are in the community! (you can just order a tassel or a hat and a tassel!)

- Local scholarships
  - Class meeting during Resource to explain
  - Opens January 27, 2027
  - Due February 16, 2027 3:00 pm
  - Scholarship FAQ

- Scholarship database on SS website for scholarship opportunities
  - Extremely important year!

Options for the Future

- Work
  - Apprenticeship
- Military
  - ROTC
- Higher education
  - 2 year technical college
  - 2 year freshman/sophomore college
  - 4 year college/university
  - Trade school



Work and Military Process

- Work
  - Prepare a resume & cover letter
  - Practice interviewing skills
  - Consider your professional image
  - Network
- Military
  - Take the ASVAB (October 29 & April 13 at OHS)
  - Talk to a recruiter

Academics are important because employers need highly skilled and knowledgeable employees!

NEW!

Topper Internships

Grow your understanding of a career through a Topper Internship!

- 10-15 Hour Micro-Internship
- Get to know a business and the various jobs through hands-on experience
- Learn if that career is right for you

Requirements

- Application and Waiver
- Reflection
- Employer Evaluation
- Thank You Letter

Interested?
Scan the QR Code!

Students

Parents

Or Contact Mrs. Boudry

boudry.allison@onalaskaschools.com

College Application Process

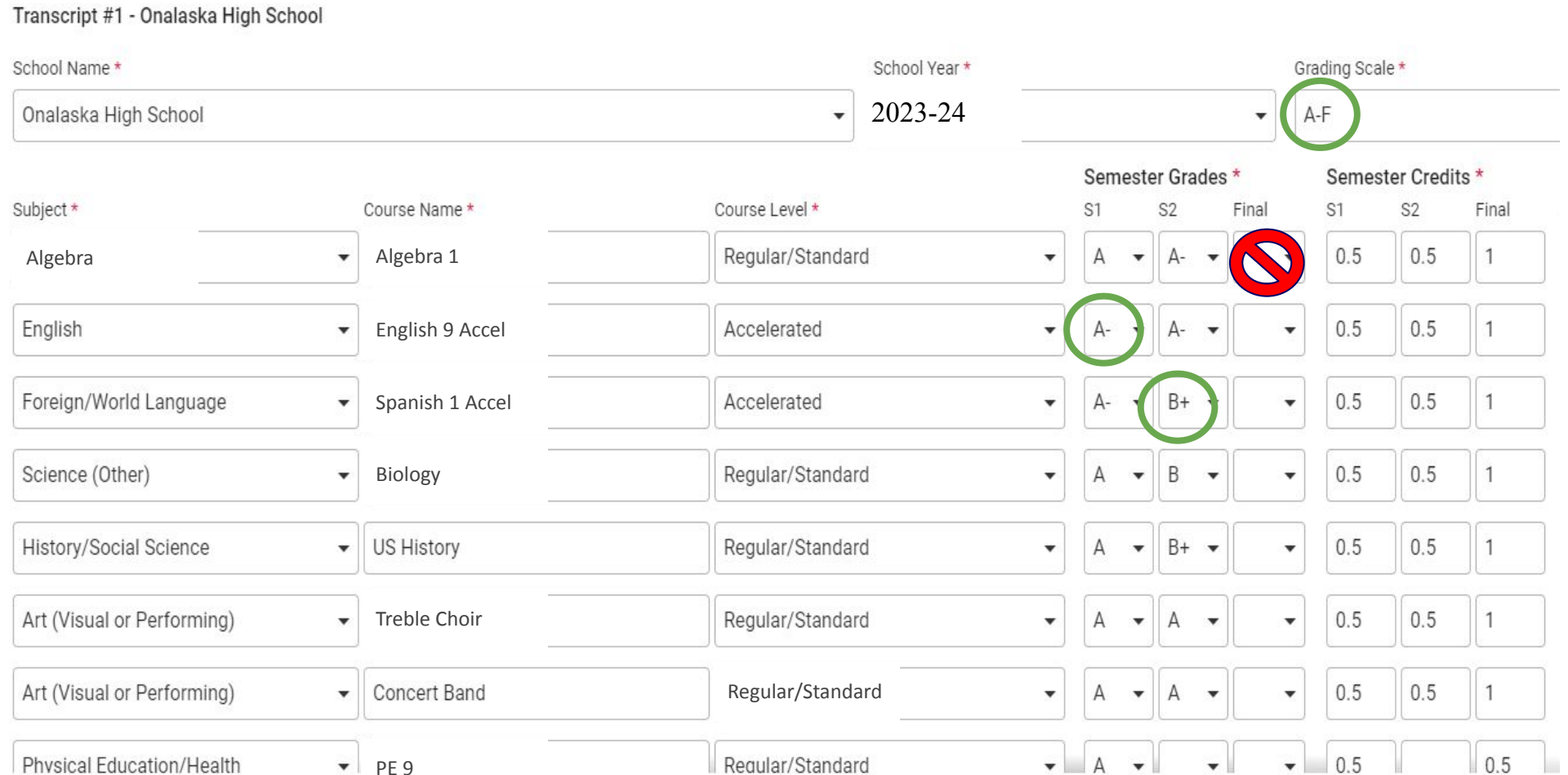
Steps to a complete application

A = All schools
4 – 4 yr schools
* = varies by school

- Apply online (A)
  - Apply early
  - Consider your professional image
  - Is your school on the Common Application?
- Payment (*)
  - Online payment (non-refundable)
  - Many colleges waiving application fees for all
  - UW Schools $25-$80 - Most free, Western $30
  - See counselor for help with fees
- High school transcript (A) OR self-reported grades
  - Request via google form OR provide your counselor's new email address if requested electronically
  - Even if "Not required" send your transcript!

Self-Reporting Grades on Common App

- UW Madison, U of MN, other 4 year campuses



Transcript #1 - Onalaska High School

School Name * Onalaska High School

School Year * 2023-24

Grading Scale * A-F

Subject *	Course Name *	Course Level *	Semester Grades * S1	S2	Final	Semester Credits * S1	S2	Final
Algebra	Algebra 1	Regular/Standard	A	A-		0.5	0.5	1
English	English 9 Accel	Accelerated	A-	A-		0.5	0.5	1
Foreign/World Language	Spanish 1 Accel	Accelerated	A-	B+		0.5	0.5	1
Science (Other)	Biology	Regular/Standard	A	B		0.5	0.5	1
History/Social Science	US History	Regular/Standard	A	B+		0.5	0.5	1
Art (Visual or Performing)	Treble Choir	Regular/Standard	A	A		0.5	0.5	1
Art (Visual or Performing)	Concert Band	Regular/Standard	A	A		0.5	0.5	1
Physical Education/Health	PE 9	Regular/Standard	A			0.5		0.5

College Application Process, continued

- Test scores*
  - Most college(s) are test optional at this time
    - Double check with your college(s)
    - Consider sending if your score could help
  - ACT/SAT
- Essay(s) (4*)
  - 250 -650 words
  - "What should I write about?"
    - Consider your English 11/AP Language essay
    - Share something not already shared in the application
    - An opportunity for disclosure
  - Be aware of cutting & pasting essays
  - Many are used for scholarships

A = All schools
4 – 4 yr schools
* = varies by school

Essay Prompts

- “Each student is unique. Please tell us about the particular life experiences, talents, commitments, and/or interests you will bring to our campus.”
- Please respond to ONE of the following:
  - “Tell us about any circumstances that may had had an impact on your academic performance”
  - “Tell us why you are interested in attending COLLEGE NAME and what aspects of the campus are especially important to you.”

College Application Process, continued

- Letters of recommendation (*)
  - *If* needed/required
  - UW-Madison requires one
  - Email school counselor/teacher if an electronic recommendation is needed
  - Pink profile sheet in GC
- Help Days
  - Oct. 21-22 at OHS During Resource

A = All schools
4 – 4 yr schools
* = varies by school

Onalaska High School
Letter of Recommendation Request - Student Worksheet

Name:_____ Date Due:_____

Purpose of Letter: ( one) ___ college app. ___ scholarship app. ___other _____

Letter to be addressed to: (please include name, title and complete address)

_____

_____

_____

~~~
~~~

College Application Process
UW Direct Admit

- Students opted-in - Spring 2026
- Email from Universities of WI - August 2026
  - Not seeing an email?
- Log in/create account in the Direct Admit Portal
  - Complete Direct Admit Form by Nov 1st!
- Commit to a college by May 1st
- See your Counselor if you have questions

Resources

- Senior Google Classroom
  - Students can invite you to a guardian account
  - Military recruiters/college rep meetings
  - College fairs
  - Financial Aid
  - Cap/gown info
- STAR Conference folder from junior year
- Xello (assessments, occupations, education, transcripts)
  - Access through PowerSchool
- OHS Student Services office & website
- Assessments (ACT, ASVAB, etc.)
  - UW System pre-tests (math &/or Eng)
    - November 11-12 during Resource
- College websites - college fairs & tours

Resources continued

- Western Career Coaching
  - Once EVERY month at OHS (**Sept 16 -** first meeting)
  - Career Coach will meet/plan with students individually
  - Sign up in Student Services
- Western Open House
  - Tour programs
  - Apply for FREE! ($30 fee waived)
  - October 7 between 4-7 pm

Western Technical College
THE ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE

FAFSA Assistance

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- College Goal Wisconsin Event
  - Fill out & submit your FAFSA for FREE
  - Oct. 1 at OHS LMC 6:00 PM
- FAFSA Completion & Scholarship Workshop
  - Feb. 10-11 at OHS during Resource

START HERE
GO FURTHER
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Questions?

5 minute break

next up

Financial Aid Presentation