



DISCOVER YOURSELF. PURSUE YOUR PASSIONS. SHAPE YOUR FUTURE.

Welcome to Junior Parent Webinar: Post-High School Planning 2026

Who we are:



Norm Smith (A-Ha)



Kayte Haagen (He-N)



Shauna Liddell (O-Z)

Dominic Lopez- School
Counselor Intern



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

Agenda:

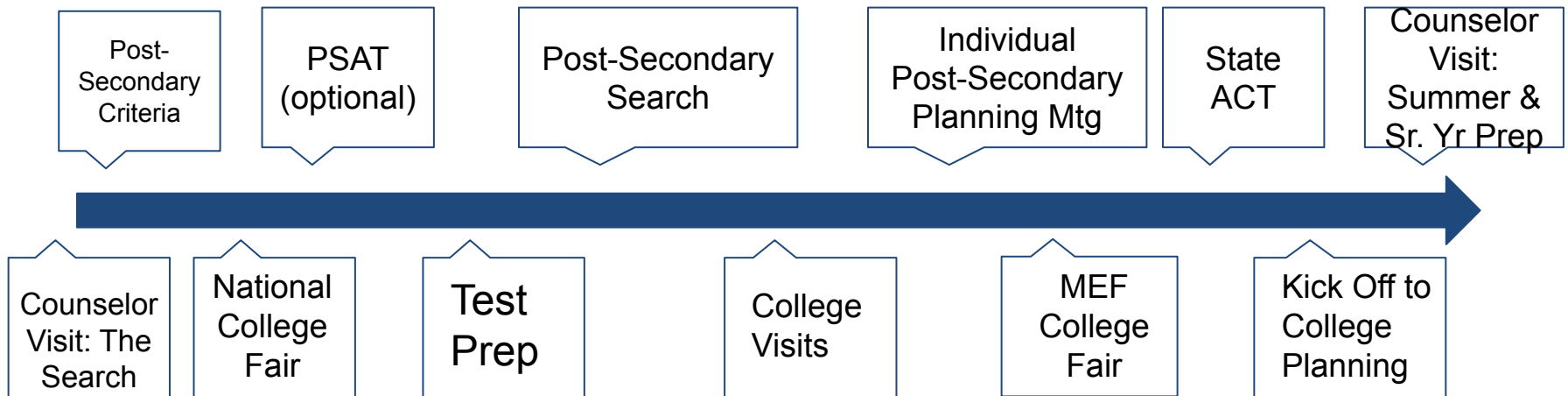
1. Post- Secondary “FIT” & Criteria
2. The Post-Secondary Search
3. Admissions Criteria and Test Prep
4. Questions



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

DISCOVER YOURSELF. PURSUE YOUR PASSIONS. SHAPE YOUR FUTURE.

Timeline



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

Finding “Fit”



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

Post-Secondary “Fit”

Academic Fit

GPA Middle 50%
Test Scores Middle 50%
Liberal Arts vs. Research
Class Sizes

Personal Fit

Location
Campus Setting
Athletics and Activities

Financial Fit

Cost of Attendance
Merit Aid Options
Need-Based Aid Options
Net-price calculator
Reciprocity/Tuition Discount

Our Philosophy:

****It's not about getting in. It's about finding a match and college home for the next 4 years.**



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

DISCOVER YOURSELF. PURSUE YOUR PASSIONS. SHAPE YOUR FUTURE.

Post-Secondary Search Criteria:

My College Search Criteria

Type of College	Student Body Size	Class Sizes
Academic Calendar	Faculty/Student Ratio	Programs/Majors
Geographical	Cost/Fin Aid/Scholarships	Graduation/Retention
Residential Life	Athletic Programs	Academic Supports
Underrepresented	Religious Affiliation	Study Abroad

Each student was encouraged to fill out this worksheet as we covered the different criteria to consider.

Next, students discussed their priorities in search criteria with classmates

Homework for parents:
Check out the Junior In-Class presentation to see more details about these criteria! (In Schoology)



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

Where to find more information:

- College Board's Big Future
- Fiske Guide to Colleges
- The Big Book of Colleges
- Peterson's Guide (several options)
- K&W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities
- MaiaLearning www.maialearning.com

and.....

SCHOOLOGY!!

How can you help:

- Talk about their Post-Secondary Search criteria powerpoint and worksheet
- Attend the National College Fair Oct. 5th-6th
- Visit a college - to help determine what they want
- Encourage your student to attend rep visits @ OHS
- Encourage critical thinking and fact checking

The College Search



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

The College Search

1. Self-Reflection (Identifying Key Criteria)
2. Search Tools
3. College Fairs
4. OHS College Rep Visits
5. On-campus visits
6. Schoology Resources

Self Reflection

Know Yourself = College Match

Review of OHS Self Reflection Activities

- 9th grade year - Multiple Intelligence Inventory
- 10th grade year - Personality Inventory and Pre-ACT test
- 11th grade year - College Search Criteria Assignment
 - Identify college search criteria
 - Use college search criteria to start an online college search
 - Identify colleges they want to learn more about at the college fair



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

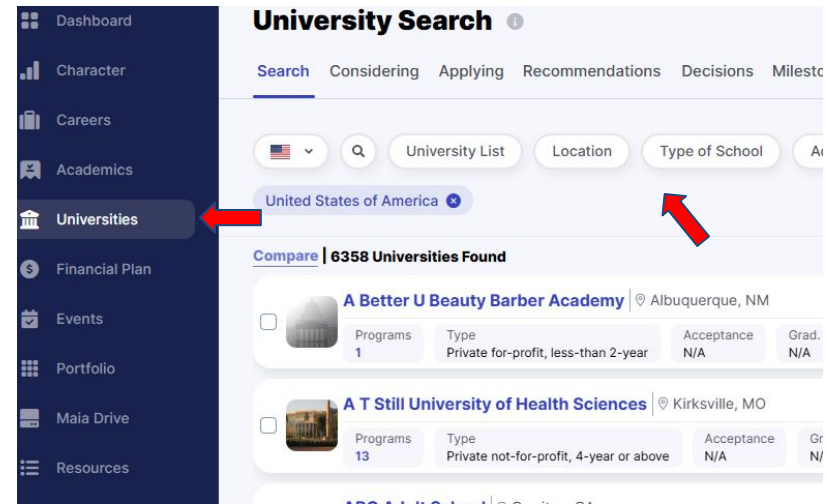
Building the College List

Make sure to consider Academic, Personal/Social, and Financial Fit!

- Comfort** - Admission criteria averages at this college are easily met by the student, making admission almost assured
- Target** - Admission criteria matches student profile closely, making admission chances good
- Reach** - Admission criteria is slightly out of reach of student profile, making admission chances more difficult

College Search Tools

- [MaiaLearning](#)
 - Search for colleges that match student's criteria
 - Log in - ClassLink
(find the MaiaLearning icon)
 - “Universities” Tab
 - Filters to narrow by search criteria
 - Research 10-12 to learn more about them
 - **ADD TO “CONSIDERING LIST”**
- Other good websites:
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>
 - <http://www.princetonreview.com/SchoolSearch.aspx>



How to use MaiaLearning

Video: [MaiaLearning Demo](#)

Video: [MaiaLearning Scattergrams](#)



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

OHS College Rep Visits

Reps at OHS:

- Visits held in the Fall and Spring
- Full list in MaiaLearning and on OHS School Calendar
 - MaiaLearning under “Events” tab
 - Pass from Counseling office during visit time
- Opportunity to learn more about the school from our regional rep

College Fairs and Events

- NACAC National College Fair
 - October 5th, 9am-12pm
 - October 5th, 5:30pm-7:30pm
 - October 6th, 9am-12pm
 - OHS will provide busing to this session; register your student in MyPaymentsPlus by Monday, Oct. 5th at 3:30
 - More information at:
<https://www.nacacattend.org/26Minnesota>
- College's websites (Webinars, Info Sessions, Virtual Tours)

On Campus Visits

College Visits:

- Visit a small, medium, large college
- Have your student make appointments – Do tour/info session, don't just walk around
- Ask questions and look at website before you go
- If missing school, call in absence ahead of time to get it "approved"

Virtual visits:

- Follow colleges of interest on social media platforms
- Website virtual tours
- Check out official college YouTube channels

How can you help:

- Agree on a time each week to talk about the college search
- Familiarize yourself with the resources in Schoology
- Check out a college's Common Data Set
- Remind yourself that this process is about your student finding a good “fit”
- Remind your student that you might have some ideas on what a good “fit” for them is!

Where to find more information: Schoology

Junior Year Folder:

- Copies of all classroom presentations
- College search worksheets/activities

College and Career Planning Resources Folder

- College Planning Guides
- Trade Planning Guides
- College Application Information
- Guide to International Admissions
- Guide to Performing and Visual Art Colleges
- NCAA Information
- Gap Year Information
- Past “Kick Off to College Planning” Presentations
- Pre-College Summer Programs
- Career Planning Resources

*Senior Year will include college application and essay resources

College Admissions Information



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

High School Transcript

- Rigor of the courses a student has taken
- Breadth of study within each department
- Grades a student has earned in these courses

ACT/SAT test scores ****

- Many still considered test optional
- <https://fairtest.org/test-optional-list/>

Qualitative Factors

- Essay
- Leadership/Activities
- Letters of recommendations
- Interviews at some selective schools



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

The Transcript

The transcript is the most important part of a student's application

- We send a transcript to each college a student applies to
 - Grades will be reflected as of end of junior year
 - We do not rank at OHS
 - Will also show “Work In Progress” - IMPORTANT!
- Weighted and Unweighted GPA on the transcript
 - School profile helps colleges figure out where students lie compared to their OHS peers

College Admission Testing

SAT vs ACT (2025): Quick Comparison Chart

Feature	SAT (2024 and beyond)	ACT (2025 Updates)
Format	Digital only	Digital OR Paper-Based
Length	~2 hours 14 minutes	~2 hours (shortened from 2:55)
Sections	Reading & Writing, Math	English, Math, Reading
Scoring	400-1600	1-36 (average of 3 section scores)
Calculator Policy	Allowed throughout Math	Allowed on Math section
Science Section	No	Optional in 2025
Adaptive Testing	Yes (module-based)	No (still linear)
Essay	None	Optional in 2025
Result Turnaround	Days	Days

[Click here for comprehensive comparison](#)



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

Test-Optional

Many schools offer a test-optional path to admission

Review application without test scores

Watch for info on this as you explore colleges

For complete list: www.fairtest.org



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

Upcoming Dates

<u>Fall:</u>	College Rep Visits at OHS; National College Fair
<u>February:</u>	Senior year course registration
<u>March-May:</u>	Individual Junior Post-Secondary Planning Meetings
<u>March:</u>	District ACT (Counselors register students)
<u>March:</u>	Kick Off to College Planning (MUST ATTEND EVENT!)
<u>Spring:</u>	College Rep Visits resume at OHS
<u>May:</u>	Counselors visit English classes re: College Apps 101

What Can You Do to Help

- Ensure your junior registers for ACT or SAT test dates (other than the District ACT)
- Encourage your student to participate in activities that bring them joy (vs. filling a resume)
- Help create a positive learning environment

National College Fair

Tuesday, October 6th 9AM-11AM
Mpls Convention Center

- Meet with admissions reps
 - Ask questions to help determine fit vs. basic questions
- Attend informational sessions
- **Fill out Permission Form in MyPaymentsPlus** - we will also have a bus available for those needing transportation
 - Indicate if you plan to ride the bus in MyPaymentsPlus



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling

QUESTIONS?

Norm Smith (A-Ha)	952-449-8411	norman.smith@orono.k12.mn.us
Kayte Haagenon (He-N)	952-449-8410	kathryn.haagenon@orono.k12.mn.us
Shauna Liddell (O-Z)	952-449-8422	shauna.condry@orono.k12.mn.us



ORONO HIGH SCHOOL
School Counseling