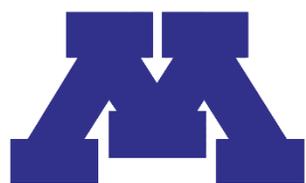




# Post High School Planning Process

*The official kickoff for the Class of 2024*



**A Presentation for Junior Parents**

**Minnetonka High School  
Webinar: February 9, 2023**

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• **SENIOR YEAR**  
**IS ONE OF THE MOST**  
**IMPORTANT. IT TELLS**  
• **COLLEGES**  
**WHAT KIND OF STUDENT**  
**YOU ARE.**

# **EXPERIENCE MINNETONKA**

**February 9**

**5:30-8:00pm**

**An opportunity to meet with MHS teachers**



**Students will choose  
their courses:  
February 21-28**

Students register in Skyward (not the parents)

<https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/schools/high-school/mhs/student-life/registration/grade-12>

# Agenda for Today's Presentation

- Getting ready for the senior year
- Post-secondary planning process
- Exploring and researching options
- Parents' role
- Counselor's role
- Use of Naviance
- Recommended websites/resources

# How to Start: Exploring College Options

- Figure out what **you** want – what are the 2 or 3 key characteristics of your college?
- College search process is individual
  - May not be the same as friends, classmates, or siblings
  - Your list might include schools you have not heard of
  - Spend at least as much time thinking about “going” as you will think about “getting in.” What will it be like for you to be there?

# How to Start: Exploring College Options



*Will any of these items be important to you?*

Size

Faculty/Student ratio

Major/Strongest programs/Courses offered

Geographical location and distance from family

Learning focus - Liberal arts or specialized school

Urban/rural

Tuition/Financial aid/Scholarships

Honors/accelerated programs

# How to Start: Exploring College Options



*Will any of these items be important to you (cont.)?*

Retention rate and graduation rate

Dorm life/Greek life

Athletic programs (interscholastic and intramural)

Facilities

Male/female ratio

Multi-cultural breakdown

Religious affiliation

Research opportunities

Study abroad programs

# Focus on Characteristics, Not Name Brand

**“FIT” is like a sock...**



**Not a shoe...**



**College Graduation is the Goal!**





**Five Colleges...**

*Which one would **YOU** choose?*

**Guess the College...**

*based on desired characteristics*

# College #1

1,800 undergraduates with **Division 1 athletics**.

Ideal for the student who is interested in learning for learning's sake and athletic excitement.

Known as the “Dartmouth of the South” - located in a small college town.

Generous with financial aid (no loans for needy students).

**Honor Code** is important here with outstanding interdisciplinary, pre-professional and international programs within a **liberal arts** curriculum.

Largest area of studies: biology, psychology, political science, and theatre.

Southern look, with a New England feel.

# College #1



# College #2

With just over 16,000 undergraduates and 5,000 graduate students, this beautiful **traditional campus** is located in a major city.

It has long been known for the high-quality **pre-professional** and **co-op** programs.

All students participate in a freshman **seminar**, as well as a senior **capstone** experience.

Comprehensive curriculum, including engineering, architecture, business, the arts, computer science, and criminology.

Offers generous **merit scholarships**. D1 athletics are central to the school spirit, with hockey being the big draw.

# College #2



# College #3

Enrolls 2,550 undergrads and located about an hour's drive from Los Angeles – amid mountains on a beautiful campus with an East Coast feel.

10% of students participate in a program where they **design their own course of study** – no majors, core requirements or grades.

Offers traditional liberal arts but pre-professional fields, like business, are among their most popular majors.

**4-4-1 academic calendar** has students take a single intensive course each May. Campus community invested in their nationally ranked **Division III athletic** programs.

# College #3



# College #4

Located in a beautiful **college town**, offering easy access to outdoor activities to the 9,500 students.

Especially strong in the health sciences, as well as business and marketing.

Recognized leader in undergraduate research, with new science **research facilities**.

Emphasis on **internships** within most majors.

Division III athletics are the center of school spirit, especially when they play their in-state rivals.

**Tuition reciprocity** available for all Minnesota students.

# College #4



# College #5

5,000 undergraduate students with 3,500 graduate students -- **over 50% of students from out of state.**

Located on the outskirts of a major city.

Business, political science, international affairs, and communications are big.

Specialization in **hotel, restaurant, and tourism management** – one of the few in the country.

All core courses must be taught by senior faculty members. **5-year masters** programs available in business, law and international studies.

Division I athletics include a recent national championship in lacrosse.

**Mountain resorts** are a short hour away.

# College #5





# Which College or Colleges Stood Out *to You?*

# Name that College

1. Davidson College, North Carolina
2. Northeastern University, Massachusetts
3. University of Redlands, California
4. University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
5. University of Denver, Colorado

# What's Important to YOU?

**For the student:** Pick **2 or 3** characteristics, then **one** specific choice

- **Location** – geography, distance from home, closeness to a city, or the mountains, or a beach
- **Major** – use categories. Consider whether there are distribution requirements – or a required capstone project.
- **Size** – think about how you learn. What percent of classes have an enrollment over 100? Or under 25? Is the campus walkable? Or do you need to take a bus/shuttle?

# What's Important to YOU?

**For the student:** Pick **2 or 3** characteristics, then **one** specific choice

- **Sports** – will you be watching or playing? How much is campus spirit driven by athletics?
- **Calendar** – Does it matter? Semesters, quarters, trimester, 4-1-4, block plan. Different start/end dates, vacation schedules. Summer plans and/or internships.
- **Other activities/ambience** – research, Greek life, study abroad, campus politics, food

# Next Steps: Information Gathering

Attend an upcoming College Fair with **hundreds of admission representatives**

- Sponsored by MACAC: <https://mn-acac.org/mefcalendar>
- Tuesday, Feb 21 at Eden Prairie High School (6:00-7:30 pm)
- Thursday, March 2 at Wayzata High School (6:00-7:30 pm)

# Next Steps: Information Gathering

Register for an upcoming ACT or SAT test, if needed

Consult the list of test-optional admission policies:

<https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

## ACT

April 15

June 10

July 15

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

## SAT

March 11

May 6

June 3

[www.collegeboard.org/sat](http://www.collegeboard.org/sat)

**In school ACT testing for Juniors -- on Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

Free test prep through Method Learning: <https://methodize.methodlearning.com/join/qwatu8i>

# Next Steps: Information Gathering

Juniors will receive the information in today's presentation at a **registration seminar** in school on **February 10** and at a **post-high school planning seminar on March 16**.

During that seminar, juniors will also:

- complete the "My Game Plan" in Naviance and
- add a college to their list of "Colleges I'm Thinking About."



# Next Year as an Applicant

## What do colleges look for?

### *Performance*

The **high school transcript** – the student’s record of academic achievement. It’s the **most important part** of the application folder. The courses you have taken, the breadth of study within each department, and the grades you have earned will be examined in detail. Note: test-optional admission plans will be retained by many colleges for the Class of 2024.

**Colleges and universities want to see  
the quality of your life as a student.**

# Next Year as an Applicant

## What do colleges look for?



### *Commitment*

What activity, sport, music group, student government group, church group, summer job, or other extracurricular activity has captured your full attention? When you talk about it, we can see your enthusiasm and genuinely positive spirit.

**Colleges and universities want to see  
the quality of your commitment – not the quantity.**

# Next Year as an Applicant

## What do colleges look for?



How good a fit is this student to the needs/mission of the university? What will it be like for the student to attend this college/university?

Our goal at Minnetonka – and our pledge – is to help each student find the best matches for their post-secondary experience.

**Colleges don't want you to enroll –  
they want you to graduate!**

# Closing Thoughts

## What is the role of the parent?

- a) Believe in your child's abilities
- b) Take an interest in your child's academic life
  - in his studies
  - in her grades
  - in his teachers
  - in her schedule
- c) Keep an open dialogue about the college search
- d) Stay in touch with your child's school counselor

# Closing Thoughts

## What is the role of the parent?

- e) Recognize the power of your influence
- f) Remember it is not **your** search
- g) Be realistic and be willing to talk about finances – and do research on net price calculators
- h) Be a source of comfort – and support!
- i) Be true to yourself – try to be the same kind of parent you have been for the past 17 years!

# Closing Thoughts

## What is the role of the counselor?

- a) Believe in the student's abilities
- b) Assist in defining and prioritizing student's and family's needs, as they relate to the college search
- c) Serve as a resource about all aspects of the post-high school planning process
- d) Support the student's candidacy throughout the admissions process
- e) Give specific advice about the student's academic program of study

# Closing Thoughts

## Recommended websites/resources

<https://student.naviance.com/minnetonka>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>

<https://fafsa.gov>

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

<http://collegecost.ed.gov/>

<http://myintuition.org>

# Closing Thoughts

- The college search process is individual
- The more you know about yourself, the easier it will be!
- Keep the focus on “going,” rather than on “getting in”
- Be open to exploring the many great options available
- Have fun with the search – the goal is finding good matches.

**Thank you for attending this presentation!**

Phil Trout, MHS College Counselor

February 6, 2023

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