



THE MEADOWS SCHOOL

OFFICE OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Who We Are



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Read our bios and get to know us at
themeadowsschool.org/collegecounseling

Welcome to Autumn! The semester is off to an exciting start with the end of our first quarter on Friday, October 11th. Some highlights over the past few weeks include the All-School Pancake Breakfast, performances of *The Tempest*, Social Sciences' 9/11 Enrichment Day, and more. In the realm of College Counseling, October is typically a flurry of activity with many seniors submitting college applications by November 1st or November 15th. We hope this newsletter provides you with helpful information!

OFFICE HOURS UPDATE

Due to Faculty Meetings on Wednesday afternoons, College Counseling Office Hours will be moving to Thursday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 p.m. ANY student (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) may stop by to ask questions or seek assistance.

TESTING

Wednesday, October 16th: The PSAT will begin at 7:50 a.m. All Juniors and Sophomores with last names beginning A-K will meet in the US Common. Sophomores with last names beginning L-Z and all Freshmen will meet in the Auxiliary Gym. Seniors must arrive at school by 11:35 a.m. for Period 4. Seniors also have the option of working on their college essays with advisors in the library throughout the morning. National Merit Scholars receive \$2,500 toward their first year of college. More information can be found online at nationalmerit.org. Khan Academy offers free test prep tutoring available at khanacademy.org.

FALL TEST DATES

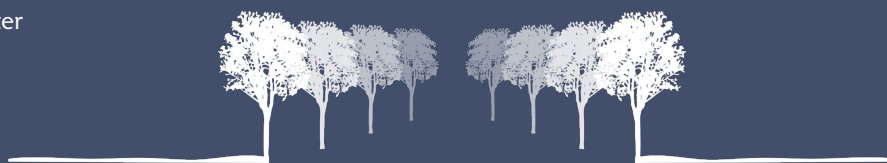
Date	Deadline	Late Deadline	Test
Oct. 26	Sept. 20	Oct. 4	ACT
Nov. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 22	SAT - Reasoning & Subject
Dec. 7	Nov. 8	Nov. 26	SAT - Reasoning & Subject
Dec. 14 (TIR*)	Nov. 8	Nov. 22	ACT

*April, June & Dec. are ACT TIR (Test Information Release) dates when students can pay an additional cost to receive a copy of the multiple-choice test questions, a list of their answers, and the answer key. **No testing at TMS this date.**

College Counseling does not send official test scores to colleges. Seniors are responsible for requesting and sending SAT and/or ACT scores through collegeboard.org or act.org. Scores can take up to 2 weeks to arrive at the colleges. Please allocate enough time before the application deadline for scores to be ordered, mailed, and received. Juniors, we do not encourage sending scores until you have discussed it with your College Counselor.

COUNSELING WORDS OF WISDOM

Test scores do not reflect a student's intelligence or potential for success. More and more colleges agree that tests are a reflection of a family's socioeconomic privilege rather than a student's college readiness, and 1,000+ colleges and universities do not require SAT or ACT scores. Check out fairtest.org for a list of test-optional and test-flexible institutions.



COLLEGE COUNSELING EVENTS

Thursday, October 10th

Senior Financial Aid Night. 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Sports Studio. The first hour is a presentation while the second hour is focused on the applications and Q&A. Students and parents filling out the FAFSA and CSS Profile will need:

- FSA ID for both the student AND the parent. Visit fafsa.gov to create a FSA ID. The FSA ID is your electronic signature and you cannot submit the FAFSA without it. It can take up to 24 hours to receive your FSA ID.
- Student: 2018 W-2s, federal income tax return, untaxed income records, or IRS Verification of Nonfiling Letter
- Parent: 2018 W-2s, federal income tax returns, untaxed income records, and other records of money earned.
(Note: You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool if you filed your taxes online).
- Student and Parent: Social security number, driver's license (if applicable), bank statements (checking and savings accounts), current business records, and records of investments (if applicable).

Wednesday, October 16th

College Fair Field Trip for seniors and juniors to Faith Lutheran High School from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Colleges will be collecting student information through StriveScan technology and have asked all students to register here: www.strivefair.com. Field Trip Permission Slips are REQUIRED to be turned in to College Counseling. Students will board buses at 5:30 p.m. on the west side of the gym.

Tuesday, October 22nd

Junior College Counseling Coffee at 8:15 a.m. in the Sports Studio. Early Decision? Early Action? Restrictive Early Action? Rolling? Regular Action? What do they all mean and how does it impact your student's chances for admission? Time for questions and answers.

Monday, October 28th - Thursday, October 31st

An ideal time for submission meetings prior to November 1st. College Counseling highly recommends that all seniors submit their first application with their College Counselor to ensure that information is submitted accurately and correctly.

COLLEGE VISITS, RECEPTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check your Naviance portal to see who's coming! Many colleges track contact history and demonstrated interest. Additionally, the Admissions Directors who visit are typically the first readers of your application.

Students who wish to attend a meeting must obtain a Permission to Attend form from College Counseling at least one full day prior to the college visit. Students must have their permission slip signed by their teacher AND their counselor to verify attendance.

Monday, October 14th

Las Vegas Performing Arts and Visual Arts College Fair. 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. Ideal for students who want to create and submit an arts (photography, graphic design/architecture, fine and digital arts, etc.), music, dance, or theater portfolio for any college application. Free and open to the public. More information available at: nacacfairs.org/attend/pva/las-vegas-performing-and-visual-arts-college-fair

Tuesday, October 15th

Western Association for College Admission Counseling Fall 2019 College Fair. 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Cox Pavilion. Free and open to the public. More information available at: wacac.org/college-fairs/wacac-fairs

Tuesday, October 15th

Early Action Application Deadline for University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Restrictive Early Action for Stanford University IF submitting an Arts Portfolio.



Resources & References

Want to determine whether you qualify for Financial Aid? Test drive a Net Price Calculator! You can find each institution's net price calculator on their financial aid website.

What is "Net Price"? A college's net price is its attendance costs that need to be paid out-of-pocket or through loans. It is calculated as the college's total cost—including tuition, room and board, and books—minus grants and scholarships for which a student is eligible.

Additional References:

- "Fiske Guide to Colleges" by Edward B. Fiske
- "Where You Go is Not Who You'll Be" by Frank Bruni
- "The College Solution" and thecollegesolution.com by Lynn O'Shaughnessy
- "Colleges That Change Lives" by Loren Pope
- "The Hidden Ivies" by Howard Greene and Matthew Greene
- "College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School for You" by Steven Antonoff
- "College Essay Essentials" by Ethan Sawyer
- "The Ultimate Scholarship Book 2020" by Gen and Kelly Tanabe

CAMPUS VISITS

Stop by the College Counseling Office for sample campus visit evaluation forms, college tour handouts, and check-off lists to help you plan and evaluate your visits. Taking notes during your visits is crucial to evaluating your time on campus and comparing your experiences.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

October break is an ideal time to visit colleges. When scheduling, go directly to the institution's admissions page and arrange for an information session and formal tour. Consider the 5 P's:

- **People** - Observe the student body and ask yourself, are these my people? What is the campus ethos and personality? Does it feel like a good fit?
- **Place** - What kind of location are you looking for? How do students get involved in the surrounding community? What do students do on the weekends?
- **Price** - Do not be dissuaded by price. Many colleges offer generous financial aid and merit scholarships for admitted students. What kind of aid is available?
- **Program** - Does the college offer the majors and resources you are looking for? What distinguishes their academic and co-curricular opportunities?
- **Probability** - What are your chances of admission? We recommend that sophomores and juniors begin exploring a list of 20-30 colleges that range in selectivity, narrowing the list to 9-12 applications consisting of foundation schools, target/probable schools, and reach schools.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship is available to Nevada high school graduates who meet the required GPA or test score minimums: 3.25 weighted GPA OR a minimum 1070 SAT OR a minimum 21 ACT. The scholarship awards a maximum of \$10,000 distributed on a per-credit hour basis. Institutions that accept the Millennium Scholarship include UNLV, UNR, and Sierra Nevada College. For more information: gotocollege.nevada.edu/paying-for-college/millennium-scholarship

The BURGER KINGSM Scholars program assists high school seniors in achieving their educational and professional goals, along with serving as tribute to co-founder James W. McLamore. Cumulative unweighted GPA of at least 3.3, minimum ACT composite of 25 or a minimum combined SAT of 1220, substantial employment and leadership experience. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$50,000. Application window is open from October 15 to December 15 each year. For more information: bkmcclamorefoundation.org

The Horatio Alger Nevada Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to students in Nevada who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity and who aspire to pursue higher education. Families must demonstrate critical financial need (\$55,000 or lower adjusted gross family income). The value of this award is \$10,000. The application is open from August 1 – October 25. For more information: scholars.horatioalger.org

National Co-Op Scholarship Program featuring 160 Merit Co-Op Scholarships totaling over \$4.2 million. Applicants must have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.5 or better, apply for admission to the institution you select on your scholarship application, and complete the National Co-Op Scholarship Program Online Application. Application deadline: February 15, 2020. For more information: waceinc.org/scholarship/index.html

The internet is a valuable tool for college research. Unigo offers a scholarship list specifically for students in Nevada: nigo.com/scholarships/by-state/nevada-scholarships. Reminder: You should NEVER pay to apply for a scholarship.