



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

With November 1 behind us, 93% of our seniors have already submitted at least one college application and 205 applications combined so far. Additionally, 63% of our seniors have submitted their FAFSA for financial aid consideration. This is a time to celebrate our students' accomplishments and progress and continue our forward momentum into the holiday season. Well done, Seniors!

College Counselors and teachers are on break beginning Monday, December 23 through Friday, January 3. Please plan accordingly for January 1 deadlines. **All transcripts MUST be requested before break!**



Five Meadows students announced as Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalists! Congratulations to Peyton Barsel, Mercedes Moore, Clarence Ndubisi, Jared Stone, and Claire Strimling. Only 1,928 students were selected out of over 93,000 applicants. From these semifinalists, 150 students will be chosen as Coca-Cola Scholars and will each receive a \$20,000 scholarship.

OFFICE HOURS

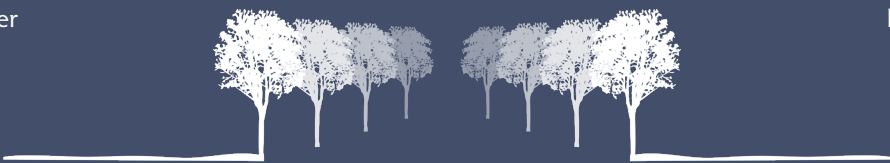
College Counseling open office hours are Thursday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 p.m. ANY student and/or parent may stop by to ask questions or seek assistance.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

The College Counseling section of The Meadows website has been updated to include helpful information, scholarship links, and financial aid resources, including a financial aid cost comparison worksheet.

Check it out at: www.themeadowsschool.org/academics/college-counseling

Financial aid deadlines and documents vary by institution and by application process. Each institution sets their own financial aid process and it is imperative that you follow these guidelines and deadlines closely. Some colleges have separate deadlines for scholarship consideration. Check the specific college's website for detailed information.



SENIORS

Early decision, early action, and restrictive early action decisions are typically released mid-December. While you are waiting, finalize your list, double-check deadlines, and continue your progress on regular action applications. Students who wish to modify their college lists or need to make last minute changes should see Ms. Hines and make sure to update Naviance in "Colleges I'm Applying To."

APPLICATION TIPS

- 1. Colleges should provide you with a way to track your application status online. Make sure you are checking your email and your college portal on a regular basis.
- 2. Some offices will send an automated message stating your application is incomplete. Keep in mind that the process of uploading all your materials—matching your application, test scores and recommendation letters—and updating your student status as complete on the college website can take several days for an admissions office. Don't panic. Wait a few days and check again. Chances are that your materials are received, but not yet processed.
- 3. Double-check that you are using consistent personal information, specifically your student's full name, on official documents. Any deviation (Charlie vs. Charles) can cause discrepancies, irregularities, or incomplete applications.
- 4. If you need Q1 grades sent to colleges, please inform Ms. Hines. Mid-year grades are available mid-January and are automatically sent.

Remember that colleges care about second semester senior grades. Note that it's not enough to finish, you must finish successfully.

JUNIORS

For our juniors, the college search is in full-swing. Over 40 students (and 6 parent volunteers) joined us at the Faith Lutheran College Fair on October 16 to learn about the many options that exist and to make connections with admissions directors. We also appreciated all the parents who attended our Junior College Counseling Coffee on October 22nd, during which we discussed the differences between ED/EA/REA/RA and how this impacts admissions decisions.

College Counseling individual appointments officially kick-off after winter break. We believe in the importance of partnering with parents and families as we help students plan for their futures. As such, we ask that parents attend the first meeting with their student to discuss goals, timeline, and expectations.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 15, 6:30 p.m. in the CFA - Junior and Parent College Night. Topics will include spring college preparation and visits, summer program opportunities, testing timeline, and more.

Sunday, March 1 to Friday, March 6 - Junior College Trip. College destinations and tour schedules will be sent out by mid-December.

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. in the CFA - Student-Athlete Recruitment Presentation by Mr. Claude Grubair. What do student-athletes need to do to get recruited? How is the timeline and process different at the DI vs. DIII level? Learn about the steps in the highly competitive world of student-athlete recruitment.

ADVISORY

College Counseling will begin working with juniors in Advisory twice a week during the spring semester. Advisory is an opportunity for both self-discovery and future planning during which we will work with students on applications, essays, standardized test preparation, career exploration, and more.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

By the end of junior year, juniors should have taken at least two standardized tests: the SAT and/or the ACT. We recommend students try both because they vary in timing, format, and content.

WINTER/SPRING TESTING DATES

Date	Deadline	Late Deadline	Test
February 8	January 10	Jan 11 - Jan 17	ACT - Not a TMS Site
March 14	February 14	March 3	SAT - Reasoning
April 4*	February 28	Feb 29 - Mar 13	ACT

*April, June and December ACT tests are TIR (Test Information Release) dates when students can pay an additional cost to receive a copy of the multiple-choice test questions used to determine your score, a list of your answers, and the answer key.



PSAT INFORMATION

Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors took the PSAT/NMSQT on October 16th. Scores are not sent to colleges but should be used as tools for learning and improvement.

PSAT/NMSQT booklets and your student's score report will be mailed to the custodial parent(s) in mid-December. This report provides students with an access code to their College Board accounts.

When your PSAT/NMSQT scores are available online, your student will receive an email (if your student provided an email address when filling out their answer sheet) with instructions on how to go to their online score report and use their access code to view scores.

Students can learn about Score Reports, Score Calculations, and the Score Release timeline at: collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scores

Students can also access free online test prep at: collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice

Please remember that a large majority of students will naturally see their scores rise in future tests as their curriculum grows to meet the concepts tested on the exam.

SOPHOMORES & FRESHMEN

Sophomores will soon begin the college discussion, which is a natural extension of course selection conversations taking place this spring. Selecting courses that are appropriately rigorous, and working hard in these courses, is the most important factor in the admission process. Consider challenging yourself in a variety of subjects that interest you.

Parents: The focus now should be on checking in with your student to assess academic progress and communicate the importance of maintaining health and well-being. With semester exams approaching in mid-December, clubs underway, and winter athletics season beginning, it can be a good time to take a step back and reflect, talk, and prepare for the sprint to winter break.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 6, 8:15 a.m. in the CFA Art Gallery - 9th & 10th Grade College Counseling Coffee.

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. in the CFA - Student-Athlete Recruitment Presentation by Mr. Claude Grubair. What do student-athletes need to do to get recruited? How is the timeline and process different at the DI vs. DIII level? Learn about the steps in the highly competitive world of student-athlete recruitment.

SUMMER PLANS

It is not too early to start thinking about summer plans. Beyond visiting college campuses, there is no "right" or "best" activity to do during your time off. We encourage students to be productive and engaged, whether that is having a job, taking a college course, participating in community service, playing a sport, honing artistic talent, traveling to another country, etc.

SAMPLING OF SUMMER PROGRAMS

Admission to these summer programs does not guarantee admission to the college/university. Students should focus on the academic and personal development available through these programs. Some applications are already available; others typically open in December.

Boston University – Research in Science & Engineering (RISE)
 Carnegie Mellon – Summer Academy for Math + Science (SAMS)
 Cronkite Institute for High School Journalism: Summer Journalism Institute
 Georgetown University Forensic Science Academy
 Georgetown University 3-week Medical Academy
 Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Camp
 Indiana University Kelley School of Business – Young Women's Institute
 Jackson Laboratory – Summer Student Program
 JCamp - For Journalism students
 Kenyon College - The Young Writers Workshop
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Minority Introduction to Science & Engineering (MITES)
 MathLy – Bryn Mawr College
 Minneapolis College of Art and Design Precollege Summer Session
 MDI Biological Laboratory Summer Research Fellowship
 Michigan Math and Science Scholars
 MIT Research Science Institute
 National Institutes of Health – Summer Internship in Biomedical Research (SIP)
 Ohio State University – Ross Mathematics Program
 Princeton University – Summer Journalism Program
 Program in Mathematics for Young Scientists (PROMYS)
 Rhode Island School of Design Pre-College Summer Art & Design Program
 Stanford Institutes of Medicine Summer Research Program (SIMR)
 Stanford University Mathematics Camp (SUMaC)
 Telluride Association Summer Program (TASP)
 Texas Tech University – Clark Scholars
 University of Notre Dame – Leadership Seminars
 University of Pennsylvania – Leadership in the Business World
 University of Southern California Summer Programs
 U.S. Air Force Academy – Summer Seminar
 U.S. Coast Guard Academy – Academy Introduction Mission (AIM)
 U.S. Military Academy – Summer Leaders Experience
 U.S. Naval Academy – Summer Seminar
 Vanderbilt University - Research Experience for High School Students (REHSS)
 Washington University in St. Louis - Summer Scholars Program
 Yale Young Global Scholars