



Westonka
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fall Junior Parent Information Night 2024

Today is World Mental Health Day: Thursday, October 10th

There is a unique set of triggers and topics related to self care and mental health management when it comes to moving away from home and making a big transition.

- NAMI: Starting the conversation about college and your mental health.
- Teens' Guide to Mental Health
- Hennepin County Mental Health Resources
- Hazelden Betty Ford



Two Parts

Part 1: Fall

- **Goals for upcoming year**
- **Standardized Tests for Juniors**
- **Post Secondary Planning Tools**

Part 2: Spring

- **Post Secondary Planning Tools - continued**
- **The Admissions Process/Timeline**



Main Goals for Junior Year

- **ACADEMIC:** Put forth best academic effort since this will be the last year of grades listed on the transcript that is submitted to colleges and make wise class choices for senior year.
- **POST-SECONDARY PLANNING:** Research specific options in order to narrow your list of preferred schools to a manageable number by the beginning of senior year (3-5).



Resources

- College rep visits
 - At MWHs
- Campus Visits
 - MEA break
 - Virtual options
- National College Fair
 - Oct. 22-23
 - Many options, one location



ACT Testing

District ACT	National ACT Test
During the school day (ONLINE)	7 Saturday options throughout year
Offered only one time to junior students	Can take numerous times
\$20 cost	\$60 cost (\$85 with writing)
Online registration - will be done through school	Online registration at www.act.org
Paper score report sent to student home, also available through online account created as part of preadministration.	Score report automatically linked to student online account.



2024-25 ACT Exam Dates

December 14 (register by 11/8)

February 8 (register by 1/3)

District ACT: March 13 (registration at MWHS on 2/27)

April 5 (register by 2/28)

June 14 (register by 5/9) @ MWHS(Paper/Pencil)

July 12 (register by 6/6)



District ACT

- Offered to ALL junior students on Thursday, March 13th
- Online testing option only (will use Chromebook and lockdown browser)
- Includes writing test
- Yields a college reportable score
- Able identify up to 4 colleges at no charge
- Cost: \$20. Paid through Fee Pay on Skyward Family Access.
 - If you have financial need (qualifies for education benefits) there will be no charge.
- Registration instructions will come through counselors - February 27.
 - Students will NOT register online the same way they do for the national test dates.



ACT Registration: National Test Dates

www.act.org - student registers through testing agency

High School Code: 241-775

Test Center Code: 178630

Register early to have a better chance of testing at preferred location

MWHS is a test center on June 14, 2025 National test date (paper/pencil testing)



ACT Registration Details

- Students need to upload a photo when registering
 - That photo will be printed on the admission ticket and test roster
 - Students MUST present a photo ID on the day of the test
- Remember to use consistent identifying information
- Keep track of username and password when setting up the online account
- There is a “plus writing” option:
 - Some colleges/universities recommend or require the writing score.
 - The writing test is a part of the district test in March.
 - The writing score does not factor into the cumulative score; it yields a separate score

****Similar process is followed for the SAT.**



ACT Prep Options: FREE

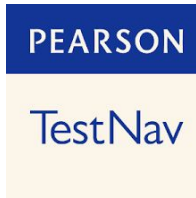
MCIS (covered during WIN on 10/3):

- Login through Clever
- Click on PRACTICE TESTS
- ACT Online Course
 - Intro
 - Diagnostic Testing
 - Learning recommendations
- ACT Practice Tests
 - 3 different practice tests for all 5 areas



TestNav (covered during WIN on 10/3):

- School Chromebook
- Logout
- Choose APPS
- Choose TestNav
- Click on PRACTICE TESTS below sign in
- TestNav tutorial and practice test for all 5 sections



ACT Prep Options: COST

- On [ACT website](#):
 - Official ACT Prep Guide
 - Official ACT Subject Guides
 - Official ACT Self-paced Course, powered by Kaplan
 - Official ACT live Online Class, powered by Kaplan
- Local Prep Agencies (cost varies):
 - [Sylvan](#)
 - [Huntington](#)
 - [Kaplan](#)



MWHS ACT Prep Academy

- New format this year
- Teachers (content specific information) and Counselors (test taking strategies)
- Focus on making resource easily accessible by all interested students
 - No charge
 - Sessions during the school day (5 WIN sessions) and 2 evening sessions
- Access to official ACT Online Prep Tool for longer period of time: Nov. 21st - March 6th
- Pre-test to individualize use of tool
- Much more information to come in the next 4-6 weeks



Explore Your Options Wisely



Hennepin Technical College™



NORMANDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Ucla

College Matriculation

Arizona State University (3)
ATP Flight School (2)
Bemidji State University
Bethel University
College of St. Benedict
Concordia College, Moorhead
Creighton University
Crown College
Duke University
Dunwoody College of Technology (2)
Gustavus Adolphus College (2)
Hennepin Technical College (2)
Indiana University, Bloomington
Iowa State University (4)
Luther Technical Training Center
Minnesota State University, Mankato (10)
Marymount Manhattan College
Miami University
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Milwaukee Area Technical College (2)
Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Minneapolis College (4)
North Dakota State University
Neumont College of Computer Science
Normandale Community College (7)
Purdue University (3)
Rochester Community and Technical College
St. Cloud State University
Saint John's University (2)
St. Olaf College
United States Military Academy West Point
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of California, Santa Cruz

University of Iowa (2)
University of Kansas (4)
University of Manitoba
University of Minnesota Duluth (7)
University of Minnesota, Morris
University of Minnesota, Rochester
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (22)
University of Mississippi
University of Nebraska, Lincoln (3)
University of North Dakota (3)
University of Notre Dame
University of Portland
University South Carolina
University of St. Thomas (4)
University of Tampa (2)
University of Texas at Austin
University of Wisconsin, Madison (11)
University of Wisconsin, Stout (2)
Vanderbilt University
Verto Education
Winona State University

Class of 2024 Graduating Class Profile

3.0 GPA or higher	71%
Continuing formal education	80%
To attend a 4-year school	67%
To attend a 2-year school	7%
To attend a technical school	6%
To join the military	3%



Class of 2024 Survey

- Work harder on studies: 39%
- Visit more colleges: 29%
- Apply to more colleges: 27%



College Characteristics to Consider

- Type of school
- Size of school
- Location
- Academic Programs/Degrees
- Cost of Attendance
- Availability of Financial Aid
- Admission Criteria
- Campus activities and environment
- Support Services offered



Cost of College Attendance

Annual Cost of Attendance (tuition, books, living, other)

- Normandale Community College: \$23,603
- Hennepin Technical College: \$21,315
- University of Wisconsin, Stout: \$21,963
- Minnesota State, Mankato: \$25,448
- University of Wisconsin, Madison: \$35,290
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities: \$31,099
- University of St. Thomas: \$72,963



MCIS: College Portfolio Tool

- College Sort (reviewed with juniors on 10/3)
- Career Research
- FREE test prep



Post Secondary Planning Resources

- Online Research
 - MCIS
 - www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org (College Board Search tool)
 - www.minnstate.edu (MN 2 and 4 Public)
 - www.umn.edu (University of MN system)
 - www.mnprivatecolleges.org (MN private colleges)
 - www.wisconsin.edu (UW System)
- College Rep Visits: posted in weekly parent bulletin
- Campus Visits



Learn About Prospective Colleges

- Consider doing all virtual tours that are available. You will find information about this on the college admissions page.
- Consider doing drive through visits so you can get a feel for the town and the general campus.
- Most colleges have returned to traditional campus visit opportunities, but families should plan ahead as they can fill up quickly.



Testing Policies: Class of 2025

Test Optional: Student can supply an ACT/SAT score if it supports their application

Test Blind: Scores will not be reviewed in any capacity for the admissions process

Test Required: A score must be supplied at the time of application

**Most colleges are remaining test optional through 2025*



Testing Policies: Class of 2025

What if the ACT score is submission is option or blind?

- Students should assume other factors will play a bigger role in an admissions decision. This includes: GPA, Course Rigor, Recommendations, and Academic Interests
- Context factors include; commitment to community service and leadership, diversity that will strengthen a program or student body, significant family responsibilities, personal extenuating circumstances, information provide in the application



Five Month Checklist

- ☐ Consider which ACT test dates will be best for your child
- ☐ Utilize online resources to sort through college choices
- ☐ Schedule campus tours (virtual/in person)
- ☐ FAFSA Parent Night: November 18
- ☐ Encourage a rigorous schedule through 12th grade
- ☐ Attend Parent Night in February
 - ☐ We'll review application process for senior year
- ☐ Keep tabs on how school counselors are working with your student via the weekly newsletter



Going beyond admissions....getting ready for college

- ☐ Who is driving the college search/application process?
- ☐ Can your teen take responsibility for his/her self care?
- ☐ Can your teen manage time?
- ☐ Does your teen know how to seek help?
- ☐ Can your teen take responsibility for and learn from their poor decisions?
- ☐ Has your teen shown they can manage themselves in a setting without family?
- ☐ Can your teen assess risk?
- ☐ Does your child understand the financial investment of college?



Thank you!

Resources and Dates:

- [MWHS School Counseling Website](#)
- MWHS Parent Newsletter - Thursdays
- FAFSA Parent Night: Monday, November 18
- Spring Junior Parent Night - February
- District ACT - March 14th
- National ACT at MWHS - June 14th



Thank you!

