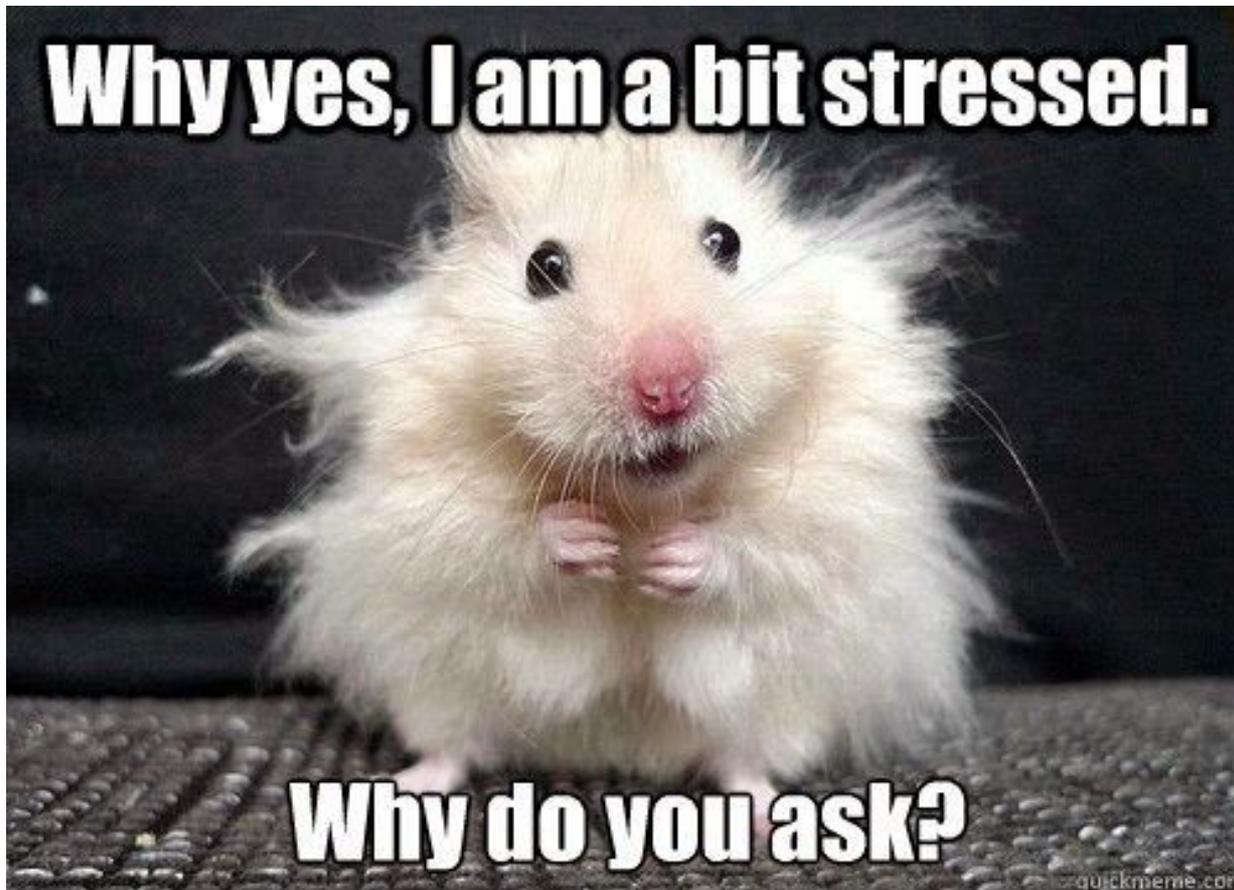




Senior Year Class of 2023

Presented by Mrs. VanScoyoc, Director of Student Services

A busy year ahead...





**KEEP
CALM**

Your School Counselor

**CAN
HELP**

Things we'll discuss today:

- College Application Steps
- Parchment for Transcripts
- SAT/ACT retakes
- College Visits
- Scholarships
- FAFSA (available October 1st)
- Resources for help

Types of College Applications

There are 3 main types of college applications:

- The college's own application on their website
- The Common Application (900+ colleges on Common App)
- The Coalition Application (not widely used)

Some colleges accept more than 1 type of application and allow student to choose. Others will require a specific application.

Visit college website to learn their application options.

The Common Application

www.commonapp.org

The Common Application is a universal application used at over 900 member colleges.

Pros of Common App: Can save you time if you are applying to multiple colleges that accept Common App.

Cons of Common App: More time consuming than individual college applications.

Rule of thumb - worth the extra time if you are applying to 3+ schools that use Common App (or 1+ that require it - might as well do it for all at that point)

Make sure you spell your counselor's email address correctly when you enter it into the Common App! If it doesn't sync to our account with a correctly spelled email address, we can't do our part and you will miss your deadline! Check the status from your Dashboard. It will say if your counselor has completed their portion.

How to request a transcript: www.parchment.com

- **All Indiana schools** (and many out-of-state) require Parchment for electronic transcript delivery.
- You can also request a “self view” on Parchment if you would like to see an unofficial copy of your transcript.
- Use the code we provide to register for an account. You can sign up without the code, but will be able to skip entering some of your info with the code.
- Use the “order” feature to select the colleges to which you’d like your transcript sent.
- You can check the status of your transcript request anytime by logging in to your parchment account and clicking on “orders”.
- Save your login information because you will also use it to request a FINAL transcript after graduation.

Paper Transcripts

- ❑ Not used to apply to college (must request through Parchment)
- ❑ If you need a paper transcript to submit with a paper scholarship application, see Mrs. Southard in student services or email her (msouthard@nm.k12.in.us)
- ❑ Remember that you can “self-view” a transcript through Parchment if you just want a reminder of your past classes and grades.

Letters of Recommendation (LOR)

- Common App: Counselor letter is included as part of the transcript upload. If you want an additional teacher letter, you can request by clicking on your “Colleges” tab and then “letters of recommendation”. Enter their name and email so they can be linked to your account.
- Choose someone that knows you well and give them at least 2 weeks notice. Teachers are busy and it takes time to write a detailed letter.
- Brag Sheets: You must fill out a Brag Sheet if you plan to apply to any colleges or for any scholarships. Take a picture of your completed brag sheet so you can provide the info to any teachers that write you a LOR. Turn in paper form to your Student Services.

Reporting of SAT/ACT Scores

- Your SAT/ACT scores are included on the NMHS transcript that you will request from Parchment. Some schools will not accept scores from high school transcripts. In this case, you must request they be sent directly from College Board or ACT. You might have already done this when you registered for the test. If not, you will need to log in to your College Board or ACT account and request them (for a fee).
- Make sure you read the test policy on your college's website to see if you need to send them from College Board/ACT.

Do you need SAT or ACT scores?

Trend toward not using standardized tests such as SAT/ACT in college admissions.

“Test optional” means that the college will let you choose whether or not to have SAT/ACT scores considered as part of your application.

The website www.fairtest.org is a good resource that lists testing requirements for colleges and universities

Upcoming SAT/ACT test dates

A full list of dates can be found by visiting the College Board or ACT websites. Here are the upcoming dates:

SAT: (www.collegeboard.org)

August 27 (register by August 16--LATE FEE REQUIRED)

October 1 (register by Sept 2)

November 5 (register by Oct 7)

ACT: (www.actstudent.org)

September 10 (register by Aug 19--LATE FEE REQUIRED)

October 22 (register by Sept 16)

College Visits

- Go to college website to set up official visit. There is usually an online form you will fill out. Dates fill up quickly, so make your plan now. Consider using Fall Break.
- Use college visits (either in person or virtual) to narrow down your choices and make final decisions. **Fill out a blue sheet from the scholarship rack in student services to get excused from school for an in-person visit.**
- College representatives frequently come to NMHS to meet with seniors. They generally take place during Advisory. Information will be placed on announcements.

Scholarships

- Spreadsheet of Scholarship Updates
 - Posted on NMHS Website (click on “Student Services” and find the link to *Scholarship Spreadsheet*), emailed to students, and sent through ParentSquare
- All applications will be available electronically and linked on spreadsheet. Students have printer access in the media center if needed.
- Students can request a PAPER copy of their transcript by filling out a request form and giving it to Mrs. Southard. Forms are located on the scholarship rack inside student services.
- Neatness counts, use blue or black ink for written applications. Use a Chrome Extension to type into PDF applications if possible.
- Few applicants for some of the scholarships—APPLY!
- Watch deadlines, keep a list of dates so you don't miss something

Montgomery County Community Foundation Scholarships

- www.mccf-in.org
- **Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship** (Due Sept 2, 2022 @ 5:00 PM)
 - 3.85+ GPA (weighted)
 - Top 10% of Graduating class
 - We do not rank students, but for the class of 2023: GPAs currently 4.05+ fall within the top 10% of the class (Mrs. VanScoyoc emailed you if you fall within this range)
 - Must attend Indiana College
 - Must have lived in MoCo since August 2020
 - SAT scores no longer required
- **Other MCCF Scholarships** (opens October 14, 2022 -- Due Jan 13, 2023)
 - Fill out Standard Application from their website
 - Answer all questions and take your time
- ✓ *You must enter your counselor's email into the scholarship portal to request a transcript. Make sure you enter it correctly (listed on last slide)!*
- ✓ *Your Application is not complete until you click **SUBMIT** after your counselor uploads a transcript. Do not wait until the day it's due to request your transcript!*

FAFSA

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- ❑ Must be completed to qualify for Federal and State Financial Aid (grants, federal loans, work study)
- ❑ All families should complete it, regardless of income
- ❑ **Available October 1 of your senior year**
- ❑ **Colleges can set their own deadlines**, so be aware that some are as early as February. Check with your potential schools!
- ❑ www.fafsa.gov (don't use a .com website that will charge you a fee. The FAFSA is FREE!)
- ❑ There will be more info provided closer to time and help sessions available.
- ❑ Parent Financial Aid presentation from INvestED Aug 24 @5:30 before High School Open House

Resources for help

- **School Counselors:** (Mrs. VanScoyoc and Mrs. Vellner)
 - Email is a great way to communicate with your counselor. You can ask a quick question or request an appointment.
 - Students: Check your school email! This is how we communicate a lot of information!
- **Newsletters:**
 - Emailed to parents via ParentSquare, emailed to student NMHS accounts---CHECK YOUR EMAIL!
- **NMHS Website:** (many resources and documents on Student Services page)
- **Twitter:** @NMHSCounselors
- **Instagram:** nmhscounselors

Suggestions for students

- ❑ Create a new email account to use with the college application process. Keep it appropriate/professional.
- ❑ Save all passwords! Come up with a system that works for you (use a password keeper app, email yourself then save into a folder, use Notes app on your phone, Google Doc...).
- ❑ Log in to your accounts to check the status (college application sites, parchment, common app).
- ❑ Make sure you read everything carefully (mostly electronic communication from colleges).
- ❑ Put deadlines on your calendar. Late applications (college or scholarship) will not be accepted.
- ❑ Make a Spreadsheet of Application Deadlines, Criteria, etc. Keep Organized!
- ❑ Proofread your applications before submitting (including essays).

This is a lot, I know. If nothing else, remember ...

- Use **Parchment** to request transcripts
 - Send electronically to colleges/universities
 - **You can Self-View if you need information for applications**
- Watch your deadlines. Apply early for scholarship consideration.
- Create a new email account for “Senior Stuff” and READ the emails you get!
- Apply to your college/university online. Write down your username and password because you will usually need it to log back in to check your status and look for messages and “to-do” items.
- Questions at 1am? You might be able to find the answers on the NMHS Website under “Student Services”

Thank you!

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