

News from the Big Lake High School Counseling Office...



OCTOBER, 2023

LAST NAMES A-K

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LAST NAMES L-Z

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The leaves are falling and our year is in full swing! Seniors, we will be calling you down sometime during the first trimester. We will need to discuss several topics including your high school credits, graduation requirements, post-high school plans, and goals for senior year and beyond. A newsletter similar to this one will be emailed to you each month. We are here to help you make the most of the 2023-2024 school year!

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 4TH – Senior Class Photo During STING

OCTOBER 11TH – Picture Retake day from 8:00-1:30

OCTOBER 19TH & 20TH- NO SCHOOL, MEA

OCTOBER 24TH- PSAT

TIDBITS

PSEO STUDENTS

If you have not done so already, be sure to email your counselor your fall class schedule!

Please continue checking your BL student email account as well to ensure you do not miss important information. We must be able to reach you!

COLLEGE INFO

College Transcript Request: Let CAROLYN in the Counseling Office know where to send your transcript.

North Hennepin Community College High School Visit Day: Please click on the following link to attend North Hennepin's High School Visit Day Event!

https://enroll.nhcc.edu/register/101923?utm_source=SLATE&utm_medium=Counselor&utm_campaign=Counselor

READY, SET, FAFSA: VIRTUAL COLLEGE PLANNING EVENTS

Fact Sheet for Schools and College Access Programs

Free college and financial aid events are available to Minnesota students and families via Zoom! The series, running Tuesday evenings in October, will cover tips on applying to college, general financial aid information, details on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Minnesota Dream Act for undocumented students, and other ways to pay for college. Please let students in your community know about this opportunity. To access tools and materials to promote these events in your school or program, access our [Ready Set FAFSA Promotional Toolkit](#).

What are the dates, topics and suggested audience?

All sessions are at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights and will last approximately 45-60 minutes. Participants can ask questions in the chat. Participants can attend any number of sessions (choose dates during registration). Suggested audience is 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

- **October 3: Apply to College** | 10-12th grade students
- **October 10: Understand Financial Aid** | 10-12th grade students
- **October 17: Create Your FSA ID** | 12th grade students
- **October 24: Scholarship Search** | 10-12th grade students

How can students and families participate?

All sessions will be on Zoom, but space is limited. Students and families can register at the following link: <https://bit.ly/RSFAFSA>. Session materials and recordings will be posted on the same page after each event.

What about the upcoming FAFSA changes?

As many of you know, Better FAFSA Better Future will be released in December. There will be a second set of virtual sessions on Tuesday nights in January about the FAFSA and MN Dream Act applications. January registration is forthcoming.

- **January 9: Create Your FSA ID** | 12th grade students
- **January 16: Apply for FAFSA** | 12th grade students
- **January 23: Apply for MN Dream Act** | 12th grade students
- **January 30: Understand Your Offer Letter** | 12th grade students

Who are the presenters?

- Tara Pribnow, The College Place Director at ECMC
- Tara Winchester, State Financial Aid Program Administrator at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Adam Johnson, State Financial Aid Program Administrator at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Shawn Reynolds, State Financial Aid Program Administrator at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Meghan Flores, State Financial Aid Program Manager at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Shannon Olson, State Financial Aid Program Associate at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education

Will this information be offered in other languages?

Yes! All sessions will have simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, Somali, Hmong and Karen. In addition, there will be financial aid professionals during each session who can answer questions in the chat in Spanish, Somali and Hmong if needed. We plan to record the presentations as well.

Is there a scholarship for students?

Students who attend any of the sessions or watch a session recording will be eligible to win a \$500 scholarship (one entry per session attended) awarded by ECMC The College Place Minnesota.

What tools are available to help promote these events?

The [Ready Set FAFSA Promotional Toolkit](#) includes information about virtual financial aid events for school/program newsletters, email messages and social media posts to engage students and families. It includes:

- **Ready-made graphics** in two sizes (square and rectangle), in two formats (.png and .pdf) and in four languages (English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong).
- **Short blurbs for family communications** to include in newsletters, emails, texts.
- **A social media guide** with images and corresponding captions to share on Instagram, Facebook and/or Twitter accounts (before, during and after College Knowledge Month).

Who can I contact if I have questions?

- Beth Barsness, Beth.barsness@state.mn.us | Minnesota Department of Education
- Tara Pribnow, tpribnow@ecmc.org | ECMC The College Place Minnesota

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

At this time, college representatives will be scheduling days at the High School to meet with kids in person. However, many schools are offering virtual appointments, and many are also offering scheduled college tours! Just go to any college website of your choice and check out their admissions section for more information.

REPRESENTATIVE VISITS

OCTOBER 2ND – There will be representative from UW river falls in the counseling office conference room from 9:30-10:00AM. Please feel free to stop in!

OCTOBER 12TH- There will be a representative from St Cloud State University in the counseling office conference from 1:30-2:00PM. Please feel free to stop in!

OCTOBER 16TH – There will be a representative from Bemidji State University in the counseling office conference room from 8:15-8:45AM. Please feel free to stop in!

OCTOBER 17TH- There will be a representative from U of M Twin Cities in the counseling office conference room from 10:30-11:00AM. Please feel free to stop in!

OCTOBER 23RD- There will be a representative from St Olaf in the counseling office conference room from 1:00-1:30PM. Please feel free to stop in!

OCTOBER 25TH- There will be a representative from MSU Mankato from 1:00-1:30PM in the counseling office conference room. Please feel free to stop in!

OCTOBER 26TH- There will be a representative from St Bens and St Johns from 1:15-1:45PM in the counseling office conference room. Please feel free to stop in!

OCTOBER IS COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH! TAKE A LOOK AT THE COLLEGES THAT ARE WAIVING APPLICATION FEES

FREE APPLICATIONS DURING COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH*

Institutions below do not charge application fees October 1-31; some institutions use promo codes, noted by [] below.

PRIVATE COLLEGES

Dunwoody College of Technology
Minneapolis College of Art and Design [MCW2024]

4-YEAR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Bemidji State University
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Southwest Minnesota State University
University of Minnesota, Crookston
University of Minnesota, Morris [Morris24]
University of Minnesota, Rochester
Winona State University

2-YEAR PUBLIC COLLEGES

Alexandria & Community College
Century College
Dakota County Technical College
Hennepin Technical College
Inver Hills Community College
Minneapolis College
Minnesota North College
Minnesota State College Southeast
North Hennepin Community College [CKM2023]
Northwest Technical College
St. Cloud Technical & Community College

***FREE APPLICATIONS FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS ALL YEAR**

All institutions and campuses that are part of the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State or the Minnesota Private College Council have committed to waiving application fees for qualified students throughout the year. The campuses listed above accept the [NACAC Application Fee Waiver](#), including the U of M-Duluth. High school counselors and college admission staff can help a student make these arrangements when applying. The U of M-Twin Cities and Duluth campuses waives fees for qualified students within their admission application.

FREE APPLICATIONS ALL YEAR

Institutions below do not charge application fees.

4-YEAR PRIVATE COLLEGES

Augsburg University
Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
Carleton College
College of Saint Benedict
College of St. Scholastica
Concordia College, Moorhead
Concordia University, St. Paul
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Macalester College
Saint John's University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Catherine University
St. Olaf College
University of St. Thomas
University of Northwestern—St. Paul

4-YEAR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Metropolitan State University
St. Cloud State University

2-YEAR PUBLIC COLLEGES

Anoka Technical College
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Central Lakes College
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Lake Superior College
Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Normandale Community College
Northland Community & Technical College
Pine Technical & Community College
Ridgewater College
Riverland Community College
Rochester Community & Technical College
Saint Paul College
South Central College

TESTING

BLHS ASSESSMENT DAY

An assessment day for all current juniors will be on March 7th, 2024. The ACT exam will be available on this day. More information will be shared in this newsletter and by email, as the date gets closer. Please click on the link below to see a letter that explains more about assessment day.

Important Test Dates

ACT

- Register by: TBD
- Test Date: March 7th, 2024
- ACT make-up test date: TBD

National ACT test dates:

Please click on the link below

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

The best preparation is a solid high school curriculum. ACT includes four curriculum-based tests - English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. Become familiar with the test content and format by picking up a practice test in the counseling office. Learn appropriate test-taking strategies. See your counselor or media specialist for test preparation materials. Take free practice tests!

MCIS TEST PREP:

Minnesota Career Information System. Test prep, career research and academic planning

SELECTIVE SERVICE

The Government Internet Service to register with the Selective Service System: <http://www.sss.gov>. Men 18 years+ may register online or at the Post Office.

CLASS OF 2024

SUBMITTING SENIOR PHOTOS:

Parents and students of the Class of 2024:

As the school year is approaching and your seniors are taking their senior photos the yearbook staff is already making plans for the best book for your senior year. The following information regarding submission of senior portraits is very important, so please read it carefully! **Photographs that do not meet yearbook specifications will not be published.** The deadline for submitting senior pictures is **Friday, November 17th, 2023**. Portraits received after this date may not be published in the yearbook.

Plan ahead! Pictures should be taken by mid-September to give your photographer time to prepare your photo for the yearbook. Students may choose their own photographer to take their senior portrait for the yearbook. **A simple head and shoulders shot is required (see example below). NO other images will be accepted.**

Please inform your photographer of the following criteria:

*Upload **ONE** digital photo. Full color image preferred.



Photo quality needs to be **300 DPI** or higher for wallet size photo. (Basically, a high-resolution image is needed for printing purposes)

Do **NOT** upload PNG or TIFF files. Very important - **JPEG file only!**

Photo size must be under 50 MB.

*Portraits should be **vertical**; we will **NOT** accept horizontal images.

*Simple, neutral backgrounds look best in the yearbook.

*No props are allowed! Examples include: no hats, sunglasses, no sports equipment, no animals, no cars, no weapons, no vehicles, etc. Any deviations from the standard "headshot" **WILL NOT** be published.

Process for uploading senior photo:

- Go to the **website**:
 - https://images.jostens.com/06BBbXsrnX_u5E_CjExCRq**
- Choose the photo to be uploaded. REMEMBER, each student may only submit **ONE** photo!
- Provide parent or photographer contact information.
 - (Person uploading the photo should enter his/her information.)
- Provide **IMAGE** information.
 - Type the student's first and last name as you would like it to appear in the yearbook.**
 - It is extremely important to spell the student's name correctly.
- Select grade 12 from the dropdown menu.
- In the description field, type **Senior Portrait**.
- Click the box to agree to the terms and conditions.
- Click on "upload chosen images" in the blue box to complete the process.
- You will see a confirmation page and should receive a confirmation email shortly after your submission. NOTE: Photographers uploading their clients' photos may upload more than one student's photo at a time.

Seniors, **please make sure to get your picture taken on the designated picture day with JostensPix next fall, too.** This ensures that you will have a current photo for your student ID and will allow Yearbook Staff to use the "school" picture as a "backup," should you not submit a custom option (described in this letter). If you choose to use the JostensPix portrait as your senior photo, you will NOT need to upload a photo to the site.

Questions or concerns can be directly sent to me via email! Congratulations on reaching your senior year!

Sincerely,
Samantha Glover
Yearbook Adviser
s.glover@biglakeschools.org

FRESHMEN COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Most colleges accept applications online. Many also have downloadable versions for you to fill out and mail in. Be sure you let the guidance office know when you have sent your application so a transcript can be sent to the appropriate campus. The sooner you send the application in, the better your chances are for admission. The counselors are happy to help you with your application process.

9 STEPS TO GUIDE AND ADVISE YOUR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENT

- Continue to monitor academic progress.

2. Continue to encourage your son or daughter to be involved in a wide variety of activities and to develop leadership skills.
3. Talk about college options.
4. Have your son/daughter register for the ACT (American College Test) and/or the SAT I (Scholastic Assessment Test) early in the spring.
5. Make college visits - Many campuses have special tour days for high school students. Find them online.
6. Carefully select courses for the senior year.
7. Start investigating scholarships.
8. Keep track of activities and awards your child has received for future scholarship applications.
9. Help your son or daughter choose meaningful activities for the summer months.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

You may need a letter of recommendation for certain college applications and scholarships. There is a form in the counseling office you can fill out which will highlight your specific accomplishments, you can click on the link below and print the form as well. When you need a recommendation from a staff person, you can give them a copy. The form gives the writers more information about you so that they can better personalize the letter. When asking for a recommendation, please be considerate and give the writer plenty of time to work it. Do not ask them the day before you need it.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iLz7s3EKwbOnGMM5iloNa8MjbeVOIA2ZwJXHL4BPb3A/copy?usp=sharing>

CAPS AND GOWNS:

Students can log into <http://jostens.com/> to view all products available for purchase.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Local Scholarship packets are not available until February 2024.

All colleges have scholarships for students who have done well in high school. These are generally called President's Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, or something similar. Contact the specific school or see Ms. Fingarson as soon as possible if you rank in the upper ten percent of your class. See Ms. Penner or Ms. Fischer if you have any questions regarding scholarships or financial aid.

COCA-COLA SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP - is an achievement-based scholarship awarded to graduating high school seniors each year. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, and their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities. Application deadline is October 02, 2023. Application is available online at <http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/applicants/>.

ROTC Scholarships – Information can be found online. ARMY applications due October 9th, 2023, visit <https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/find-your-path/army-officers/rotc/scholarships.html> AIR FORCE applications due Nov 30, 2023, visit www.AFROTC.com.

Washington Crossing Foundation – is offering scholarships of \$500 to \$5,000 for students planning careers in government service, for study at the college of the recipient's choice. Competition open to all high school seniors who are U. S. citizens and are planning careers of service to the United States in local, state, or federal government. All awards are for one year. Application is available online at www.gwcf.org. Application deadline is January 15, 2024.

Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund – offers scholarships to seniors whose parents are disabled vets, were killed in action, or were classified at POW/MIA. Application information is available online at <https://www.fascholarship.com/apply/>.

Schoolhouse Connection Youth Scholarship Program- provides scholarships to youth who have experienced homelessness to ensure their completion of a post-secondary education program. \$2000 scholarship award – a minimum of 10 scholarships are awarded. Applicants must have been born on or after Oct 1, 2000, and entering college for the first time during the 2021-22 school year. Applicants who have experienced homelessness within the last six years are eligible to apply. Deadline is Nov 24, 2023, before 11:59 pm PST. Apply at <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org>.

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation- provides scholarships to the children of Marines and Navy Corpsmen attending post-high school, undergraduate, and career technical education programs. Their scholarships are for students currently pursuing, or planning to pursue, an undergraduate degree or career-focused program. Scholarship awards are need-based, and every eligible applicant receives a scholarship. The scholarship application for the 2022-23 academic year will open on January 1, 2024, and will close on **March 1, 2024**. For more information visit: www.mcsf.org.

Other Native American/Minority Scholarship Opportunities:

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Office of Indian Education - administers the Ethel Curry American Indian Leadership Scholarship (ECS), an annual award program that aids American Indian students in their pursuit of higher education opportunities. Awards generally range from \$1,000-\$4,000 per academic year, but may vary. Applications will be open March 1 – May 31, 2023. For more information visit: www.education.mn.gov

The Association of American Indian Affairs - The Association on American Indian Affairs has been providing Native American student scholarships since 1947 and provides scholarships to undergraduate and graduate Native American students who are citizens/ members of their Tribal Nation – whether or not their Nation is recognized by the federal government. For more information visit: www.indian-affairs.org.

American Indian Nurse Scholarship Awards- The American Indian Nurse Scholarship Award Program (AINS) was started by the NSCDA in 1928 to give students of American Indian descent the opportunity to pursue careers in nursing. The students are expected to return to work among their people to help improve health care. Some students work on reservations, and others find employment in hospitals in areas largely populated by American Indians. Intended originally to benefit females only, the program has expanded to include males and the career goals now include not only nursing careers, but jobs in health care and health education, as well. The current goal is to grant a \$1,500 scholarship each semester, as long as the student remains in academic good standing. For more information visit: www.nscda.org/student-resources/scholarship-opportunities/.

Actuarial Diversity Scholarship- The Actuarial Diversity Scholarship promotes diversity within the profession through an annual scholarship program for Black/African American, Hispanic, Native North American and Pacific Islander students. The scholarship award recognizes and encourages the academic achievements of full-time undergraduate students pursuing a degree that may lead to a career in the actuarial profession. Scholarships range from \$1,000-\$4,000. For more information visit: www.actuarialfoundation.org.

AMS Minority Scholarships - The AMS Minority Scholarships will award funding to minority students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the sciences, especially Hispanic, Native American, and Black/African American students. Funding for the scholarships is provided by industry and through donations made by members to the AMS 100th Anniversary Program. The American Meteorological Society (AMS) is committed to, and benefits from the full and equitable participation of a diverse community. AMS is committed to advancing core values of diversity, inclusion, and equity across all aspects of the atmospheric, oceanic, and hydrologic sciences. For more information visit: www.ametsoc.org.

American Indian College Fund - Eligibility for these scholarships includes being an enrolled tribal member or descendant (at least one grandparent tribally enrolled), enrolling full-time in a public or non-profit college/university, and a minimum 2.0 GPA. For more information visit: www.collegefund.org.

Be sure to check out the websites for additional scholarship information. There are scholarships from many different organizations and companies available to apply for. We will add more information about scholarships as they arrive .

WEB SITES TO RESEARCH:

Selective Service

www.sss.gov

NCAA Online - athletes

www.ncaa.org

MN Careers

www.mncis.intocareers.org

College Essay

www.myessay.com

Technical Careers

www.acteonline.org

www.t-ten.com

www.mncis.intocareers.org

General Career Information

www.mncis.intocareers.org

www.monster.com

www.careerbuilder.com

www.bestjobsusa.com

www.iseek.org

www.ziprecruiter.com/high-school-jobs

ACT/SAT Online

www.act.org

www.collegeboard.com

General College Information

www.mnprivatecolleges.com

www.collegenet.com

www.campustours.com

www.allaboutcollege.com

www.princetonreview.com

www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu

www.petersons.com

www.gocollege.com

www.collegeview.com

www.embark.com

www.ohe.state.mn.us

Financial Aid

www.finaid.org

www.fastweb.com

www.finaidfacts.org

www.scholarships.com

www.careersandcolleges.com

www.studentscholarships.org

<http://www.smartscholar.com/>

