

Senior Year Checklist

- Update and work on finishing your brag sheet.
- If you plan to play collegiate sports, register with the NCAA or NAIA.
- Unsure of what you want to major in? Check out sites for interest inventories, personality inventories, etc. References on next page.
 - Once you have ideas, try to job shadow and interview people in those fields.
 - Investigate what kind/how much schooling/training you need. Keep in mind that 67% of jobs will require some sort of training.
 - Apprenticeships are options also. <https://www.builttosucceed.org/>
- Take a fall SAT and/or ACT if needed. Have test scores that you're comfortable with by November 1 for schools with early action application deadlines.
 - Most colleges do not have a preference regarding which test you take, but check the website of the colleges to which you are applying.
- Get organized and create a calendar or timeline for college application and scholarship deadlines.
- Be mindful of College Go Week (last full week of September) - during this week several colleges will waive their application fees!
- Narrow down your list of possible colleges and start applying to your top choices. Consider which colleges are best for your major. Let your major drive your college choice and not your college drive your major.
 - Remember that attending an in-state public school can cut down on costs.
 - Don't rule out private colleges; see what scholarships and financial aid are offered after completing your FAFSA.
 - Community college can be a great starting point where you can transfer credits or even get an associate degree, certificate, or certification!
- Write essays that fit the college requirement, but write about something that sets you apart from every other high school student if possible. Have others review your essays.
- Make sure you have provided all required materials.
- Send SAT or ACT test scores to your choice universities directly through the agency websites (College Board and/or ACT)
- Pay the application fee or use a fee waiver.
- Be sure to send your high school transcript to the colleges you are applying to through Parchment.com.
- Visit the colleges you are serious about. You have 2 college visit days. Follow the school's college visit guidelines. Look for special weekend visit dates also.
- Attend any and all workshops the school is hosting related to prepping for college (financial aid nights, scholarship meetings, etc.)
- Fill out the FAFSA which opens October 1st

- This is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Submitting it lets you know if you qualify for financial aid like grants and allows you to utilize student loans.
- Failure to submit the FAFSA can make you ineligible for certain scholarships.
- Resources: College and Career Coach, Mrs. Rose; your school counselor; College Goal Sunday events, or a financial aid counselor at the university of your choice
- Indiana's deadline is April 15th.
- Some colleges have earlier priority deadlines. Check their website.
- Compare financial aid award letters to aid in your college decision.
 - You will receive an award letter if you apply and are accepted, and list the college on your FAFSA.
- Apply for as many scholarships as you can! Every little bit of financial assistance helps! See your email for Mrs. McCloud's newsletters for scholarship information.
 - You'll need letters of recommendation. Try to vary the sources. Have 2 from school personnel like teachers or coaches and 2 from community members such as employers or youth group leaders. This will give the scholarship committee a more well-rounded picture of you as a student.
 - When writing essays, make sure you stick to the topic they provide, but try to make it unique and not something that every other high school student can write about if possible. Have others review your essays.
- Write thank you notes to your recommenders.
- Make a college decision no later than May 1 and complete next steps. Every college is different so follow your college's list.
 - Examples are: secure your spot by paying your deposit, setting up your student account, checking your college email, applying for housing, meal plans, finalizing financial aid, take placement testing if needed, register for orientation, and pay your bill on time, etc.
- If you have an IEP or 504, provide a copy to your college well in advance of the school year to get accommodations in place.
- Send your final 8 semester high school transcript through Parchment.com to the college you will be attending.
- Send official transcripts from any dual credit courses taken through USI, Ivy Tech, or another college.
- Send any qualifying AP score to your college through College Board.
- HAVE FUN! You only get 1 senior year of high school in your lifetime. Make it count!

Helpful Websites

- <https://www.mynextmove.org/> - Career interest profiler (No account to set up, but if you want to return to a webpage later, click Share, Email, and enter your personal email. It sends a link to that page.)
- <https://learnmoreindiana.org/> - Learn more about careers, college, and cost.
- <https://www.howtobecome.com/> - Provides information on certain careers and find advice from people in those careers.
- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> - search majors and state(s) and find colleges that offer a specific major (not a perfect site but is a good tool)
- <https://www.builttosucceed.org/> - Information on apprenticeship/union programs
- <https://indianacareerexplorer.com/#SplitModal> - career exploration
- <https://indianacareerready.com/> - information about high wage, high demand jobs
- <https://www.indianacareerconnect.com/vosnet/Default.aspx>

Additional Suggestions

1. Go to school: attendance is very important (get better grades and show employers you are dependable)
2. Get organized: write down assignments; use color coded folders for each class; keep notes, tests, quizzes and homework so you can refer back to them as needed
3. Write down your assignments throughout the day and look at the list before you leave school to prevent forgetting needed materials.
4. Do your homework. Missing assignments are detrimental to your grades.
5. Ask for help right away if you need it.
6. Avoid drama. Surround yourself with others who make good decisions.

If you have questions, see Mrs. Rose located in the Counseling Office.

rosear@mvschool.org

Call or text my Google Voice number: 812-266-0330