

**Class of 2011 Information Night
for
Junior Students and Their
Parents/Guardians**

**Presented by the
Guidance Department**

Meet the Counselors

- **Mrs. Jennifer Twilling (A-D)**
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- **Mr. Marc Mitchell (E-J)**
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- **Mrs. Kathryn VanOveren (K-N)**
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- **Ms. Carey Allaire (T-Z)**
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Review of Your Handouts: Planning Guide Overview

- Guidance Office Info / Where to Go
- Post Secondary Options
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Steps to Take For...
- Timeline / Credit Chart
- Military Options
- Apprenticeships / Vocational Schools
- Making Choices
- Michigan Public / Private Universities
- Narrowing Down College Options
- College Comparison Worksheet
- NCAA Eligibility
- Recommendation Request Form
- Websites

Other Handouts

- ACT Club Information / Facebook Announcement
- Michigan Colleges and Universities 2009-2010 / Directory of Michigan Colleges and Universities
- College Admissions Fact Sheet / Recommended Senior Year Responsibilities
- Others...?

Common Reasons for Requesting a Transcript

■ What Is A Transcript?

- A transcript is a comprehensive record of all of your high school courses, the grades you received, your grade point average and your class rank

■ What Are Some Common Reasons For Requesting A Transcript?

- College application
- Scholarship application
- Military recruiters want to make sure potential enlistees are on track to graduate (transcripts will only be given with your permission)
- College coaches want to make sure potential recruits are academically sound (you will probably need one when you make your official visit to the school / with the coach, so plan ahead; this is a student – not a coach – responsibility)
- NCAA Clearinghouse (for future NCAA athletes)

EKHS College Application / Transcript Procedures

■ Paper Applications

- Complete your entire application
- Bring the application to Ms. Stephan (our registrar) along with any required fee in check form and the EKHS transcript fee
- EKHS will mail the completed application to the college with your transcript and test scores

■ Online Applications

- Complete and submit your application online
- Print the counselor/school portion of the application and bring it to Ms. Stephan along with the transcript fee
- EKHS will mail the school portion to the college along with your transcript and test scores

- All transcripts must be requested of Ms. Stephan at least a week prior to when they are needed

- **NOTE:** Some colleges require that your ACT and/or SAT test scores be sent directly from the testing agency and won't accept the ones high schools send with student transcripts

A Few Things to Avoid

- Please do not bring your college application or transcript request directly to your guidance counselor; remember to go through Ms. Stephan
 - This makes tracking when transcripts are requested and sent more accurate by keeping a central database
- Do not wait until the last minute to make a transcript request
- Do not miss important application, scholarship and financial aid deadlines

A Few Suggestions...

- Create an e-mail account solely for college and scholarship purposes that both the student and parent can access
- Keep a “senior year” calendar just for senior year due dates and events
- Keep a file box (or similar organizational system) for all college information, senior year items, etc., so that everything is easy to find and reference
- Plan a regular time for the student and parent/guardian to meet to discuss and work together on future plans; schedule such times on the senior year calendar
- Have fun working and planning together – Senior year can be a great bonding experience
- Don't feel like you are alone - Always remember that there are a lot of people (including the student's guidance counselor) willing and able to help

Senior Year Preparation & Course Selection

- Make sure you have met graduation requirements! (Hint: Work hard at passing your classes.)
- Choose classes that will benefit you now and in your future
 - For Example, Engineering: Accel. Physics, CADD classes, Principles of Engineering, advanced Math courses
- Other considerations
 - KC/TC, Internship / Career Launch, Dual Enrollment, AP Courses
 - Potential NCAA athletes – follow NCAA initial eligibility course criteria
 - Behind in Credits? Consider credit recovery opportunities.
- Remember to request course changes as soon as possible since we will NOT be changing schedules in the Fall
- Consider taking the ASVAB (vocational test) at EKHS in February
 - It's free – sign up in the Guidance Office
- Attend the West Michigan National College Fair April 13 @ DeVos Place

March 2010: The Michigan Merit Exam (MME)

- Dates:
 - March 9-11 (ACT w/writing plus Michigan components)
- Cost to Students:
 - The MME is Free 😊
- Benefits of Scoring Well:
 - The ACT score can be used for scholarships and college admissions
 - When completing their ACT registration form, students can request that their scores be sent to four colleges for free. Some colleges (as well as the NCAA Clearinghouse) require that scores be sent directly from ACT to them in order for the students to be considered for admissions.

Please direct your MME questions to
Mr. Randy Smith, EKHS's MME coordinator

Preparing for the MME

■ In Advance:

- Take practice tests – many are free – then review areas where your score could improve
- Attend EKHS's FREE ACT Club – Sign up by Monday, January 25, for ANY or ALL sessions
 - Tuesday, January 26 = English
 - Tuesday, February 2 = Mathematics
 - Tuesday, February 9 = Reading
 - Wednesday, February 17 = Science Reasoning
 - Tuesday, February 23 = Writing
- Many non-EKHS organizations are offering prep classes for a fee

■ Test Day:

- Get a good night's sleep prior to testing
- Eat a nutritious breakfast on the test days
- Arrive to school on time on the test days
- Come to school prepared with the materials needed for that day's tests (pencils, calculator, etc.)
- Follow all testing rules and regulations

Important Dates/Events To Remember

- Students choosing to re-take the ACT to improve test scores should do so as soon as possible to increase college admissibility
 - Suggested Test Dates: April 10, June 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 23
- Students choosing to take the SAT should also do so as soon as possible
 - Suggested Test Dates: May 1, June 5, Fall Dates TBD

(remember to have your ACT and SAT scores sent to the colleges you are considering attending – some colleges require the scores to be sent directly from the testing agency)
- EKHS Guidance-Sponsored Informational Events for Senior Year (all dates TBD)
 - Senior Information Panel
 - Financial Aid Night
 - FAFSA Completion Night

Recommended Resources

- The Resources You Received Tonight
- Your High School Counselor
- College Admissions Representatives and Financial Aid Officers
- The Internet
 - Join EKHS Guidance on Facebook
 - Complete scholarship search profiles (stick to the free sites)
 - Research colleges and take virtual tours
 - Apply to colleges and for scholarships
 - Research employment trends and job opportunities
- Career Cruising (www.careercruising.com)
 - Research colleges and careers
 - Conduct a financial aid search
 - Keep track of high school courses and activities
 - Complete your EDP
 - Create a resume

Planning for College

TO GIVE YOU INSIDE INFORMATION ON
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS, PLEASE WELCOME
OUR SPECIAL GUEST:

CHRIS HENDREE

Associate Director of Admissions
Grand Valley State University

**Please hold your questions until the end.
THANK YOU!**

Welcome!

Chris Hendree
Associate Director of Admissions
Grand Valley State University

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Choosing the Right College

Four phases of the college search

- Starting the College Search
- Applying to College
- Paying for College
- Making Decisions

College Search

What's Important To You?

- Size: Large or small student body?
- Location: In-state or out-of-state, urban or rural.
- Majors: Match programs with your career interests.
- Costs: Tuition, Financial Aid, Scholarships
- Activities: What's happening on campus?

College Search

Top 10 Reasons for Choosing A College

10. Family Wishes
9. Special Education Programs
8. Proximity to Home
7. Reputation for Social Activities
6. Postgraduate Opportunities
5. Tuition Costs
4. Financial Aid Offered
3. Size
2. Job Placement Rate
1. Academic Reputation

Source: Higher Education Research Institute, UCLA

College Search

	GVSU	CMU	WMU
Size	23,892	27,768	25,000
Tuition/Fees	\$8630	\$10,170	\$7654
Activities			
Location	Small town	Small town	Urban
Retention Rate			
Majors			
Placement Rate			

Source: www.petersons.com

College Search

Internet Resources

- Review websites
 - Petersons.com and collegeboard.com
- Review college websites
- Review college guides
 - US News and World Report and Princeton Review

College Search

Gathering Information

- College Visits
 - Individual Appointments
 - Visitation Day
 - Group Visit
- Receptions
- College Fairs
 - NACAC West Michigan Fair – April 13

College Search

Campus Visit Pros and Cons

- **Individual Appointment**
 - Personal attention, ability to ask questions.
 - May not be able to meet with professors and may be grouped with large tours.
- **Visitation Day**
 - Ability to meet with professors from all programs and will be able to gather a lot of information in a few hours.
 - Will not be able to get personal attention from admissions staff.
- **Group Visit**
 - Able to receive a lot of information in a short time.
 - May be placed in a large groups and not able to ask questions or get personal attention, may not be able to meet with faculty members.

College Search

Visit Don'ts

- Don't be embarrassed to ask questions.
- Don't ask yes/no questions – try to get specific information about the program.
- Don't hesitate to follow up with your contact at a university – they can be a great resource.
- Don't hesitate to set up multiple visits if necessary.

College Search

Visit Do's

- Do come to the appointment with questions.
- Do, if possible, meet with faculty members from your area of interest or at least get contact information.
- Do get specific information about majors, availability of internships and research opportunities.
- Do collect information about financial aid, scholarships and important deadlines.

College Search

When is the best time to visit?

NOW

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Applying

Admissions Requirements

- High School Curriculum
- GPA
- ACT/SAT scores
- Class Rank
- Essays
- Teacher/Counselor recommendations
- Personal Interviews
- Community Service
- Alumni Relationship or Legacy
- Geographic Location
- Special Talents

Applying

Suggested High School Curriculum

4 Years: English

3 Years: Math, Social Science and Sciences

2 Years: Foreign Language

Suggested Courses: Fine Arts,
Trigonometry/Calculus, Computer Sciences

New HS curriculum at www.michigan.gov/mde

Applying

Preparing for the ACT/SAT

- Take college prep classes
- Develop good test taking skills
- Use study guides and practice tests
 - www.actstudent.org, www.collegeboard.com
- ACT score from MME can be used for admission, but take ACT multiple times
- Remember to send test scores to multiple universities

Applying

Things to Remember

- Apply Early – preferably by September/October.
- Know Admissions Requirements.
 - If you have a deficiency, explain that in the application.
- Include an essay or recommendation letters with your application.
- Submit all application materials.
 - Applications
 - Transcripts and test scores
 - Letters of recommendation and/or essays

Paying for College

Types of Financial Aid

NEED BASED (FAFSA)

- Grants
 - Pell Grant - \$5350
 - FSEOG - \$4000
- Work Study
- Loans
 - Subsidized and unsubsidized loans
 - PLUS Loan

MERIT BASED

- Scholarships
 - Academic
 - Athletic
 - Performing Arts
- Michigan Promise ???? – www.michigan.gov/promise
- National Merit Scholarships

Paying for College

Understanding the FAFSA

- FAFSA forms can be completed in January of senior year at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Once the FAFSA is completed, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) with your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
- $NEED = COST\ OF\ COLLEGE - EFC.$
- Estimate your financial aid eligibility - www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov.

Paying for College

Financial Aid Awards

- Colleges will begin sending their Financial Aid award letters in late March.
- You are not obligated to accept all of the loans you are offered.
- Don't be afraid to negotiate.

Paying for College

Financial Aid/Scholarship Websites

- www.fastweb.com
- www.finaid.org
- www.collegenet.com
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid
- www.brokescholar.com

Paying for College

Scholarship Notes

- DO NOT PAY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
- DO NOT USE FAFSA.COM

Making Final Decisions

Making Final Decisions

- Make sure you keep your options open.
- Use your chart.
- When making decisions, take into consideration your needs.
- Get advice from other students and parents about their experiences.
- Visit again or stay overnight, if necessary.
- Remember May 1!

Thank You, Chris!

Thank you for attending tonight.

Please feel free to see Chris or one of the counselors
if you have questions.

This PowerPoint and the Post-Secondary Planning
Guide for the Class of 2011 Information Night will be
available on the EKHS website under "Guidance."