

MCHS SENIOR TIMELINE – CHECKLIST SY 2019-2020

Fall

- Attend the CMCSS College/Career Night. It will be held at APSU's Foy Center on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Attend Financial Aid Night at MCHS on Tuesday, September 17 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- Attend College Application Week events and apply to colleges (September 16 – 20).
- Fill out the 2020-21 FAFSA beginning October 1, 2019. This makes you eligible for the Hope Lottery Scholarship, TN Promise and Pell Grants. Go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> for the application.
- Attend FAFSA Night @ MCHS on October 8 from 3 to 7 pm to complete your FAFSA.
- Attend the first mandatory TN Promise meeting in the MCHS Theater on October 23rd at 9:30 a.m.
- **Apply for Tennessee Promise at <http://www.tnpromise.gov> by November 1, 2019.**
- Meet with college representatives and recruiters that visit MCHS.
- Conduct scholarship searches by visiting prospective school websites and through other scholarship searches. Naviance and the MCHS counseling website has links to many of these resources. <http://montgomerycentral.weebly.com>
- Take or retake the ACT/SAT before application deadlines (October is the last exam date that meets all deadlines). Register for the ACT at <http://www.actstudent.org> and use code 430520 for MCHS.
- The ACT will be given free to seniors at MCHS on Tuesday, October 1, 2019.
- Visit colleges. Attend college admissions/preview days. See the college websites for these dates and note their application deadlines. Many deadlines now occur as early as November 1st.
- Make an outline/résumé of all your high school activities, awards, honors, etc.
- Select individuals you would like to write letters of recommendation for you. Give them plenty of time to write your letter. Include your activity/award information with your request.

Winter

- Official class rankings will be determined after final grades for the first semester are reported in mid-January.
- Completing the FAFSA **by February 1, 2020** is required for the TN Promise scholarship.
- Attend second mandatory meeting for TN Promise at MCHS on March 17, 2020 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm
- Follow up to make sure letters of recommendation and transcripts are sent to the colleges that you applied to. Use Naviance to request and check the status of your transcript.

Spring

- Turn copies of scholarship award letters to your school counselor so we can recognize awards at Senior Award Night and graduation. The deadline to be recognized is the end of April.
- Pay attention to due dates for tuition, fees, room and board. Complete all necessary paperwork before deadlines.
- If attending college or technical schools, request that a final transcript be sent to the school you will attend by completing a transcript request form located in Guidance. *Please do this in May 2020 and use the "Final Transcript" request form.*
- Go to freshman orientation! The earlier the better. This is when you register for classes at some universities.

All year

- Pay attention to deadlines!
- Keep copies of everything you submit to colleges or scholarship committees. Apply online if possible. Use Naviance to apply, request transcripts, and search for scholarships.
- Come see your counselor if you have questions. You do not have to know exactly where you plan to go after graduation to talk to us. We are here to help you.
- If you have something you need us to fill out, please try to give us at least 3 days to work on it.

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- Use the MCHS counseling website to help you get started. It is located at:
<http://montgomerycentral.weebly.com>
- ACT, SAT, and AP Practice Tests and courses: <https://tntel.info/>

Forms of financial assistance for college

- Scholarships – You do not repay. They may be sent directly to your college or to you.
- Grants – You do not pay these back. They are based on financial need and paid by federal government or state agencies (the FAFSA is used for this). **Apply early...money runs out.**
- Loans – You must repay loans after you graduate or stop going to school.
- Work-study – Apply in FAFSA application; work part-time at your college for pay.

Where to find scholarships

- The MCHS Counseling web site. <http://montgomerycentral.weebly.com>.
- <https://www.collegefortn.org/open/welcome> - Find TN college cost information & search for scholarships.
- Search for scholarships on the website of the college you plan to attend. Many MCHS students receive Presidential and other scholarships directly from the university they plan to attend.
- Check with organizations that your parents or you belong to or work for.
- Use Naviance to search for colleges, prepare for ACT exams, and find scholarships.

Activity/Award Sheet

- Create a document listing high school clubs and activities you have been active in – include offices/responsibilities held; list projects or events you've worked on; list any awards received.
- Community Service/Volunteer Activities; awards and honors; work experience.
- List anything else that makes you stand out. Include years for all events, update as needed.

What to look at during college visits

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|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| *Majors and programs | *Type of school, degrees offered | *Location and size |
| *Costs and financial aid | *College affiliation and accreditation | *Campus activities |
| *Housing/Parking | *Other campus services | *Job placement center |

Specific Areas

- Military – Talk with recruiters, study for and take the ASVAB, get promises in writing.
- Technical/Community College – What kind of financial aid do they offer? Will credits transfer if you are planning to attend a 4-year college? Will the TN Promise cover all expenses?
- Job – Create a résumé, research businesses and companies you plan to apply with. Ask those working in your desired field/job for advice on what will make you more marketable to employers.

Choosing your major/career

- Outlook for various jobs? Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook:
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/a-z-index.htm>
- Check out the Career Transitions Gale database: <http://careertransitions.galegroup.com/home.do>, to assess your career interests; browse career paths; create resumes, or to find schools and programs.

Once at college or Technical School:

- Renew scholarships if possible, **KEEP LOOKING FOR NEW SCHOLARSHIPS.**
- Keep your GPA up to keep your scholarship(s).