

HOW MUCH IS THIS
GOING TO COST ME?!?!?



Examining Colleges & Securing Financial Aid

Please sign-in on the stage

WHAT ARE YOUR CHILD'S HOPES
AND DREAMS?

MCHS believes "All Doors Open"

WHAT WE'RE DOING TONIGHT

1. College/Career Resources
2. Summer Opportunities
3. UNDERGRADUATE School Selector
4. Examining Individual Schools
5. Comparing Schools
6. Planning Timeline
7. Financial Aid Overview
 - a. Types of Federal Aid - Grants, Work-Study, Loans
 - b. Local & Federal Scholarships
8. McHenry West Student Services Website
9. Q & A

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Sophomore summer Program: “College Fever” June 1 or 21 at West
- College and Career Expo on Thursday
- Never too early to explore post high school options

**High school students
touring a college**



MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT "COLLEGE"

Myths

- College means 4 year institution
- I can't afford college
- Not all kids need college
- Students research and make decisions senior year
- My child has no clue about a career, so college is a waste of time and money

Facts

- College means community, trade/technical, private, public
- No one should pay the "sticker price" for college
- Almost all jobs now require some sort of post high school education
- With so many options, research begins now
- College helps them decide

COLLEGE BOARD- WHAT IS IT & HOW IT HELPS

Collegeboard.org is an online career, college, and financial aid resource.

Career information & exploration, including career interest tools

Education & college information, including search functions

Financial Aid information & search tools

BigFuture™

- Get Started ▾
- Find Colleges ▾
- Explore Careers ▾
- Pay for College ▾
- Get In ▾
- Make a Plan ▾



It's okay to change your plans even if it means changing your major.

Monica realized the major she started college with wasn't right for her. By staying flexible, she opened the door to new opportunities.

Not sure where to start?
Go >

Explore college majors.

Watch ▶

Meet Monica

find colleges

Look up a college by name

OR

Search by location, major — any way you'd like.

pay for college

How much federal financial aid is out there to help students pay for college? Take a guess.



make a plan

Get a free step-by-step college plan. Just answer a few simple questions.

What grade are you in?

- ▶ 8th or lower
- ▶ 9th
- ▶ 10th
- ▶ 11th
- ▶ 12th
- ▶ H.S. grad

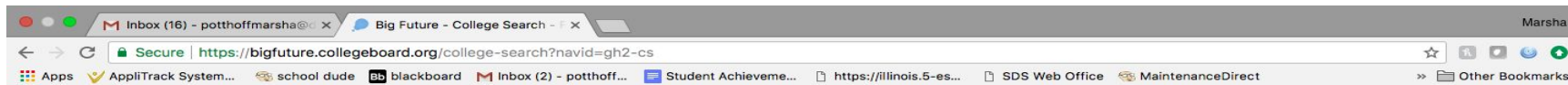
Welcome!

Me

My Colleges

My Plan

EXAMINING COLLEGES



College Search

Save Selections Clear All Selections

SELECT FILTERS

Test Scores & Selectivity

Type of School

Location

Campus & Housing

Majors & Learning Environment

Sports & Activities

Academic Credit

Paying

Support Services

Diversity

Save Selections Clear All Selections

You have
3,700 college
options. Choose a
category on the
left to find the
right ones for you.
We'll help along
the way.

Not sure where to start?
Go to College Search
Step-by-Step, an
interactive guide.

Welcome!

Sign up ▶

Sign in ▶

Me

My Colleges

My Plan

EXAMINING COLLEGES - PT. 2

Information about a particular school:

School Profile: General information about the school.

Admissions: Number of applicants/acceptances and documentation required for admission consideration.

Enrollment: Detailed information about the current freshmen class → Average ACT, GPA, etc.

Expenses and Financial Aid: Total cost, how many students received financial aid and how large those packages were.

COMPARING SCHOOLS

- Explore several options
- Develop a “top ten” list
- Include 3 types of options:
 - I will get in
 - I may get in
 - ”Reach” school



PLANNING TIMELINE

- Sophomore/junior year: Research, visit, explore, job shadow, take PSAT
- Junior year: SAT prep, SAT
- Fall of Senior year:
- Apply for admission by November 1
 - Complete FAFSA beginning October 1
- Spring of Senior year:
- Accept financial aid, housing, deposit

SUMMER TIMELINE

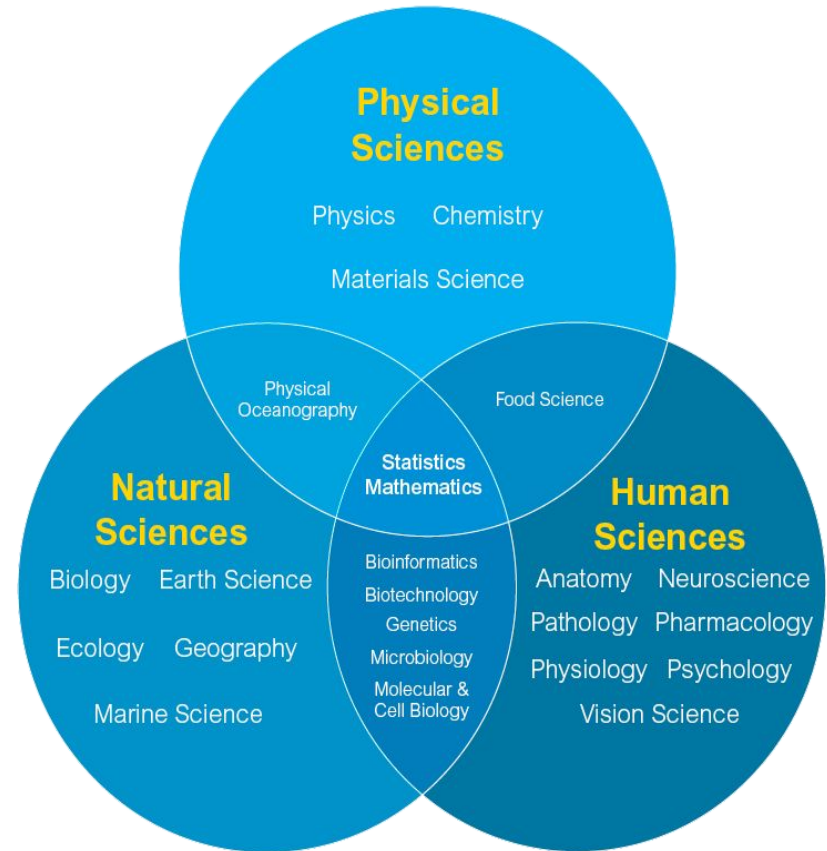
- Attend “College Fever: Catch It” at West on June 1 or 21
- Schedule 3 visits: Large, middle, small
- Have conversations about “areas of interest”; what can we eliminate?
- Research, research, research
- Expressing interest doesn’t mean commitment

- Make a list of preferences:
 - School size/type
 - Distance from home
 - ”Fit” Grades, interests
 - Community type: urban, suburban, rural

WHAT COMES FIRST: COLLEGE, MAJOR OR PAYING?

- Most colleges have MANY majors
- 50% of students change their major once
- Undecided students can take general studies during the first year
- Price is undetermined until FAFSA, which is second semester of senior year

SCIENCE MAJOR?!



TYPES OF FEDERAL AID

Grant: Generally, federal grants do not have to be repaid. Most grants require students to demonstrate financial need to qualify based on the FAFSA.

Loan: Loans are borrowed money that must be repaid, with interest. They're legal obligations that will require a plan for repayment.

Work-Study: Work part-time and earn money to contribute towards your education. This money does not have to be repaid.

Scholarship: “Free Money”

FINDING SCHOLARSHIPS

CAREER CRUISING: "FINANCIAL AID"

Local Scholarships:

Available to students only at the school, district, county, state, etc.

Federal Scholarships:

Available to students in the entire country that meet the requirements



FINANCIAL AID AND FAFSA



Needs-based financial aid: The FAFSA is used to determine federal, state, and institutional need-based eligibility

Non-needs based financial aid: Loans → Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized - Interest

FAFSA: www.fafsa.ed.gov → “Start a New FAFSA” → FSA ID

When completing the FAFSA, have your prior/prior year's tax documents available. Attend the FAFSA completion workshop at MCHS in the fall!

MCHENRY WEST/EAST STUDENT SERVICES WEBSITE

WWW.DIST156.ORG → "STUDENT SERVICES"

Home Page: Calendar of events, New/noteworthy info, social media feed/links

Academic: Academic planning & intervention

College & Career: Career development, college readiness/exploration, financial aid

Social/Emotional: Wellness, local resources

LOOKING AHEAD: JUNIOR YEAR (WHY NOT TO PROCRASTINATE)

- Heaviest Course Load
- SAT (practice and prep)
- Working/driving/school activities
- Juniors with study hall (SAT prep 2x per week)
- Juniors without study hall (AIM SAT prep 2x per week)
- College reps visit school during the day

WHY SAT EMPHASIS?

- Required for admission to four year college; competition is fierce
- Used by community colleges for placement/remediation
- ASVAB (military) is very challenging
- Some companies using basic skills tests for employment

QUESTIONS?

