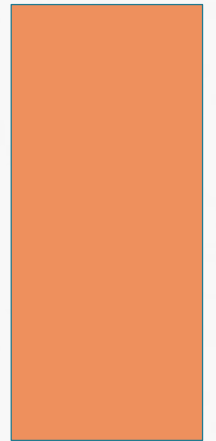


THE NEXT STEP...

CLASS OF 2017
SENIOR GUIDANCE NIGHT



COLLEGE FAIRS

SECTION 1

COLLEGE FAIRS

- Minnesota National College Fair
 - Wednesday, Sep 27 , 2017 – 9 a.m. -12 p.m. , 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
 - Thursday, Sept. 28 , 2017 – 9 a.m. -12 p.m.
 - Minneapolis Convention Center
 - www.nacacfairs.org/ncf
 - Register ahead of time – saves time at the booths
- Bethany Lutheran College
 - Tuesday, October 24 9 – 1-2:30 pm
 - www.mn-acac.org
 - Held at Bethany's fieldhouse
 - RSVP to Ms. Sperle by Wednesday, October 18

COLLEGE VISITATIONS

- College fairs - a lot of colleges at once
- Still important to visit campuses in person if possible
- Campuses have their own “culture” and “feel”
- Benefits of completing degree on original campus
 - Transfer often not eligible for the same types of scholarships
 - Comfortable with people & setting
- College/school visit checklist & score card

SENIOR CALENDAR

SECTION 2

TIMELINE CONSIDERATIONS- SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- Senior Meetings – September
 - VISIT COLLEGES!!
 - Underclassmen testing days **October 10-11**
 - MEA weekend **October 19-20**
 - APPLY FOR FAFSA **OCTOBER 1, 2017**
 - Based on last year's taxes
 - RETAKE ACT/SAT test by December if retake is needed
 - Apply to colleges by the end of first semester –
 - Highly competitive schools – apply early!
 - U of M Twin Cities; UW Madison

TIMELINE CONSIDERATIONS- SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- See Ms. Sperle for some test prep materials if Taking/Retaking the ACT
- Search and apply for scholarship information
 - List in packet of web sites & apps
 - Ask parent employers, insurance companies, Civic organizations, banks...
 - Check bulletin board by guidance office
 - Updated on guidance web cite
- Gentlemen – register for Selective Service upon turning 18
- Stay on track to graduate – keep those grades up!

TIMELINE CONSIDERATIONS- JANUARY - APRIL

- Get your taxes done so that you are ready for next year's FAFSA
- Compare financial aid packages.
- Stay focused & keep grades up.
- Scholarship season – lots of scholarship opportunities are due during this time
- Make decisions about colleges
- Find out what deposits your school requires to reserve your spot.
- Notify **both those you decide to attend AND those you aren't going to attend**

MONTH-BY-MONTH CHECKLIST

MAY - AUGUST

- Take the AP tests for any Advanced Placement courses you've taken.
- Complete the form from Ms. Sperle regarding
 - Post-secondary plans
 - scholarships for the Recognition lyceum – Wednesday, May 9th
 - Where we will send final transcripts

TRANSCRIPTS/LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

SECTION 3

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

MINNESOTA VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

Please allow 1-2 weeks to process and mail transcript(s)

Cost to non-current MVL students: \$4.00

To apply for college:

1. Submit completed application directly to the college
2. Complete this form and submit it to Ms. Spertig in person
3. If a recommendation is needed, request one from the person of your choice AT LEAST 2-3 weeks in advance.

NAME: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Maiden)

Please send my transcript to:

More on back



1 _____ (Attention:) _____
(College, University, Scholarship Organization, Business, Etc.)

Address: _____ City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

I hereby authorize Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School to release my transcript (including classes, grades, GPA, rank, standardized test scores, and college entrance exam scores) to the place(s) indicated above.

Student Signature: _____

Parent's Signature (if under 18) _____

Transcript form cannot be faxed or emailed. Original signature is required.



REQUESTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Guidelines

- Make a student resume
- Give specific information – the more information given, the better the recommendation.
- Complete your portion of forms.
- Be courteous with the timing of your request – AT LEAST two weeks



SAMPLE STUDENT RESUME

Deneal M. Sperle
907 8th S. Street, New Ulm, MN 56073

School Activities

- Student Council, 2013-2016
- Speech Team, 2015-2016

Leadership Roles

- Student Council Secretary, 2014-2015
- Student Council President, 2015-2016
- Speech Team Captain, 2015-2016

Volunteer Activities

- Dog walker at the Humane Society, 2010-present

Activities Outside of School

- Gymnastics, 2008-2015
- Piano lessons, 2004- present
- Quilting Club, 2014-2015

Classes Taken Outside of MVL (including online classes)

- Human Growth and Development, 2013 – Concordia University Wisconsin
- AP Psychology, 2015 – Area Lutheran High School Online

Hobbies

- Downhill skiing
- Dog training
- Crocheting

Countries outside of the U.S to which I have traveled

- Ukraine – 2014. I traveled to Ukraine to teach VBS for two summers.

Skills

- Playing Piano
- Archery

COLLEGE CHOICES

SECTION 4

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

- What field do I want to study?
 - Resources – Library
 - Book of majors
 - Peterson's College Review
 - Web sites
 - ACT Profile – <http://www.actprofile.org/login>
 - College Board Big Future - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
 - Minnesota iseek – <http://www.iseek.org/careers/interestassessment.html>

MYTHS ABOUT PICKING A COLLEGE

- I need to decide on my career before I can choose a college
- We can only afford a low-priced college
- The most important factor in college admissions is your ACT score
- I've never heard of this college, so it can't be good
- This college is best for me because this is where my [friend/parents/etc.] went.

PRICE VS. COST

- Compare the bottom line
- Don't be affected by “sticker shock”
- Many college students receive some form of financial aid
- Costs/price different because universities vary on the scholarship/grand money available

POPULAR COLLEGES

College	Tuition & fees	Room & Board
Bethany Lutheran College	\$26,020	\$8,020
Martin Luther College	\$13,980	\$5,510
Wisconsin Lutheran College	\$27,984	\$9,620
Gustavus Adolphus	\$43,033	\$9,400
SDSU	Total cost \$16,984	
MSU -- Mankato	Total Cost - \$17,906	
U of M – Morris	\$12,846	\$7,804
U of M – Duluth	\$13,082	\$7,210

TYPICAL SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

College	Award	Requirements
Bethany Lutheran College	Bethany Grant -- \$9,500 Luther Scholarship-- \$11,000 Presidential -- \$12,000	2.8 GPA & 20 ACT 3.2 GPA & 23 ACT 3.6 GPA & 26 ACT
Martin Luther College	Witness -- \$1,500 Messenger -- \$2,000 Presidential -- \$3,000	3.5-3.74 GPA & 27-29 ACT 3.75-4.0 GPA & 30 ACT Valedictorian
Wisconsin Lutheran College	Presidential -- \$15,000 Academic -- \$12,000 Collegiate -- \$10,000 Christian Education - \$1000	3.7 GPA & 27 ACT 3.3 GPA & 23 ACT 2.7 GPA & 21 ACT Went to a Christian High School
Gustavus Adolphus	Dean's Scholarship \$6,000-\$20,000 Presidential Scholarship \$22,500	School Formula Application process, 30 ACT, 3.25 to renew

TYPICAL GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

College	Award	Requirements
SDSU	Jackrabbit Guarantee -- \$1,000	24 ACT
MSU -- Mankato	Presidential Scholar	Top 10% or 3.8, 26+ on ACT
U of M – Morris	Achievement Scholarships – \$1,000- \$4,000	Information from registration
U of M – Duluth	Best of Class -- 50% of tuition Presidential- up to \$5,000 per year Chancellor's – up to \$3000 per year	Class Rank #1 or #2 Students who demonstrate high achievement

FINANCIAL AID CONSIDERATIONS

- Everyone should APPLY!
- Males must have registered with Selective Service before applying for FAFSA
- Don't wait for college acceptance letters before filing for aid. File in October - the earlier the better!!

FINANCIAL AID, FAFSA, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

FINANCIAL AID CONSIDERATIONS

- Keep a file with your FSA ID, password, and your FAFSA worksheets. (You may have to verify information, and you'll use the same ID and password next year)
- Be accurate! Figures on financial aid forms must agree with those on federal tax forms.
- Use IRS data retrieval tool if at all possible

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

- EVERYONE SHOULD FILE A FAFSA
- You must apply EACH year
- First come, first served basis – file October 1
- Filling out the FAFSA
 - Get a FAFSA ID and password set up now
 - Apply for FAFSA October 1
 - Note: some schools have you fill out additional financial aid paperwork
 - FAFSA determines how much you must contribute and how much federal and state aid you can expect
 - When applying, try to include each school your child is considering attending so the forms get sent to the colleges ASAP
 - Use the IRS Data retrieval tool if at all possible!!

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

- Filling out the FAFSA
 - FAFSA documents are evaluated using a standard formula –
 - Family's income, Assets, Special circumstances
 - Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
 - Differences between EFC and cost of education = amount of financial aid eligible to receive (need)
 - Within a few weeks of finishing FAFSA – Student Aid Report (SAR). Make sure all info is correct
 - School's financial aid office receives SAR, school sends student a financial aid award letter
 - Compare financial aid packages – discuss concerns with financial aid offices.
 - Inform colleges of decision
 - Offset EFC with scholarships
 - Last resort – loans
 - Those who file FAFSA are eligible for lower interest loans

FAFSA

- FAFSA web site
 - <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Create FAFSA ID & Pin
 - <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- FAFSA help
 - <https://fafsa.ed.gov/help.htm>
- Martin Luther College Financial Aid Event
 - Thursday, September 14, 2017
 - Auditorium at Wittenberg Collegiate Center

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Financial Aid Literacy recourses
- Pamphlets on our MVL website = guidance page
- <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=1334>

FINANCIAL AID CONSIDERATIONS

EFC & Financial Aid Need

The greater the financial need, the greater the student's financial aid eligibility.

A family's EFC remains the same even when the price of the school increases:

Price of College A:	\$15,000
Expected Family Contribution:	- \$3,500
<hr/>	
Financial Need:	\$11,500
.....	
Price of College B:	\$35,000
Expected Family Contribution:	- 3,500
<hr/>	
Financial Need:	\$31,500

FINANCIAL AID CONSIDERATIONS

- Everyone should apply!
- Don't be afraid to document special financial circumstance in detail on a separate page and send it to the college financial aid department.
- Some schools will attempt to accommodate your personal situation. (e.g. parochial school tuition)
- Financial Aid is granted in:
 - Grants
 - Loans
 - Scholarships
 - Work study jobs

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

- Be aware of deadlines
- Practice application first
- Make your applications LOOK PROFESSIONAL
- Pick people who know you well to write recommendations for scholarships
- Take time writing essays – highlight what makes you uniquely you
- See “10 Hot Tips from a scholarship judge” sheet
- Scholarships we receive uploaded to guidance page of MVL website

CONTACT ME

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