

ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

2019

POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING

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ST. MICHAEL, MN 55376

763-497-6525



KNIGHTS

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A Letter from the Counselors

This post high school planning booklet has been designed by the St. Michael-Albertville School Counselors to assist STMA juniors, seniors, and their parents in the post high school planning process. There are numerous options to choose from, and knowing yourself well is the key to making appropriate choices. Now is the time to begin studying the options available and put a plan in place to reach those goals. Your counselor is prepared to help you with the planning process. It is our goal to help facilitate this process without making decisions for you. We can help you find more information, answer your questions, and assist you in sorting through options.

We encourage all students, along with their parents, to schedule an appointment with their counselor to discuss, ask questions, and gather information about post high school plans. We hope to help make this process enjoyable and fun!

Sincerely,

St. Michael-Albertville High School Counselors

Phone (763) 497-6525

Fax (763) 497-6587

Please visit our website at:

<http://hs.stma.k12.mn.us/counseling/>

High School Graduation Requirements

1) Completion of 55 credits:

- 8 – English
- 8 – Social
- 6 – Math
- 6 – Science
- 2 – Fine Arts
- 2 – Health
- 2 – Phy. Ed.
- 21 – Electives from any department

2) Pass College and Career Readiness Standards

3) Completion of four hours of community service each year in grades 9-12; **16 total hours**

Community Service

Every student at St. Michael-Albertville must complete four hours of community service each year they attend the school. We encourage more than four hours a year – but no more than four hours will be accepted per year. Also, we want the students to diversify their hours; therefore, the four hours must involve at least two different activities. **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT COMPLETE THE SIXTEEN HOURS BY THE END OF THEIR SENIOR YEAR WILL NOT GRADUATE FROM ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE REGARDLESS OF OTHER CREDITS EARNED. THE SCHOOL BOARD HAS APPROVED THIS REQUIREMENT.**

Community Service is defined as:

Work done for others that is not for pay and not for a class grade. If the student is required to do community service for a religious organization, he/she may use the same hours for the school.

Examples of community service activities that will be accepted are:

- Aid to senior citizens (this does not include family members)
- Aid to neighbors who cannot otherwise perform the task due to a disability
- Church activities
- Coaching activities (volunteer)
- Council meetings (volunteer)
- Babysitting is acceptable once a year, for two hours maximum for a family other than your own and on a “no-pay” basis

Please see your homeroom advisor for the pre-approval form.

Post High School Options

Four year colleges are located in every state and are either public (which means they are partly supported by taxes and are therefore generally less expensive than private colleges) or private (which are not supported by taxes). Both public and private colleges offer a wide variety of programs and range in size from very small to very large. There are more than 3,000 four-year colleges in the United States to choose from. Examples of four-year colleges in Minnesota are:

- The University of Minnesota (campuses at the Twin Cities, Morris, Crookston, Duluth)
- State University System (Mankato, St. Cloud, Bemidji, Winona, Southwest, Moorhead)
- Private Colleges (Augsburg, Bethany Lutheran, Bethel, Carleton, Concordia-Moorhead, Concordia-St. Paul)

Two year colleges offer associate's degrees and the opportunity to transfer credits. Community college can be a less expensive and more convenient option for students wanting to pursue a college education. Generally, the only admission requirement for acceptance into a community college is a high school diploma or a GED. Students who desire this option, yet want to earn a bachelor's degree, can complete their last two years by transferring their community college credits to a four-year school that agrees to accept them. Examples of two-year colleges near St. Michael-Albertville are:

- North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park
- Anoka Ramsey Community College in Coon Rapids
- St. Cloud Technical and Community

Technical colleges and **specialty schools** offer training for a specific occupation and typically do not require general coursework. Programs and length of programs can vary somewhat by school, but most can be completed in two years. Technical colleges or specialty schools can be either public or private. Examples of technical colleges and specialty schools in Minnesota are:

- North Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park (public)
- Aveda Institute in Minneapolis (private)
- Anoka Technical
- St. Cloud Technical and Community

The military offers a variety of training opportunities and requires a service commitment in return. In addition to regular enlistment, students who want to pursue a college degree before they complete their service commitment can apply for a ROTC program or a service academy. ROTC scholarships allow students to complete their education at a civilian college while they are training to become a commissioned officer in a branch of the armed services. Many college campuses offer ROTC programs. For information on all branches of the military go to www.students.gov and click on "military services." The service academies, which require a fairly extensive application process, include the following:

- US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80840; 1-719-333-1110
- US Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut 06320; 1-800-883-USCG
- US Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY 11024; 1-516-726-5800
- US Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996; 1-845-938-4041
- US Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland 21402; 1-410-293-1000

Employment immediately after high school is an option chosen by students who know they want an occupation which requires no training beyond high school, or want to delay formalized post high school training for a while. Sometimes companies have their own training programs. Students wishing to pursue the employment option should talk to their counselor about resources.

General Timeline

Junior Year

- Start your post high school planning
- Attend the National College Fair in the fall.
- Consider taking the PSAT/National Merit Scholar Qualifying exam (strongly recommended to students in the top 33% of class).
- Collect college brochures, view books, and program information – organize information (start a “college folder”).
- Attend your Junior Seminar with your counselor in October to explore career options and research colleges.
- Attend meetings with college representatives in the guidance office during SNAP.
- Get registration information for ACT (www.actstudent.org) and SAT (www.collegeboard.com) exams- also available in the guidance office.
- Obtain PSEO (Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program) information (class rank must be in top 50% for senior year) if interested and set up parent meeting.
- Investigate requirements for admission to colleges that you are interested in and schedule college visits.
- Register carefully for senior year classes and check graduation requirements for high school. Make sure you have the necessary preparation requirements for college.
- In the spring take the ACT (April and/or June) and/or SAT (March and/or May).
- Find a summer job or internship.
- Get reference letters from summer jobs, internships, or special activities.

Senior Year

September

- Attend the senior assigned SNAP presentation with your school counselor to learn more about the post high school planning options.
- If you have additional questions, make an appointment to see your counselor. Review your credits, college entrance requirements, and college choices. Talk about the application process and letters of recommendation.
- Talk to teachers or employers about letters of recommendation (allow them three weeks to write you a great letter).
- Check out ACT (www.actstudent.org) and SAT (www.collegeboard.com) registration deadlines. Re-take the test if necessary.
- Obtain college application and review for early admittance incentives and application deadlines. Remember that most college applications are submitted prior to winter break, and that the counselors need requests for recommendations three weeks before you wish the letter to be sent.
- Apply to technical programs.
- Attend meetings with college representatives in the guidance office during SNAP.

October

- Attend the National College Fair if you did not attend as a junior.
- Fall Break – Schedule college visits during the break.
- Review and complete your community service.
- Obtain FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online (www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- Apply to colleges during College Knowledge Week

November-December

- Check college application deadlines, finalize plans, and submit applications.
- Check for scholarships through the college/university you plan on attending.
- Check for national scholarship opportunities. (Local scholarship listing available in March)

January

- Submit last applications.

February-May

- Review college acceptances and make your final decision, reply promptly to college.
- Attend the Local Scholarship information meeting and watch for deadlines. The meeting will be in late February. Local scholarships will more than likely not be posted until this date.
- Make sure your credits are on track for graduation.
- Make sure your community service hours are complete.
- Request a FINAL TRANSCRIPT to be sent to the college you plan to attend.

Researching Schools

Researching schools thoroughly can help lead to a satisfying and successful post high school experience. There are many aspects to the research process.

Preparation Requirements:

Knowing what preparation is needed in high school is important. Most four-year colleges require four years of English, four years of social studies, three years of a laboratory science, three years of math (starting with algebra), two years of a world language, and one year of art. It is always best to check directly with the colleges to which you are applying for information about admission criteria.

Admission Criteria:

In addition to the coursework requirements, colleges have admission criteria that vary from college to college. Admission criteria most commonly refer to: GPA, class rank, and test scores. Colleges also consider the rigor of coursework taken in high school. Colleges require that your transcript (a copy of your HS record) be sent to them. Colleges are interested to know what activities you were involved in while in high school, how your teachers viewed you (teacher recommendations), and any additional information (personal essay and sometimes an interview).

Admission Tests Requirements:

Most four-year colleges require that you take the ACT or the SAT and have those test scores sent directly to the college from the testing agency. It is recommended that the ACT or SAT be taken no later than spring of the junior year. It is possible to take either test in the fall of the senior year, but for some programs or schools this may be too late for application deadlines. These tests can be taken more than once. STMA and several neighboring high schools are test sites for the ACT. These tests are given on designated Saturday mornings. Colleges consider your highest score when reviewing an application for admission. Check with the individual college you are considering to find out which admissions test is preferred. The ACT is being offered for FREE at the high school on April 19th

NCAA Eligibility Requirements:

Students who intend to compete at the college level must meet the NCAA's eligibility requirements and abide by their recruiting guidelines. Specific information on NCAA requirements and other information can be obtained at www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org See your counselor if you have any questions.

Personal Preferences:

When researching and comparing colleges, you should consider your preferences such as selectivity, type of school (private or public), majors offered, size, location, activities available, and cost. It is a good idea to have in mind what is most important to you before exploring schools. The sticker price of a school and the price your family pays may differ dramatically, so it can sometimes be best to wait until you receive an offer of admission and financial aid before determining the affordability of a school.

Career Center:

The Career Center is located by the Guidance Office. Here you will find major college resource guides, college catalogs, computer programs, and printed resources about colleges. College representatives visit the Career Center during SNAP to answer questions including available programs (majors and minors), scholarships, and tuition costs. Students can find out when they are visiting by checking out the daily announcements and the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office.

Reasons to meet with college representatives

- Students have an opportunity to meet face to face and ask specific questions about a school. Often times, these representatives will be the one reviewing their applications
- Students can let the college know that they are seriously interested.
- Occasionally, representatives will give an early read on students' transcripts, test scores, and course selection. Students can figure out what they can do to improve their chances of being admitted to a school.

MCIS Website:

Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS) is a comprehensive career information system available online and accessed with a user name and password. Create and personalize your own account for future use at: www.mncis.intocareers.org. Students created a username and password during their freshmen and/or junior year(s.)

MCIS can help you with the following:

- ACT prep
- Interest Inventory
- Occupation Descriptions
- Programs of Study
- Individual College Information
- College Search based on Interests

College Fairs:

The Minnesota National College Fair is held in Minneapolis every fall. Representatives from more than 350 colleges and universities across the country are available to visit with students and parents to provide information. Every technical, state, university, and private college from Minnesota is represented at the National College Fair.

Monticello High School offers a local college fair to high school students who want to explore many statewide college and universities in October each year.

Tips for attending a college fair

- Discuss the different types of school that you may want to attend prior to the fair(s)
- Research colleges on the internet and in the high school guidance office.
- Check dates and registration deadlines for college entrance exams and application deadlines.
- At the college fair, ask college representatives about various programs of study, tuition, housing, financial aid, and extra-curricular activities.

College Visit

The best way to research a college is to visit. Call the admissions office or go online to visit and arrange a specific date and time. Most colleges conduct tours on a regular basis and some have special event days or weekends especially for prospective students. The college visit allows high school students to meet college students and faculty, sit in on classes, and gain an overall perspective of the college environment. Before going on a campus visit, it is helpful to generate a list of questions including academics, financial aid, housing, transportation, athletics, and safety.

Prior Arrangements

- Call the admission office or go online to schedule a campus visit.
- Request literature about the school and your career field.
- Schedule a visit as early as possible, at least a month in advance.
- Try to make the appointment during a regular school day.
- Ask for an official tour.
- Ask if the college conducts interviews. These are often not required, but can strengthen your application and help the college get to know you.
- Ask to talk to current students in your prospective major or career field.
- Arrange to sit in on a class in your field of interest, if possible.
- Arrange to stay a night in the dorms.

The Visit

- Take an official tour.
- Meet with an admissions representative or attend an information session.
- If applicable, participate in an interview (remember to dress professionally and be yourself).
- Visit classes to observe class sizes and professor-student interaction.
- Read the school newspaper.
- Eat in the school dining facility.
- Visit dorms and stay overnight.
- Ask questions!
- Meet with a financial aid officer if you plan to apply for aid.
- Talk with faculty members from various departments.
- Inquire about extracurricular activities including various school organizations.

Follow Up

- Analyze your experience. It might be helpful to take a few notes immediately after your visit to remember what you saw and learned, and how you felt on campus.
- Discuss your campus visit with your family and counselor.

College Admission Guidelines

Extremely Selective

(Harvard, Stanford, Amherst, Pomona, Carleton)

Honors/AP coursework required

- 4 years of all core subjects—English, Social Studies, Math, and Science
- 4-5 years of a foreign language
- Some require 1 year of fine arts
- Leadership in extracurricular activities
- Volunteer/community service
- ACT composite of 30 or higher
- Class rank in top 10%

Very Selective

(Macalester, UW-Madison, U of M-TC, St. Olaf, Lawrence)

Honors/AP classes highly recommended

- 4 years of all core subjects
- 4-5 years of a foreign language
- Some require 1 year of fine arts
- Active involvement in extracurricular activities
- ACT composite of 26 or higher
- Class rank in top 20%

Selective

(Gustavus, Beloit, UW-LaCrosse, UW-Eau Claire, St. Ben's/St. John's, St. Thomas)

Honors/AP classes helpful

- 3-4 years of all core subjects
- 2-4 years of foreign language
- Involvement in extracurricular activities
- ACT composite of 23 or higher
- Class rank in top 50%

Moderately Selective

(UND, Bethel, UMD, NDSU, St. Scholastica, MN State Universities)

Some Honors/AP classes helpful

- 3-4 years of all core subjects
- 2 years of foreign language may be required, more can be helpful
- ACT composite of 21 or higher OR class rank in top 50%

Open Enrollment

(Community Colleges, Technical Colleges)

- No specific high school course work is required; however, students should take the most difficult classes they can succeed in to prepare for college-level courses.
- Testing provided by the college
- No specific class rank or GPA required

Where to Apply

One of the most important steps of the application process is determining the list of schools you will apply to. These lists will vary dramatically from student to student. It is best to keep in mind that you are generating this list for you and your future, no matter where your friends are headed. Look for schools that are a good fit for you because of the programs and environment they offer. As a junior, you should generate a large list of schools of interest, and begin narrowing it down as you visit schools. In the fall of your senior year, you should have your list finalized.

How to compare

Create a comparison chart of the different schools that interest you, with information such as admissions requirements, size, and location, and any other factors of importance to you. Remember, the net cost to your family will likely differ from the "sticker price" of a school, so cost is a factor to be considered after you have received offers of scholarships and financial aid from the schools to which you have been admitted (in the spring of your senior year). As you research colleges, take note of what appeals to you. Here are some examples of how large and small schools may differ:

Large Universities

Larger variety of classes
More career-oriented majors
(e.g. Business, Engineering, etc.)
Higher quality activities
Better to know your major initially
Easier to be anonymous if you choose
Name recognition/prestige

Small Colleges

Smaller discussion-based classes
More one-on-one time with professors

Can participate in a wide variety of activities
More likely to graduate in 4 years
Easier to be a prominent leader
Access to hands-on research as an undergrad

Other potentially desirable aspects of campus life such as diversity, scenery, climate, or access to city life are most easily determined by taking a campus tour and seeing for yourself if they have the setting that is best suited for you. (Adapted from the Fiske Guide to Getting into the Right College)

Making a smart list

There is no right number of schools to apply to, but most students apply to between three and eight schools. We recommend students apply to at least two or three schools where they feel confident about their admission. Check acceptance rates, average GPAs, and test score ranges to determine which schools you can feel assured will admit you, and which are a reach. We encourage you to push for these reach schools, but be sure your list is sensible. If you are applying to highly selective schools, you will want a few "safe" schools, a few that are more selective, and perhaps one or two that are a stretch. At highly competitive schools, there will be more qualified applicants than space available; even being valedictorian with a great test score will not guarantee you admission to the very top schools, so make sure you apply to a few of the other great options available with higher acceptance rates.

Information on the ACT and SAT College Entrance Exams

Note: You do not have to take both exams. Most STMA students take the ACT because it is more common to Midwestern schools. Most colleges accept either test, but it is always a good idea to check with each college you are considering to determine if they prefer the ACT or SAT.

	SAT	ACT
When is it administered?	Seven times per year	Six-seven times per year
How long is the exam?	3 hours (plus 50 for essay)	2 hrs, 55 mins (plus 40 for essay)
What is the test structure?	Four-section exam. Writing and Language Test, Reading Test, and Math Test.	Four-section exam: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only, and is clearly experimental. Writing is optional.
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	No	No
How is the test scored?	Composite 400-1600 (SAT Essay: reported in 3 dimensions, each 2-8)	1-36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score. A 36 is the highest possible composite score. Writing 2-12.
Are there other uses for the exams?	Scholarship purposes.	Scholarship purposes. Certain statewide testing programs.
Best time to register?	At least six weeks before the test date	At least four weeks before the test date
Need more information?	Educational Testing Service (ETS) (609) 771-7600 www.ets.org The College Board www.collegeboard.com	ACT, Inc.: (319) 337-1000 www.ACT.org

When registering for either the ACT or SAT exams, you must provide the St. Michael-Albertville High School Code: **242-209**

ACT

This year juniors will participate in the ACT plus writing **during the school day on Wednesday, April 24th**. This test is at no cost to students. This score can be used as an official test score for college application purposes. Students interested in taking additional test administrations please see below.

ACT Test Dates:

Most 4-year college bound students take the ACT or SAT during April or June of their junior year. Many students will take more than one ACT to improve their score from one test to the next. Because you will take the ACT plus writing in April it is optional to take both portions when retesting.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019	March 9-25, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 4-20, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019	June 15-24, 2019
Sept. 14, 2019	TBD	
Oct 26, 2019	TBD	
Dec 14, 2019	TBD	

**Late registration is available for an additional fee.

ACT Preparation Options

There are several ways for students to prepare for the ACT Exam.

**Register for the following courses at <https://stma.thatscommunityed.com>.

PREPSTAR PREMIUM

To receive great ACT scores for college admissions, students now need training and coaching more than ever before. This 24 hour ACT preparation course is unlike any other. The class is thorough, challenging and extremely effective. And, it offers Guaranteed Results for students who have already taken the ACT!

953S1 ACT

Location: St. Michael- Albertville High School: Media Center

Dates: Saturdays March 16th, 23rd and April 6th

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

AND

Dates: Thursdays March 28th and April 4th

Time: 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

FEE: \$349

Application Process

The application process begins early senior year. It is important to complete most of your research your junior year. This can be a time consuming and stressful experience, but with planning and organization it can be productive and enjoyable. Once you have determined your final list of schools, you will need to be aware of deadlines and application requirements. Sometimes it is helpful to create a chart of school deadlines to keep this valuable information readily available.

Applications:

Applications can be found on the college websites.

Several colleges use the *Common Application*, which allows you to apply to numerous schools with one application form. You still need to pay close attention to unique requirements; for example, some colleges may ask for letters of recommendation and others may not. Go to www.commonapp.org to see the list of schools that use the Common App and their specific requirements.

When applying to public colleges and universities, such as the University of Minnesota campuses or any school within the State University System, you will find the applications fairly simple to complete. Usually, you will be asked to provide an official transcript, a list of your senior classes, your ACT or SAT scores, and other basic information.

If you are applying to selective private colleges, you will find most of these schools require you to share more information about yourself and submit an essay. You may want to develop a resume including activities, involvements, honors, and experiences that will help give a strong picture of your interests and accomplishments. This will allow you to be more efficient as you complete applications.

Transcripts:

Student will request their transcript online. You can visit www.parchment.com to have them sent. There is also a link to parchment on the high school webpage under the Guidance Office tab. You will see an icon labeled "Order My Transcript". There is a small fee per transcript so have your credit card available. You will need to carefully type in "**St. Michael-Albertville High School**" when it asks for your high school. You will no longer be able to request transcripts to be sent to colleges via mail. Unofficial transcripts can be viewed once you have submitted your request to help you complete scholarships/applications. Stop by the Guidance Office with questions.

Recommendations:

Colleges may require or encourage you to include two or three recommendations with your application. Colleges prefer recommendations from core academic teachers, but you can also ask a counselor, coach, advisor, or a non-academic teacher who can provide an exceptional view of you. To be sure your recommendations are effective and timely, you should put some thought into the process. Ask teachers who know you well and think highly of you. It is helpful to provide a biographical report of yourself (available in the Guidance Office.) If you want the recommendation sent with the application, give the person writing the recommendation a deadline. Give teachers at least three weeks to write the recommendation. If you wish to have your applications sent out earlier, provide the teacher with a stamped, addressed envelope to simplify the process. Please find out from the colleges how they prefer letters to be sent to them. Finally, a thank you note is an appropriate and professional expression of gratitude for their efforts.

Essay:

Admission representatives want to know you better and discover your unique qualities. Ask yourself, "What makes me an excellent fit for this college?" and "What else do I want them to know about who I am?" When writing an essay or personal statement, a short and original essay is most desirable. If a choice of topics is given: choose a topic, make a list of ideas to be covered in the essay, develop an outline, and write a first draft. Be certain your personal statement is broken into paragraphs. Ask at least one person to proofread your work and offer feedback; then make any necessary edits and changes to your final draft.

The easy steps of the Application Process:

1. Complete the application (paper or online).
2. Contact teachers for letters of recommendation.
3. Visit www.parchment.com to request your transcript to be sent to colleges.
4. Submit your official ACT/SAT scores online if you did not send them when you took the exam.
5. Counselor will complete any required information necessary that you give to them.
6. Student is responsible for mailing in letter of recommendations.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is money to help afford the cost of tuition. In addition, financial aid can help pay for books, room and board, and other costs of higher education. There are four basic categories of financial aid: grants, scholarships, student loans, and work-study. Listed below are descriptions of the different forms of financial aid.

- Grants are financial gifts that do not need to be repaid or earned by working. Grants are usually based on financial need, and academic merit may also be considered. There are two types of grants that students maybe awarded/
 1. Federal Pell Grants are awarded to part-time and full-time undergraduate students who have financial need.
 2. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants are a supplement to Pell Grants
- Scholarships are financial gifts that do not need to be paid back and are awarded on criteria including academic excellence, religion, ethnic background, or demonstration of leadership in the community or school. There are many local and nationwide scholarships available to students throughout their senior year. Most colleges offer academic scholarships, and some schools offer athletic scholarships to students who qualify.
- Educational loans include money that is borrowed from the government, a bank, or credit union that must be paid back and includes various interest rates. Two common loans that students receive are the Perkins and Stafford Loans.
 1. Federal Perkins Loans provide a long-term, low interest loans to undergraduate and graduate student who demonstrate financial need.
 2. Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan is available only to students who demonstrate financial need, and student needs to attend school at least half time.
- Many schools offer a work-study job as part of the student's financial aid package. These are programs that enable students to work on campus and earn a government subsidized wage. This is an excellent opportunity to help pay for your education by working part-time.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

All students who are interested in financial aid for college will need to complete the FAFSA. The FAFSA is the free federal application form used to determine financial eligibility. The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov on **October 1st** and is a universal form for students to apply for a Minnesota State grant, Federal Pell Grant, a Stafford Loan, and other financial aid available at individual colleges. The form requires information on family income, assets, and your status as a resident. Furthermore, each year in October, a financial aid representative from a local college presents FAFSA information to all interested seniors and parents at St Michael-Albertville High School. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the financial aid process.

Scholarships

Local Scholarships:

Each year new businesses, organizations and individuals support the Local Scholarship program at St. Michael-Albertville High School. Some sponsors have been long-time scholarship contributors and others are now joining. Last year, at Scholarship Night over \$100,000 was donated to assist students in furthering their education.

A Local Scholarship meeting will be held in late February each year for all seniors. Students will be given information on how to access and apply for scholarships. After the committee has selected the recipients, students are awarded their scholarships at the Scholarship Night in May.

Scholarship Wall/Online Application

Scholarships are posted in the Career Center on the back wall and online through the Scholarship link on the High School website. This link will only be active during the month of March. The things to keep in mind when searching for scholarships are:

- Start looking early.
- Finding and applying for scholarships takes time, energy, and persistence.
- The larger scholarships are usually awarded by the college the student plans to attend. Contact the college's financial aid office to learn about any scholarships they may offer.
- Private colleges are often more generous in awarding scholarships, thus making private school competitive in price with public school. Do not rule out a private college until you have seen their aid package.
- Apply for Local Scholarships.
- Network. Tell everyone that you are looking for scholarships. You can check with your place of employment, your church, organizations to which you belong to, etc.
- Be organized. Make sure teachers and counselors are given plenty of time to prepare letters of recommendation and transcripts.
- Be aware of deadlines. Scholarship applications become available throughout a student's senior year and are sometimes due only weeks after being posted.
- Scholarship searches that charge a fee are very seldom worthwhile and many are scams. Do not pay for scholarship searches or applications.

Web sites

Selective Services

www.sss.gov

NCAA Online

www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org

MN Careers

www.mnwfc.org
www.minnesotaworks.net
www.careeronestop.org
www.mncareers.org

Technical Careers

www.acteonline.org
www.eyes.org
www.t-ten.com

General Career Information

www.mncis.intocareers.org
www.wetfeet.com
www.careerbuilder.com
www.militarycareers.com
www.bestjobsusa.com
www.careeradvisor.com

ACT/SAT Online

www.actstudent.org
www.collegeboard.org

General College Information

www.mnprivatecolleges.com
www.mnscu.edu
www.umn.edu
www.mntransfer.org
www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
www.campustours.com
www.embarck.com

College Essay

www.essayedge.com
www.myessay.com

Financial Aid/Scholarship

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.fastweb.com
www.collegebid.org
www.scholarships.com

Glossary of Terms

Academic Probation: A warning notice, usually given to a student who has earned a grade point average below 2.0. The goal of the notice is to prevent dismissal from a college or program.

Admissions Requirements: Certain conditions that applicants must meet in order to be admitted to an educational institution. Typically, criteria include a certain grade point average or class rank and test scores.

Advanced Placement Program: High schools teach college subjects and give Advanced Placement Examinations to interested students. Those who pass the examination are eligible for college credit and placement in higher level courses in college.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB): The ASVAB is an available test to all juniors and seniors. The test gives a student self-knowledge about his/her natural aptitudes. This information can be essential in the career planning process.

Associate's Degree: An undergraduate degree that can be earned at a two-year community college or professional technical school. The Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) is awarded after students complete a program similar to the first two years of a four-year college curriculum.

ACT (American College Testing): A four-year college admittance test that covers English, math, social studies, and natural sciences.

Award Letter: The document a school uses to notify students of financial aid that they are eligible to receive.

Bachelor's Degree: A degree received after successful completion of four year study at a college or university. Sometimes known as Baccalaureate degrees, but more often referred to Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees.

Certificate or Diploma: An award for successful completion of a certain vocational or technical program (typically one year of study).

College: Generally an institution of higher education that offers studies leading to a bachelor's degree. Also can refer to two-year schools (e.g. community or technical college).

College Orientation Session: One or more days of activities and events provided by a college or university. Also informational discussions are offered to provide insight on financial aid, course registration, and campus opportunities.

Community College: A two-year school where students can receive an associate's degree after two years of successful of full-time study.

Competitive Admission: Each applicant will be competing with other well qualified applicants, and most of the time more qualified applicants apply than are admitted. The more competitive the school, the more likely it is to consider personal qualifications including special skills, abilities, leadership success, and community involvement, and the less you should assume you will be admitted just because you meet their admissions criteria.

Double Major: Any program of study leading to a degree in which a student completes two majors at the same time.

Early Action: Schools notify applicants of their status usually by the middle of December. To be evaluated for early action, applicants must submit their early applications in the fall. You may apply Early Action to several schools. If you are accepted, the school does not need to know your decision until May 1st.

Early Decision: A binding commitment to enroll if accepted, so only for students who are certain of their first-choice school. Schools notify applicants of their status by the middle of December (for Round 1). A student may apply Early Decision to just one institution, and the agreement can only be broken due to unmet financial need.

Elective: Elective Courses are those courses that students choose, or "elect," to take. Required courses are courses that students must take in order to graduate.

Financial Aid: Money awarded to students to help pay for school.

Financial Aid Package: An offer by a college or university of one or more forms of financial aid including loans, grants, scholarships, and work-study.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): A free application form used to determine student eligibility for need based financial aid.

Grace Period: The period of time from the date a student borrower is no longer enrolled in school at least half-time to the date the loan repayment is scheduled to begin.

Junior College: A two-year college that is usually public and often offers academic study leading to a bachelor's degree.

Liberal Arts College: A college that promotes a broad focus on many subjects including literature, history, fine arts, social sciences, philosophy, natural sciences, and foreign languages.

Major: A major is the academic area that a college student has chosen to study in-depth.

Minor: A minor is a student's secondary area of concentration. Students usually do not need to have a minor.

Open Admissions: The college admissions policy allowing all applicants with high school diplomas or equivalent to apply.

Registration: Before the beginning of each term, students must pay their fees and sign up (register) for classes.

Rolling Admission: A school that allows students to be evaluated on a first come, first serve basis. In addition, schools notify students within a few weeks of receiving the application.

Room and Board: The amount of students that live on campus must pay for housing (room) and meals (board).

Selective Admission: The specific requirements vary from school to school and may be rigorous, but most students can expect to be admitted as long as they meet the requirements.

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test): A national college admissions test that measures students' verbal, written, and mathematical reasoning abilities.

Technical School/College: A school that specialized in technical training so students can go directly in a career after completing the program.