

Dear Seniors,

The senior year for the Class of 2021 is quickly approaching. As the College and Career Counselor I am writing to give you a "To Do List" for the rest of the summer so you can relax more during the school year. I know this is long - but please read through this entire list to ensure you are ready to start the year with all your options open.

1. **Social Media:** Take anything off your social media accounts which may cause colleges/businesses/military branches to question your character. This includes the picture you have on your Google email account and any quotes on your signature line. Remember the military/colleges/businesses have people on staff who look at both your private and public social media accounts to make sure you will not misrepresent them.

2. **Credit Requirements:** Make sure you are signed up to take all the classes you need, not only to graduate from MHS but also to meet requirements for your chosen colleges/military/business internships/NCAA eligibility. Email Mrs. Hellwig if you have any scheduling concerns.

3. **Summer Assignments:** Check the MHS website under the Academics Tab to see if any of your courses require summer assignments and make sure you have completed those before school begins.

4. **College/Career Research:** Continue researching your college/career options so you have something lined up when you graduate. Utilize your SCOIR/YouScience and Missouri Connections accounts to do career searches and college comparisons. Comparisons include discussing financial aid options with your families. (Remember to access your SCOIR Account go to [scoir.com](http://scoir.com) and then your username is your [msdr9.org](http://msdr9.org) email address. You created the password - so if you forgot it they will send you a reset.)

5. **Resume:** Develop a resume utilizing your SCOIR account to submit to colleges, business owners, and scholarship committees. Have it ready whenever you need it throughout the coming year. Ask at least three adults to be your references.

6. **Apply:** Start applying to your top college, apprenticeship, and/or military options. Then begin applying for multiple scholarships. Remember: we are a non-ranking high school so mark this option when asked on applications and if asked for your class rank put "0 out of 0" or "NA". Make sure your SCOIR account is up-to-date with your college interests/applications and that one of your parents/guardians has signed the FERPA permission in SCOIR which allows us to send your transcripts to any place you apply (see #10 for directions).

**7. Schedule Visits/Appointments:** Make appointments for virtual and in person job-shadowing/campus visits. Make note of visit days posted on college websites and check our school calendar. Plan to visit local colleges on days when school is not in session and visit out-of-town colleges when you can be excused. The Post-Secondary/College Visit Excused Absence Form, along with questions to ask on your visits, can be found on the website and are available in the Counseling Office.

**8. Testing:** We will be offering seniors the opportunity to take the ACT on October 6, 2020 during the school day in place of the one you missed in April. You can also sign up at your own cost to take additional ACTs or SATs on their websites. (If you have free/reduced lunch there are fee waivers available from in the counseling office.) Due to COVID-19 locations for testing are still currently limited so check those locations when you sign up. Also due to this limited access to testing, most colleges are making their admissions requirements test optional for your graduating class. Check with the colleges you are interested in to verify their new requirements.

**9. Scholarships/Stay Informed:** Utilize our counseling website. I recommend you check it every other weekend for updates (especially to the scholarships page). Go to: [tinyurl.com/mhs-counseling](https://tinyurl.com/mhs-counseling). Also follow us on Twitter @MHS\_Counseling and Instagram mehlville\_counseling (see links below).

**10. Transcripts:** To have your transcript sent, log into your SCOIR account and invite your parents/guardians to give you FERPA permission from your home page. (Parents/guardians must give permission for transcripts to be sent via creating their own SCOIR accounts from the student invite). Once completed, this one-time permission is good for every transcript needed. Any time throughout the year when you mark in SCOIR you have applied to a college, Mrs. Genthon (our registrar) will get a notice to send out your transcript. You will be able to see the dates she sends those on your SCOIR account. If you need assistance with transcripts, you can call her at 314-467-6107.

I am so excited for you and will do whatever I can to assist you in making a smooth transition from high school to your post-secondary plans. My best advice is to not procrastinate and get as much of this "To Do List" done while you have plenty of time to think things through. The more you do now, the less stressful things will be once school begins. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

See you in August,

Mrs. Neighbors