

Hill-Murray College Counseling Team

2025-26 Events and Tasks

The College Counseling Team would like to make you aware of some important events coming up and throughout the 2025-26 school year:

Event: **Post-Secondary Planning Meeting for 11th Grade Parents**

Date: Wednesday, October 29 | (6:30PM-7:30PM)

Location: H-M Auditorium

**This presentation will be recorded and shared out at a later date*

The College Counseling Team would like to welcome you to join us for our annual “**Post-Secondary Planning**” presentation for 11th grade students and parents.

In our presentation, we will discuss post-secondary options, a general timeline with grade-specific targets for the college planning process, information on college applications and admissions, as well as tips and recommendations for parents to help reduce stress and improve conversations at home with your student.

Event: **4 Strategies for a Smarter College Search - with Cozy Wittman**

Date: Thursday, November 13 | (6:30PM-7:30PM)

Location: H-M Auditorium

**This presentation will be recorded and shared out at a later date*

Guest speaker, Cozy Wittman from *College Inside Track*, will be returning to Hill-Murray to present on four key strategies for students and families to use to optimize their college search process. This event is free and open to the public so feel free to invite family and friends.

Event: **Practice ACT Test (10th and 11th Grade Students Only)**

Date: Wednesday, November 19 | (7:00AM-10:00AM)

Location: H-M Varsity Gym

The Guidance and Counseling Team will partner with **Flying Colors* to provide a **Free Practice ACT Test**. This optional practice test is open to ALL 11th grade students and available to 10th grade students (as space allows). For more information, please click the link below:

[Practice ACT Test - Letter](#)

If you are interested in signing your student up for this FREE Practice ACT Test, please fill out the form [HERE](#) - The deadline to register is Monday, October 13.

Event: Post-Secondary Planning Meeting for 9th/10th Grade Parents

Date: Wednesday, February 4 | (6:30PM-7:30PM)

Location: H-M Auditorium

**This presentation will be recorded and shared out at a later date*

The College Counseling Team would like to welcome you to join us for our annual **“Post-Secondary Planning”** presentation for 9th and 10th grade students and parents.

In our presentation, we will discuss post-secondary options, a general timeline with grade-specific targets for the college planning process, information on college applications and admissions, as well as tips and recommendations for parents to help reduce stress and improve conversations at home with your student.

Event: Financial Aid: Information Night

Date: March 4 | (6:30PM-7:30PM)

Location: H-M Auditorium

Guest Speaker: Molly Flesher-Sanderson, Assistant Director of Financial Aid (University of St. Thomas)

**This presentation will be recorded and shared out at a later date*

This presentation will breakdown the 5 types of financial aid, how colleges determine merit awards, what questions to ask while on a college visit, and how to estimate how much merit based and need based aid your student may receive from a college (before even visiting a school or sending an application).

[SCHOLARSHIPS - UPDATED LIST**](#)**

****The College Counseling Team will be compiling a list of local and national scholarship opportunities - please click the link above or go to the homepage of Naviance to review these scholarships and apply!****

Task: NCAA Eligibility Center

If your student intends to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics, please know that you must first create an account through the NCAA Eligibility Center ([HERE](#)) and contact our Registrar, Mrs. Jennifer Costello (jcostello@hill-murray.org), once your account is completed.

“The College Sport Search” (Presentation by Cozy Wittman - 2/18/25) - Video Recording [HERE](#)

Post-Secondary Planning - Timeline for Students/Parents (Below)

Post-Secondary Planning - Timeline for Students/Parents

Below is a timeline and checklist of what students/parents can do for college planning - as well as what the Guidance and Counseling Team will do:

9th Grade

What Students / Parents Can Do:

- ☐ Focus on academic performance (Process over Outcome)
- ☐ Explore clubs / activities / volunteer opportunities (emphasis on “depth” over “breadth”)
- ☐ Use Naviance to explore colleges and careers
- ☐ Get organized - begin tracking awards / achievements

What Guidance and Counseling Team Will Do: (*Denotes Naviance)

- ☐ Individual Student Meeting (“Meet and Greet”)
- ☐ Evening Presentation: Post-Secondary Planning
- ☐ *Learning Styles Inventory / GPA Calculator Activity (November)
- ☐ *Career Interest Profiler Assignment (Spring)

10th Grade

What Students / Parents Can Do:

- ☐ Use Naviance to Explore Colleges and Careers
- ☐ Discuss and Identify YOUR Factors of “Fit”
 - Academic, Social, and Financial Fits of a college
- ☐ Schedule a College Visit
- ☐ TIP: Schedule a “Random” College Visit
 - Visit a College that is close in proximity
 - Consider integrating college visits with family trips
 - Helps engage students in the post-secondary planning process without the pressure of knowing what colleges they are looking for

What Guidance and Counseling Team Will Do: (*Denotes Naviance)

- ☐ Individual Student Meeting
- ☐ Post-Secondary Planning Presentation (Fall)
- ☐ *Strengths Explorer
- ☐ Career Fair (Spring)

11th Grade

What Students / Parents Can Do:

- ☐ Start Making Your List of Possible Colleges:
 - Update Naviance - “Colleges I’m Thinking About” List
- ☐ Meet with Admissions Reps that Visit H-M
- ☐ Schedule ACT or SAT Test
- ☐ Visit Colleges / Attend College Fairs

What Guidance and Counseling Team Will Do: (*Denotes Naviance)

- ☐ *Personality Assessment
- ☐ Career Shadow Assignment (Partnered with English Department)
- ☐ Post-Secondary Planning Presentation (Fall and Winter)
- ☐ Practice ACT Test (Fall)
- ☐ Individual Student Meeting
- ☐ Resume Building Assignment
- ☐ Teacher Recommendation Letter Requests

12th Grade

What Students / Parents Can Do:

- ☐ Meet with Admissions Reps that Visit H-M
- ☐ Apply for Admission into Colleges (Nov. 1 = H-M Internal Deadline)
- ☐ Complete FAFSA (October) or CSS Profile (only if required)
- ☐ Apply for Scholarships (Winter/Spring)
- ☐ Make Final College Visits

What Guidance and Counseling Team Will Do: (*Denotes Naviance)

- ☐ Senior College Meeting (August)
- ☐ College Essays (Partnered with English Department)
- ☐ Individual Student Meeting