

Senior Strategies

Mifflin County High School



Where do I go from here?

Congratulations, seniors! You've made it to your final year of high school. Next year, you will be starting the next chapter of your life. This can be a scary time in your life, but remember that there are many people around you willing to help you figure out what to do next.

As you continue through your senior year, start to



think about what kind of career you want to pursue after high school. You may want to go into the military, or you may just want to work anywhere for a year before making a final decision. In some cases, you may need multiple years of additional schooling for specific careers; in other cases you may only need a couple of years or months of schooling. Your school guidance counselor can help you determine that.

The school guidance counselors divide students by last name:

Stefanie Gilbert
(srg09@mcsdk12.org)
Last Names: A-G

Bridget Kennington
(blk28@mcsdk12.org)
Last Names: H-P

Elizabeth Girts
(eme25@mcsdk12.org)
Last Names: Q-Z

We encourage you to visit with your school guidance counselor to get some assistance in planning out your future. The office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM until 3:30 PM.

Be sure to check out the bulletin boards in the Guidance Office and the display case outside the office for additional information as well.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Back to School Night @ MCHS	9.13
Late Registration deadline for Oct. SAT	9.20
Final Homecoming Vote	9.20-9.23
Homecoming	9.23
Financial Aid Night @ 7 PM MCHS Cafeteria	9.29
Senior Dinner Dance Sign Ups	10.3-10.29
October SAT @ MCHS Doors open @7:30 AM	10.1
Career Fair @ MCHS	10.6
Registration Deadline for Nov. SAT	10.7
Act 80 Day	10.21
FAFSA Completion Night @ 6 PM in MCHS Cafeteria	10.25
Late Registration deadline for Nov. SAT	10.25
Jostens Graduation Supplies Presentation @10:10	10.28
End of 1st Marking period	10.31
Senior Portrait Makeups/Retakes	11.3
SAT @ MCHS Doors open at 7:30 AM	11.5
Jostens Graduation Supplies Order Days	11.9
K-12 Parent Conferences	11.9
No School for Students	11.10
MCHS Senior Dinner Dance	11.19

Searching for schools that fit you...

If the career you want to pursue requires that you get extra schooling, it is important to find a school that meets all of your needs. There are a number of websites you can use to find the right school for you. Be sure to look at all types of schools and what they have to offer when doing your research.

- ◆ www.collegeboard.org
- ◆ www.princetonreview.com
- ◆ www.collegeresults.org
- ◆ www.unigo.com
- ◆ www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

Visiting Colleges/Universities/Trade and Technical Schools

Once you figure out what career you want to pursue and what education is required to pursue that career, you should start visiting schools that offer that degree program. There are a few things to keep in mind as you start to plan these visits:

- ◆ Check the school's website/catalog to make certain it offers the major/program you want to pursue before making a visit.
- ◆ Make an appointment with the Admissions Office (many schools

offer online scheduling of appointments) to visit/tour campus. Try to set up an appointment to meet with the Financial Aid Office as well if you can.

- ◆ BEFORE the visit pick up a college visit form from the Guidance Office to make sure the visit is an excused absence.
- ◆ Make a list of questions to ask during the visit regarding placement rate, direct acceptance into majors and those requirements, dorm space, financial aid, internships, etc...



Application Process

1. Once you choose the college/university you want to attend, you will need to apply for admission to their UNDERGRADUATE program. You will apply online—check the admissions page for details.
2. At the end of the application process, you will probably be required to pay an application fee. Sometimes these are waived if you visit the school. If you used an SAT fee waiver, you qualify for up to four college application fee waivers. See your counselor if you have questions. The fee will likely need to be paid using a credit card.
3. Once the application is complete, you will need to send your official transcript and SAT scores to the school. MCHS uses Parchment, a secure online document transfer site, to send your transcript. You will need to go to the GUIDANCE OFFICE to see Mrs. Neavling to set up a Parchment account. Some schools accept SAT scores on our transcript, and some want the scores to come directly from College Board. Please check with the school to make sure.
4. If essays or letters of recommendations are optional, you are encouraged to complete them to better your chances of being admitted.
5. Colleges/universities with multiple campuses have various ways of applying to those campuses. Penn State requires all applications to come through Main Campus; however, students apply directly to the Pitt campus they want to attend. Check the school's website to know the process it uses.

SRAR

Some schools will not ask for an initial transcript. Applicants are now required at some schools to complete a Self-Reported Academic Record (SRAR) instead of sending an initial transcript. To do this, students will need to get an unofficial transcript either by requesting it through Parchment or by stopping by the Guidance Office and requesting one.

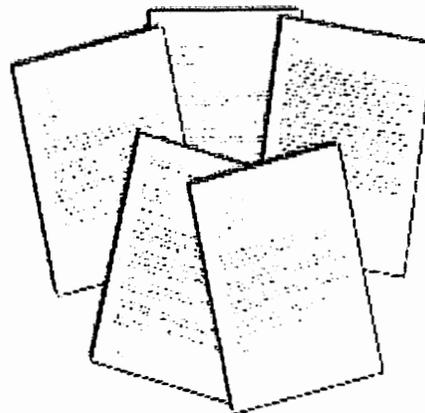
If an applicant makes a mistake and realizes it after the application is submitted, he/she can email the school's admission office with the subject line "Update Grades." The SRAR will be opened and the applicant can correct the mistake. Final transcripts will need to be sent before a student can access financial aid or register for classes.



Letters of Recommendation

If you need a letter of recommendation from a teacher, please do the following:

- ◆ At a convenient time for the teacher, politely ask the appropriate teacher (those teaching in a subject related to your major and who will have positive things to say about you) if they would complete a recommendation. Recommendations will be turned in by your teacher to the Guidance Office.
- ◆ If there is a form or guidelines concerning the topics to address, give the teacher a copy of that information. Please have your part of the form completed!!
- ◆ After you submit your transcript request through Parchment, if you need a letter of recommendation sent, you need to see Mrs. Neavling in the Guidance Office. Teachers DO NOT return the recommendations to you.
- ◆ Be sure to indicate to the teacher if the letter is for a specific college or if it will be sent to multiple colleges.
- ◆ Keep in mind that teachers can get busy, so give them a reasonable deadline of at least one week from the day you request the letter.



Financial Aid

Attending a college/university/trade or technical school is not cheap. In fact, the cost continues to rise on an annual basis which means you will need to start now searching for and saving money to help pay for it. Here are some things to remember:

- ◆ September/October apply for a FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- ◆ The Sept 29 meeting will give an overview of how financial aid works.
- ◆ EVERYONE should complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) because it may be needed for scholarship consideration or if circumstances change. This is a free process and can be done online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you completed your income taxes online, the process will be even easier.
- ◆ Check with the schools you are considering. Ask if they want a form other than the FAFSA filed and ask about applying for scholarships.
- ◆ MCHS FAFSA Completion Night will be held October 25. This is an opportunity for students and their parents to come to the school to get help completing the FAFSA
- ◆ For helpful hints, check www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Early Action vs. Early Decision vs. Regular Decision

- ◆ When applying to schools, you may have different options: early action, early decision, or regular decision.
- ◆ Early Action gives students the option to apply before the regular decision deadline and get an admission decision before the regular decision applicants. This option is binding. Applicants who apply early decision are indicating that if accepted, they will attend that school and reject any other admission offers. This should only be used if the school is the applicant's top choice.
- ◆ Regular decision is the option most applicants choose. Applicants are not bound to attend that school, but the admission decision typically comes at a later date.
- ◆ Early Decision gives students the

Scholarship Searching...

- ◆ Scholarships are monies earned through academic achievements, athletic achievements, and other merits.
- ◆ Scholarships do not need to be repaid
- ◆ To apply for scholarships, students must complete applications either online or on paper.
- ◆ Local scholarships can be found on the Scholarship Board in the Guidance Office.
- ◆ Listen to announcements, check the MCHS Guidance website and office for scholarship information.
- ◆ Spring is when the bulk of the local scholarships will be available.
- ◆ Check reputable scholarship searches—e.g. www.fastweb.com, www.studentscholarships.org, www.studentaid.ed.gov.
- ◆ NEVER pay for scholarship/financial aid information

Scholarship Profile Websites

The following websites are opportunities for students to complete profiles and then be matched to scholarships that fit them based on their profiles.

- ◆ www.fastweb.com
- ◆ www.unigo.com
- ◆ www.studentscholarships.org
- ◆ www.scholarships360.org
- ◆ www.scholarshipamerica.org
- ◆ www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search

Keystone Graduation Pathways Information

- ◆ Starting with the Class of 2023
- ◆ Students must complete a Pathway determined by the Dept. of Education
- ◆ School Counselors are working to identify the criteria for fulfilling each of the identified Pathways
- ◆ School Counselors will be meeting with each Senior to discuss the Pathways and the student's progress towards fulfilling at least one Pathway
- ◆ Please contact your school counselor if you have questions about the Keystone Graduation Pathways

Miscellaneous Information

- ◆ **ATHLETES**—Be sure you have completed the NCAA Clearinghouse process if you plan on playing on a Division I or II team. Check out www.eligibilitycenter.org. SAT scores must be sent directly from CollegeBoard.org to the Clearinghouse. Please see your school guidance counselor for additional information.
- ◆ If you choose to attend an out of state school, you may pay more for tuition and will be eligible for less PA grant money.
- ◆ If you attend an out of state college, do not register to vote in that state or you will give up PA residency and be ineligible for PA state grant aid.

Mifflin County High School

www.mcsdk12.org/mchs

Mifflin County High School
501 6th Street
Lewistown, PA 17044

Phone: 717-242-0240
Fax: 717-447-2600

**MCHS Class of 2023 Google Classroom
Code:**

7sbtatx

CEEB Code: 392263

Mrs. Gilbert's Remind (Last Names: A-G): Text @Classsg23 to 81010

Mrs. Kennington's Remind (Last Names: H-P): Text @classken23 to 81010

Mrs. Girts' Remind (Last Names: Q-Z): Text @girts23 to 81010

Career Info

www.pacareerzone.org—Assess yourself with Interest & Work Importance

www.collegemajors101.com—can search for info about various careers

careeronestop.org—Find education options—includes on the job training

www.tryengineering.org—Explains different forms of engineering

www.explorehealthcareers.org/career-explorer—Explains different health careers and their salaries and schooling requirements

www.myfuture.com—Search for “career” and filters can be applied

www.bls.gov/k12—Bureau of Labor Stats-can search various career clusters

College Selection

www.collegeboard.org—Allows for comparisons

www.princetonreview.com—Click on “Access College Search”

www.FairTest.org—Lists schools that do not require SAT scores

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator—Comprehensive database of schools and programs in the US

Financial Aid Information

www.studentaid.ed.gov

www.tuitionfundingsources.com

To file for student aid—Get your FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

To file application for student aid, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is FREE!



MIFFLIN COUNTY
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