



Margaretta High School Class of 2024

Your Senior Year

Information in this handout includes:

1. Important numbers, addresses, and personal information you will need.
2. Financial Aid Information.
3. College Visit Procedure.
4. College Applications.
5. Scholarship Information including application procedures, tips, recommendation letters, scam warnings, sample forms.
6. Senior Information.



Senior Class of 2024

Margaretta High School
209 Lowell Street
Castalia, OH 44824
Phone No. (419) 684-5351

Margaretta Local Schools
305 S. Washington Street
Castalia, OH 44824
Phone No. (419) 684-5322
(Board Office)

School Website:
www.margarettaschooldistrict.com

SCHOOL CODE: 360-825

SCHOOL PHONE NO. (419) 684-5351

MY SOCIAL SECURITY NO. ____ - ____ - ____

MY CURRENT GPA: ____

MY CURRENT CLASS RANK: ____ / ____

ACT COMPOSITE SCORE: _____ SAT: V _____ M _____

PRINCIPAL: Dr. Jennifer Theis
Email Address: jtheis@margarettaschooldistrict.com

SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Mrs. Heather Lott
Email Address: hlott@margarettaschooldistrict.com

GUIDANCE OFFICE: Mrs. Mandy Bohn
Email Address: abohn@margarettaschooldistrict.com

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Ed Kurt
Email Address: ekurt@margarettaschooldistrict.com



College Visits

The college visit day privilege is limited to Juniors and Seniors with a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or better. No student will be allowed more than three (3) accumulated days over a two year period. Students must follow these procedures prior to their college visit:

1. Make an appointment with the college admissions office for your visit.
2. After the appointment is made, inform the Guidance Office of the date.
3. Sign up on the College Visit clipboard in the Guidance Office listing your date of the visit and where you will be visiting.
4. Obtain a letter from the Guidance Office that must be signed by the college personnel and return it to the Guidance Office.
5. Communicate to Mrs. Bohn that you have scheduled a visit.
6. One the day of your college visit, have your parent or guardian call the main office to report your absence.

College Applications

Most applications are completed online with a few still on paper.

1. It is very important to follow all deadlines set by the institution.
2. If you want assistance as you fill out your application, stop by the Guidance Office and make an appointment.
3. If you apply online, let the Guidance Office know so we can send a transcript.

FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

www.fafsa.ed.gov

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by conducting a “need Analysis” based on financial information, such as income, assets and other household information, which you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) will be asked to provide. All students are expected to contribute towards the cost of their college education. How much you and your family will be expected to contribute depends on your financial situation and is what is referred to as your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

FAFSA Eligibility

Nearly every student is eligible for some form of financial aid, including low interest Federal Stafford and/or Parent PLUS loans, regardless of income or circumstances, provided that you:

- Are you a U.S. Citizen, a U.S. national or an eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid Social Security Number
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Are registered with the U.S. Selective Service (if you are a male aged 18-25)
- Complete a FAFSA promising to use any federal aid for educational purposes
- Do not owe refunds on any federal student grants
- Are not in default on any student loans
- Have not been found guilty of the sale or possession of illegal drugs during a period in which federal aid was being received

The FAFSA is **FREE**. Don't go to www.fafsa.com to file your FAFSA. It will cost you money!

S*E*N*I*O*R*S – This booklet contains step-by-step information on what you should be doing now, to prepare for college, career, or the military. Your future.

4-Year College?? 2-Year College?? Military?? Work Force??

The time has finally arrived. You are beginning your last year of high school. It is important that you begin to think seriously about the many options available to you upon graduation from Margaretta High School. Mrs. Lott is here to answer your questions, to contact the people who can give you more information, to help you with the forms and the red tape and to help you through this important time of your life. Between now and Christmas, you need to decide which direction you want to go. If it is college, there are deadlines that must be met. Within the next week, Mrs. Lott will schedule an appointment with you to begin the process.

Included in this booklet are some of the options available to you after high school and the steps that you should be following. **Please use the Ohio Means Job website (www.ohiomeansjobs.com) to educate and empower yourself with the most up to date information regarding furthering your education, employment opportunities and military careers.**

I. COLLEGE

If you are planning on additional schooling after high school whether it be at a 4-year or 2-year school, technical school, business school, nursing school, etc., you should do the following:

1. Register to take the **ACT** or **SAT** as soon as possible if you did not take the test at the end of your junior year and you plan to attend a 4- year university following graduation. Also, register to retake the test if you are not satisfied with your scores. Scores typically increase each time the test is taken. Registration flyers and practice booklets are available in the Guidance Office. Check college websites now to see scores that are required for scholarships. Don't risk missing out on a scholarship because you missed the required score by a point or two. You do not need to wait for ACT scores to submit your college applications.
2. College applications are available online. **Once you submit your application, BE SURE TO LET THE COUNSELOR KNOW. We will need to send your transcript in for you.**
3. Ohio alone has approximately **62 four-year colleges**. The first thing you can do to narrow down the selection is to determine **who offers your intended major.** The Counselors can get this information for you, but you have to ask. **To help narrow down the choices** even more, begin to consider the following:
 - a. How far away from home do you want to be, 4 hours, 2 hours, 45 minutes? Use the map included in this packet and check out the various schools in Ohio and their distance from your home.

- b. What size of a school do you want to attend; 60,000 students like The Ohio State University, 25,000 like Bowling Green State University, or 930 like Bluffton College? You are used to a small school setting are you tired of it or comfortable with it?
 - c. Are you ready to dive right into a big campus or would you like a slower, more inexpensive start to college? Credits from Owens Community College or Terra State are easily transferred to most 4-year colleges.
 - d. Is it likely you will receive scholarships to help with a private school tuition?
 - e. Do you want a campus that is in the heart of a big city, a big town, or a small town?
 - f. What activities interest you and which schools offer them?
 - g. Where are your friends going?
4. **Many colleges will be visiting our high school throughout September, October and November. Their visits will be posted on the daily announcements.** Listen for the announcements daily and sign up in the guidance office for any schools in which you are interested. This gives you an excellent opportunity to speak with a representative from the school and to receive applications.
 5. **Virtual Tours** are available online for many of the colleges via their website. They provide excellent information about the school and give you a quick glance at the facilities.
 6. Talk with a counselor about arranging a campus visit. You are permitted to take three excused college visits if they are properly scheduled. An approved adult must be attending with you. Remember, you will be spending a few years at the college of your choice – an environment that you find comfortable is just as important as finding a school that offers the major in which you are interested. One of the worst things that can happen is to be dropped at a school you have never visited just to discover you are not comfortable and do not like it. **VISIT THE SCHOOL NOW.**
 7. You may apply to as many schools as you want but each application will cost approximately \$20 - \$50. You will make your final decision in the Spring. **You should plan to apply to college anytime between now and Thanksgiving Break.** After Christmas, you will be busy with financial aid and scholarships. It is especially important to get the applications out early if you are depending on financial aid. The money is often awarded on a first come, first served basis and

when it runs out, it runs out. **Remember, after you apply to a college online, sign up in the Guidance Office to have a transcript mailed to the school by Mrs. Bohn or Mrs. Lott.**

8. There are certain guidelines that a student athlete must fulfill to ensure eligibility at a Division I or II university. They include, but may not be limited to, obtaining an established grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) in an established core group of courses. Students must also obtain an ACT or SAT score which can vary depending on the cumulative grade point average. Be sure to list NCAA (9999) on your ACT or SAT form. The NCAA eligibility form should be submitted as soon as possible at the beginning of the senior year - - see a counselor AFTER speaking with your high school coach about your potential to participate at the Division I or II level. Athletes should make their coaches aware of their interest to participate in college if they have not yet done so. Coaches can help with contacts, videos, portfolios, etc. It is the responsibility of interested students or parents to contact a counselor, coach, and/or athletic director to obtain the information. **To sign-up with the NCAA Eligibility center, go to www.eligibilitycenter.org. The cost is around \$65.**
9. If you are planning to apply for financial aid:
 - a. Fill out the college's financial aid application (if required) and return it to the appropriate address. You will know if your school requires this form because it will be included right along with the application. If you do not see the form, this is one less step you have.
 - b. After October 1st, fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - c. This form is found at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling 1-800-433-3243. The FAFSA is absolutely REQUIRED if you plan to apply for any type of financial aid. If you question whether or not you will qualify for aid, fill it out. You'll never know without trying. Many private schools require the Profile form. Check with a counselor if you are applying to a private school in Ohio.
 - d. Various scholarships (local, state and national) become available during the year. Some are announced over the loudspeaker and all are posted on the daily announcements and on the Guidance Office Wall. Also, scholarship sources are listed on Ohio Means Jobs. It is very easy to use. There are also several sites on the internet where you can find scholarship information. If you have earned good grades, have participated in various activities throughout your first three years of high school, and/or have demonstrated leadership qualities, you should look for scholarships. Deadlines are early, however, so start now!

- e. If your first choice is an expensive school and your attendance depends on financial aid, apply to a backup school that is within your financial range in case financial aid does not come through as you are hoping. Don't rule out an expensive school on cost alone if you have earned good grades.

II. MILITARY

If you are planning to enter the military after high school graduation or if you would simply like to learn more about the various opportunities of the military, contact one of the area recruiters. The Guidance Office contains a lot of information on all branches of the service including phone numbers and names of the recruiters. The military offers many programs for those interested in college or the work force along with their military enlistment such as ROTC scholarships. Make an appointment or talk with a recruiter! It is a good idea to talk to recruiters from several branches rather than just one. You learn more that way and are better able to make the right choice for you. Recruiters from all branches will be here at the High School during various lunch periods.

Air Force:

4917 Milan Road
Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 604-6294

Army:

2136 Enterprise Drive
Fremont, OH 43420
(419) 334-4451

Marines:

314 South Front Street
Fremont, OH 43420
(419) 332-9985

Navy:

557 South Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43613
(416) 531-7615

III. WORK FORCE

To those students who are planning to begin a career upon graduation, it is not too soon to begin gathering references, updating your resume, and collecting the information that will be needed to complete an application. Also, it is possible to go to college part time or simply take one class while you work. Just be sure that if your plan is to work for a year and then go to college, you keep us in mind. The counselors are always available to help graduates with their college plans.

1. www.careerbuilder.com
2. www.monster.com
3. www.career.com
4. www.jobster.com

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Scholarship opportunities will be processed through the Student Services Office. Following is a list of procedures that will aid you in making the application process as easy as possible:

1. Be sure to either listen to the daily announcements as they are read each day or stop by the Student Services office and take a copy from the file on the board. The daily announcements are also sent to your school email every day.
2. All available applications are placed in the plastic file folders on the Student Services office wall. Feel free to review the requirements listed on the cover page to see if you qualify. If you do, please take a copy. If you do not, please return to the folder.
3. Return to the Student Services Office by the due date listed on the cover page if you want the Guidance Office to process. If you wish to do this on your own, you can follow the due date on the application. You will see that our due date is a week in advance which gives us time to process our part. Do not expect the Student Service Office to be able to process your application if you bring it in a day or two before you need it back when doing it yourself. **PLAN AHEAD!**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIPS

1. Fill out your application when you have plenty of time to concentrate on what you are doing and saying.
2. Read and follow **all** the instructions as stated. For example: Handwritten means handwritten; typed means typed; black ink means black ink. **DO NOT** write in pencil.
3. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to complete your application by the deadline.
4. Prepare a student information sheet of your personal information and activities for use in addition to your application. (Samples are included within the “Your Senior Year” packet).
5. Make sure that you meet all of the qualifications that are required.
6. Be sure to give those who are writing recommendation letters for you plenty of time to compose them.
7. Don’t be afraid to elaborate on your accomplishments.
8. Keep all your papers and materials neat and unfolded. Turn your application in paper clipped together so you do not lose any parts of it.
9. Be creative and professional with the appearance of your application.

SELL YOURSELF!!!!!!

Applying for Scholarships

When it comes to paying for college, put applying for scholarships at the top of your priority list. There are many scholarships out there, regardless of whether or not you're a superstar student or athlete. Every little bit counts, so don't discount even seemingly small scholarships.



Here are a few ways to go about seeking scholarships:

1. Visit with your school counselor to get some direction on what scholarships you should apply for.
2. Ask your parents if their workplace or civic organizations offer scholarships.
3. Talk with the financial aid office of the college you will be attending and see if they can help you with your search as well.
4. Check with any organizations you are affiliated with either as a volunteer or member – some may offer scholarship opportunities.

TIP: Some scholarships may require a resume to be submitted with your application. Your resume should highlight your accomplishments, whether they are personal triumphs, professional achievements, extracurricular activities, community involvement and volunteering or academic success. Visit with your Guidance Office for more information and tips on how to write a great scholarship resume.



RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Please take into consideration the following information when deciding who will be composing a recommendation letter for you.

1. Be courteous enough to give the person who you ask plenty of time to consider what to write, to gather information, and to compile this into a letter for you. At least two weeks prior to the due date should be appropriate.
2. Choose someone you know and respect.
3. Choose someone who can speak about your character.
4. Make sure that you follow instructions on the application as to who you ask such as teacher, minister, counselor, etc.....
5. If you need a letter from a teacher make sure it is a current teacher.
6. Make sure that the person writing your recommendation letter addresses the request made of them for the content of the letter.
7. Choose a teacher from a class that you excel in so they can express your academic achievement.