



Senior

Choices



SENIORS - 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 in 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.

All students should consider the following when establishing their post-secondary plan:

The 1 : 2: 7 Ratio

- for every one (1) job available in the labor market that requires a Master's degree or higher (more than 4 years of college), there are two (2) jobs available in the labor market that require a Bachelor's degree (4 years of college), and there are seven (7) jobs available that require an Associate's degree or Certificate (2 years of college or less).
- 33% of future jobs will require a Bachelor's degree or higher (4 year degree or more)
- 57% of future jobs will require skilled labor (certificate, journeymen's card or 2 year degree)
- 10% of future jobs will be able to use unskilled labor (high school diploma)

(statistics by Eric Gamble, PhD, MBA)

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 Jobs website to educate and empower yourself with the most up to date information regarding furthering your education, employment opportunities and military careers** .

www.ohiomeansjobs.com

I. COLLEGE

If you are planning on additional schooling after high school whether it be at a 4-year or 2year school; technical school; business school; nursing school; etc., you should soon 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 online application, BE SURE TO LET THE COUNSELOR KNOW.** We will need to send in a transcript 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:

-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.

-What size of a school do you want to attend; 60,000 students like Ohio State, 25,000 like Bowling Green, or 930 like Bluffton College? You are used to a small school setting...are you tired of it or comfortable with it?

-Are you ready to dive right into a big campus or would you like a slower and more inexpensive start to college? Credits from Owens or Terra are easily transferred to most 4year colleges.

-How much can you afford to spend on tuition a year? (\$25,000 at The University of Toledo, \$41,000 at Ohio Northern, or \$5,000 at Owens or Terra). These are approximate figures and include room and board.

-Is it likely you will receive scholarships to help with a private school tuition?

-Do you want a campus that is in the heart of a big city, a big town, or a small town?

-What activities interest you and which schools offer them?

-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'll 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 a counselor.**
8. There are certain guidelines that a **student athlete** must fulfill to ensure eligibility at Division I or II universities. 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 \$65.00**

9. If you are planning to apply for **financial aid**

--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.

--**After October 1st**, fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

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.

--The counselors have booklets pertaining to financial aid available for you. The booklets will answer many of your financial aid questions. Also, specific questions can be directed to the financial aid office of your intended university. Do not hesitate to call any university at any time. They are there to help you. Also, a financial aid presentation will be available for parents and students at Margaretta H.S. in October.

--Various **scholarships** (local, state and national) become available during the year. Some are announced over the loud speaker and all are posted on the daily announcements and on the Guidance Office door. 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!

--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 HS during various lunch periods.

Air Force:

912 W. Perkins Ave
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-625-9656

Army:

2136 Enterprise Dr.
Fremont, OH 43420
419-334-4451

Marines:

314 S. Front St
Fremont, OH 43420
419-332-9985

Navy:

557 South Reynolds Rd.
Toledo, OH 43613
419-531-7615

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 to 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.

www.Careerbuilder.com

www.Monster.com

www.Career.com

www.Jobster.com