



# JUNIOR MEETING

Northfield High School  
School Code: 241-855      Graduation Year 2021

## SPRING OF JUNIOR YEAR

### IMPORTANT DATES

FEB 25: ACT IN SCHOOL

APRIL 4: ACT

JUNE 13: ACT

JULY 18: ACT

MAY 2: SAT

JUNE 6: SAT

### YOUR COUNSELORS

Mrs. Wiertsema-Miller  
(Student last names A-G)

Mr. Ensrud  
(Student last names H-O)

Mrs. Rasmussen  
(Student last names P-Z)

### ACT

On February 25, all juniors will take the ACT exam in school. This is a free opportunity for an exam that is required for entrance into four year colleges. Begin to prepare by utilizing the Test Prep feature through your Naviance account. Prep material is also available through the Northfield Public Library.

### NCAA

Prospective Division I or II athletes must file with the NCAA Clearinghouse to become eligible. Go to [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) and register online. Use Northfield's school code: 241-855. Ask your counselor to send an official transcript to the NCAA Clearinghouse upon completion of semester 2.

### Credit Review

Earned: \_\_\_\_\_  
To Be Earned Semester 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total End of Junior Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Required Senior Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**All seniors must enroll in at least 6 credits for the year.**

### Credit Requirements for Senior Year



English \_\_\_\_\_ credits    Health \_\_\_\_\_ credit    P.E. \_\_\_\_\_ credits  
Social Studies \_\_\_\_\_ credits (including .5 Economics and .5 Global Studies)  
Math \_\_\_\_\_ credits    Science \_\_\_\_\_ credits    Art \_\_\_\_\_ credits    Elective \_\_\_\_\_ credits

## JUNIOR CHECKLIST: BEFORE YOUR SENIOR YEAR....

- ▶ Take the ACT or SAT college entrance exam if you are considering a 4-year college.
- ▶ Use Naviance to research schools, careers and majors.
- ▶ Request information from colleges.
- ▶ Visit colleges during spring and summer.
- ▶ Become familiar with admissions procedures, expectations for senior courses, test requirements, specific programs and their requirements.
- ▶ Compile your resume, including: honors and awards, extracurricular activities, community activities, and job experiences.
- ▶ Begin to narrow down your college choices and carefully determine how many applications to submit. Remember that college application fees can range from \$0 to \$60 per college.
- ▶ Based on your list of colleges, ask your counselor and up to two teachers if they would write you a letter of recommendation. Speak with your counselor if you need help in determining whether or not you might need letters of recommendation.

NAVIANCE: <https://student.naviance.com/northfieldsh>

Log-In Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

Naviance is a comprehensive website that students can use to help with college and career planning. It provides students with up to date college admissions information that is specific to Northfield students.

Naviance will allow you to:

- Prepare for the ACT using Naviance Test Prep. You can access this program from a link on the Naviance home page.
- Learn about careers through Career Interest Profiler results or Roadtrip Nation Interview Archive.
- Research college options.
  - Use the SuperMatch College Search to begin a general college search around a wide variety of criteria.
- Use College Lookup to find information about a particular college.
- Use Scattergrams and College Maps to find college admissions data about Northfield High School students from as far back as 2009 and see how you compare.
- Use Colleges I'm Thinking About to create a personal list of potential colleges.

# COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

## Two Year College

- Completed application, high school transcript and application fee.
- Accuplacer score. Arrange to take this test directly through the college as part of your application process.
- Letters of recommendation are typically NOT required.
- High school coursework required for official high school diploma.
- Proof of high school graduation by submitting your final high school transcript at the end of your senior year.

## Four Year College

- Completed application, high school transcript and application fee.
- ACT or SAT scores. These are NOT included on your high school transcript, so you need to request these directly through the testing company.
- Letters of recommendation are sometimes required.
- Student essay is sometimes required.
- High school coursework beyond minimum requirements for high school diploma sometimes required. For example, many four year colleges

require at least two years of a world language or four years of math. You must select high school courses to meet these requirements.

- Midyear grades. These are your first semester grades in senior year. Some colleges will require these before making an admissions decision.
- Proof of high school graduation by submitting your final high school transcript at the end of your senior year.

## TWO YEAR COLLEGE OR FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE?

### When should you consider a two year college?

- Cost is an issue. Two year college tuition is typically cheaper than at four-year colleges.
- Your grades don't make the grade. Unlike competitive four-year colleges, two year colleges typically have open admissions policies which only require a high school diploma. Plus, attending a two year college is a great way to improve your academic track record in order to get accepted at a four-year college.
- You want job-specific training. You can usually dive right into a program that will give you training for a specialized field or a technical / vocational career.
- You're not quite ready to leave the nest. Plenty of high school grads just aren't ready for the responsibility of living on their own. Two year colleges allow you to ease into college courses while living at home.
- You need a flexible schedule. Two year colleges offer day/evening/weekend classes, part-time schedules and online courses.



## MAJOR DIFFERENCES

### Choice of majors:

*Two year colleges generally have fewer.*

### Academic Regimen:

*Some two year college classes will move at a slower pace.*

### Collegiate Experience:

*Not all two year colleges have dorms and a traditional collegiate on-campus living experience.*

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Two year and four year colleges both offer great educational opportunities. Like every other choice you'll make in your college search, deciding what's best for you boils down to weighing your educational goals, your personal circumstances and what you want most from your college experience.

Taken from Cappex.com

## LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Written recommendations are required by many four year colleges. Some will require that you obtain recommendations from teachers in specific subjects; others will allow you to make the choice.

Teacher recommendations should support other data submitted with the application regarding academic achievement and personal characteristics. Teachers who have taught you recently and know you well are the best choices for writing a recommendation. You should request these recommendations as early in the application process as possible. At least 2 weeks notice is required.

More information about letters of recommendation will be given to you during the fall of your senior year with specific guidelines regarding our process. This information will include both requesting letters from your teachers as well as your counselor.

## The College Essay

Many four year colleges will require an essay as part of their application process, and this summer is a great time to start a first draft of this essay. You should approach the college essay as a way to create a personal impression of yourself as an applicant as if you were speaking with admissions representatives face to face. Colleges may require one or more essays. They will read these works to determine your skill in written expression and to gain insight into you, the person within the application. Parents and teachers can be extremely helpful in reading your essay. They may simply offer their opinions of your topic or its development and point out spelling, grammatical and content tips.

**Do:** be yourself, be creative, captivate your audience, stress the positive, and proofread.

**Don't:** "recycle" essays, write just one draft, work alone, or try just one version.

## THE COMMON APPLICATION

<https://www.commonapp.org>

The Common Application is a common, standardized first year college application form accepted by nearly 900 four-year colleges from all across the country. Students who use this application create an online account and can apply to multiple colleges using just this one application.

Some colleges are Common App specific, which means it's the only way to apply to that specific college.

Some colleges will accept either the Common App or their college specific application. In this case, choose just one application method and do not attempt to mix and match parts of the Common App with parts of the college specific application. Look at the requirements of both applications to decide which will be best for you.

Some colleges do not accept the Common App. In this case, you must use whatever application system that college makes available to students.

If you know you will use the Common App for at least some of your applications, summer is a great time to create your account and get started. You will be able to create a new Common App account beginning August 1.

### Fun Fact:

From the NHS graduating class of 2019, 644 Common Applications were submitted to 141 different schools.



# FOUR YEAR COLLEGE APPLICATION OPTIONS

## Early Decision

Early decision plans allow you to apply early (usually in November) and get an admissions decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date. But there is a catch. Early decision plans are "binding," meaning that you agree to attend the college if you are accepted. Although you can apply to only one college for early decision, you may apply to other colleges under regular admission. If you're accepted by your early decision college, you must withdraw all other applications at that time.

## Early Action / Priority

Early Action and Priority plans are similar to early decision plans in that you can learn early in the admissions cycle whether a college has accepted you. But unlike early decision, most early action plans are not binding, meaning you do NOT have to commit to that college upon admission. Usually, you can let the college know of your decision in the spring or whenever you've decided.

## Rolling

Under rolling admission, students submit applications within a large window, usually

over six months long, and some colleges do not have a previously specified end date. Rather, the window simply closes when all spots are filled. Students are typically notified of the admissions decision within a few weeks of submission.

### Which option is best for me?

*Apply early decision only if you are very, very sure of the college you want to attend.*

*Apply early action or rolling if you want to weigh offers and financial aid packages from several colleges later in the spring.*

# ONLINE RESOURCES

## Financial Aid Information

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

[www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.finaid.org/scholarships](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

[www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com)

[www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)

[www.ohe.state.mn.us/mnscholarships](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mnscholarships)

The federal financial aid application form (FAFSA)

Financial information on federal programs

Comprehensive collection of financial aid information

Career, college and financial aid information

Provider of educational loans

Free scholarship search

Free scholarship search

Private scholarship source

Private scholarship source

Private scholarship source

Private scholarship source

Minnesota scholarship information

## College Information

[www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com)

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

[www.review.com](http://www.review.com)

[www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com)

[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

General college information

ACT testing information and online registration

SAT testing information and online registration

Princeton Review site

Stanley Kaplan test prep company

Eligibility for athletes

**COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS:**

**ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)**

**SAT: [collegereadiness.collegeboard.org](http://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org)**

February 25 is a local ACT exam date, and all current juniors will take the ACT in school this day.

All other testing dates are national exam dates and students need to register and pay for these exams online well in advance.

Most colleges require students to submit official test score reports directly from the testing agency, either ACT or the College Board. NHS does NOT include these exam scores on official student transcripts. Students need to arrange for these exam scores to be sent as part of their applications to colleges.

When registering for a national exam date on

either the ACT or the SAT, students are offered four free score reports. Take advantage of these free reports! Additional score reports require an extra fee and may be obtained as follows:

**ACT Score Reports:** Can be ordered online. Cost is \$13.00 per college. For more specific information, visit [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) and click on "Send Your Scores."

**SAT Score Reports:** Can be ordered online. Cost is \$12.00 per college. For more specific information, visit [sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org) and click on "Send Score Reports to Colleges."

<b>ACT TEST DATE</b>	<b>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</b>
April 4, 2020	Feb 28 (late deadline with fee: March 13)
June 13, 2020	May 8 (late deadline with fee: May 22)
July 18, 2020	June 19 (late deadline with fee: June 26)
September 14, 2020	Early August
October 24, 2020	Mid-September
<b>SAT TEST DATES</b>	<b>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</b>
March 14, 2020	February 14 (late deadline with fee: Mar 3)
May 2, 2020	April 3 (late deadline with fee: April 21)
June 6, 2020	May 8 (late deadline with fee: May 27)
October 2020	Early September

### **ACT Test Prep in Naviance**

Access free ACT test prep right from the home page of your Naviance account. Maximize the efficiency of your test preparation by completing online prep at times convenient to your schedule. This program, the same one available to purchase from the ACT web site, is packed with review, test strategies and practice questions.

### **Test Prep through the NorthfieldPublic Library**

**[guides.mynpl.org](http://guides.mynpl.org)**

Go to the above address and under Resources choose "Careers & College" and then "Learning Express." Create an account or log in to access test prep materials.

## 12 Things Students Should Never Do on Social Media

*Stephanie Buck, mashable.com*

1. Post illegal activities
2. Bullying
3. Trash your teachers
4. Post objectionable content from school computers or networks
5. Post confidential information
6. Overly specific location check-ins
7. Lie/cheat/plagiarize
8. Threaten violence
9. Ignore school-specific policies
10. Unprofessional public profiles
11. Never rely on privacy settings 100%
12. Post emotionally



## 10 Mistakes College Students Make Every Day

*Purvi Mody, LinkedIn.com*

1. Showing up anywhere in your PJs.
2. Not going to class.
3. Being too attached to your cell phone.
4. Not giving yourself enough time in the morning.
5. Checking social media all day long.
6. Not taking care of yourself.
7. Relying on your memory.
8. Mistaking multitasking with being productive.
9. Believing that you are invincible.
10. Thinking that you are the smartest or dumbest person on campus.

## Do Colleges Look At Your Social Media Accounts?

*Darian Somers, US News & World Report*

"In a Kaplan Test Prep survey of more than 350 college admissions officers in the U.S., 35 percent of officers polled reported having looked at applicants' social media accounts to learn more about them."

"Officers that did check social media and

saw negative posts – including the brandishing of weapons and 'questionable language' – sometimes rescinded offers or became hesitant in accepting students."

"College applicants need to be aware of what others can find about them on social networks and make sure it reflects well on them...For better or worse, social media has become an established factor in college admissions, and it's more important than ever for applicants to make wise decisions."