

Pius XI Catholic High School Senior College Presentation

September 2026



Counselors Introductions:

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Please book an appointment with your counselor during FLEX or a free period!

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	TAC #		TAC #		TAC #
Barth, Hannah	310	Alstadt, Steven	422	Dineen, Kevin	510
Bleese, Larni	410	Crain, Flannery	408	Herbst, Maggie	420
Gabrielsen, Greg	207	Eldredge, Mary	318	Horky, Jeremy	116
Griffin/Kahler	417	Farrar, Charles	507	Lartey, Rachel (Scherrer)	301
Hupfer-Riedel, Patty	300	Gilgannon, Michelle	520	Look, Hayden	414
Kallio, Emily	206	Kehoss, Kevin	202	McCann, Kelly (Foster)	428
Parlier, Mary	322	Morgan, Mercedes	204	Montejano, Elias (J Smith)	312
Rogaczewski, Ben	512	Nixon, Caleigh (Talsky)	406	Reiter/Hyma	613
Smith, Murphy	320	Ombima, Janet (Hyatt)	518	Romens, Anthony	200
Stutzman, Mary	416	Rowder/McKowen	330	Ruszkiewicz, Amanda	404
Volkening, Raechel	307	Swenson/Harvey	610	Sterr, Kaitlyn (Schimmels)	418
Willems-Solc, Bekki	415	Vogel, Grace	317	Wallschlaeger, Amy(Briones)	426

Objectives

- *Participants will gain an understanding of college preparation & planning

- *Participants will gain an understanding of the college application process

- *Participants will gain an understanding of post-secondary career options

Xello: Academic & Career Planning

Xello

- College & Career planning tool
- Interest surveys & career profiles
- Organize & submit applications, transcripts, & letters of recommendations
- Scholarships opportunities (also posted on Schoology)
- College visits & announcements
- https://help.xello.world/en-us/Content/Knowledge-Base/Xello-6-12/College-Planning/KB_6-12_College-Planning.htm?Highlight=college%20planning

Academic Testing

❖ Academic Testing

- ACT Schedule for 2026-27
- Does the school require ACT/SAT results?
- Is it to your benefit to supply test results?
 - Scholarship opportunities
 - Scores sent directly from ACT or College Board
- ACT Prep...Paid Resources, Free Resources, Benefit of test familiarity.
- There is a fee for national testing. See counselor if you believe you qualify for a fee waiver.

Planning for College

❖ College Fairs

- National Association for College Admission Counseling
- https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs/?_gl=1*19gfua7*_ga*NjUxNzc4NjAxLjE2OTM5Mjk4NjA.*_ga_VBBSWPK81X*MTY5MzkyOTg2MC4xLjEuMTY5MzkyOTg4Mi4zOC4wLjA. (Virtual College Fair) or in person 9/27 at State Fair Park
- Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling
- Pius XI College Fair - Tuesday, Oct 6th 11- 1:30pm

Preparing for College

❖ Applications

- Regular Decision, Early Action, Early Decision (you are committing to go to this school)

❖ Application Components

- General information
- Essay - structured prompt, personal essay, or research essay (**Do not use AI for essays**)
- Fees
- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation (if required)

Preparing for College

❖ Common Application

Check with counselor before you begin.

- Accepted at over 800 colleges
- No user fee
- General information completed once
- Links with Xello
- Not user friendly
- Supplements and essays
- Letters of recommendations
- Use if applying to 3 or more schools which require it

Preparing for College

❖ Financial Aid

- Scholarships (Xello, Weekly updates, College Website)
- Grants
- Loans
- Work Study
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Opens October 1st (FSA ID Event : Sept 24 & Oct 1-FLEX)
 - Financial Information (checking, savings, assets)

Planning for Careers Immediately After High School Graduation

❖ Questions to consider

- What careers am I interested in pursuing after high school?
 - Consider apprenticeships, on the job training, military
- Where do I want to live?
- What skills do I already have?
- What skills do I want to develop?
- Lookout for career and trades presentation announcements

Preparing for Career

- ❖ Applying for Apprenticeships/Employment
 - Birth Certificate
 - Driver's License
 - High School Transcript
 - Resume
 - References
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Ability to pass drug testing
 - May require ACT report

MATC Promise Program

- CLASS OF 2027 -THE MATC PROMISE MEANS FREE TUITION FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS
- By offering free tuition for eligible students, the MATC Promise for New High School Graduates is unlocking opportunity, making college a reality for students who never thought it was possible.
- Eligible students earn up to 75 credits of free tuition – after other scholarships and grants are applied. The cost of books, program fees and equipment are not covered by the Promise program.
View the list of eligible programs (link).
- <https://www.matc.edu/promise/high-school.html>

Senior Checklist (Schoology)

___ Make an appointment with your counselor during FLEX or free period.

___ All students need a Xello account.

___ Update Xello account with Colleges you are interested in.

___ Decide how you are going to apply to your schools. Will you use the Common Application or will you apply directly using the school's application? Sometimes applying direct to the institution is easier and faster than completing the Common App. See your counselor for insight as to the best way to proceed.

___ If you are using the Common App, you must link it to Xello. Directions for how to do this are on Xello. If you neglect to complete this step, letters of recommendation, transcripts, and other important documents cannot be sent. **Note: Students must complete the FERPA portion of the Common Application to link it to Xello.**

___ Letters of Recommendation (LOR) are managed through Xello. You should complete the "Letter of Recommendation Information Survey" to attach it to your Xello account. See page 15

___ Before you request any letters of recommendations, check to see if a letter is even required to be submitted on your behalf. Some schools will not even accept letters of recommendation. Only request the number of letters needed as schools do not look favorably on submitting more than required.

Senior Checklist

___ Ask your recommender in person first, to see if s/he is able to write a letter on your behalf before you complete the request online via Xello. Give teachers a three-week notice.

___ You will be requesting transcripts to be sent via Xello. Counselors need parental/guardian permission to release your transcripts. Transcripts will be sent out with the initial application, when requested at mid-year, and your final transcript. It is your responsibility to update Xello and communicate with your counselor when you need a transcript sent. It takes several days for this request to be processed. Plan accordingly.

___ ACT/SAT test scores. When you register for your tests, you can send up to four scores for free. Take advantage of this opportunity. If you indicate which schools you wish to have your scores sent to at the time of testing, the school already has your scores. If not, you must go back into your ACT/SAT account and have the scores sent to each school that you apply to. There is a fee involved. Be prepared to pay for this.

___ Fee waivers for applications are available for select students who are experiencing financial hardships. Book an appointment with your counselor if you believe you may qualify for a waiver.

___ Make sure you and your parent/guardian complete the FAFSA. Page 12

Senior Checklist

- ___ Update your Xello account with application results throughout the year in the “Admission Decision” dropdown under selected college.
- ___ Make sure to indicate which college you have selected to attend on your Xello account.
- ___ Write your recommender(s) a thank you note.
- ___ Inform your counselor of the outcome of your applications.
- ___ Keep a record of all scholarships received (the name of scholarship and total money awarded).
- ___ Complete the Senior Survey from Pius XI in April!
- ___ Complete the senior Exit with your counselor by May 14th

Announcements

- Weekly updates are sent out Wednesdays for upcoming events in the family newsletter.
- **Record Scholarships** - will be emailed monthly.
- FSA ID workshop will be announced.
- Senior Check-ins (Should be checking in with your counselor) - make an appointment.

Work on during this time

- ❑ Make sure to you can log into your Xello account.
- ❑ Look over your Senior Checklist.
- ❑ Explore Big Future.
- ❑ Work on College Applications.
- ❑ Explore your Xello account.
- ❑ [Service Academy Application Nominations](#) for October 9th
- ❑ Interested in Carroll College - visit your counselor now.