

*MORENCI HIGH SCHOOL
COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
2015-2016*

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COUNSELOR, MA, LPC*

Dear Morenci High School students and parents,

This packet has been designed to guide you through your student's high school years and give you information about testing, the post-secondary process and general information that parents and students have found helpful over the years. This packet is a work in progress. If you have questions that are not addressed here, please contact the counseling office so that we may address future items in an updated version.

Information is disseminated to students in a variety of ways;

- Morning announcements read over the PA and sent to the students on their chrome books.
- Student emails are sent with upcoming events
- Postings are on the bulletin board directly outside the counseling office
- Facebook page: Morenci HS Counseling

While my schedule keeps me busy, I make every effort to be available for parents and students and try to address messages within 24 hours. Due to my split schedule with the middle school, it is more efficient for both you and me if appointments can be scheduled to discuss any concerns you may have. You may also reach me by calling the high school at 458-7502 or by email at dfallot@morencibulldogs.org

With all this said, let's go on to specifics for each class...

FRESHMEN

The transition into the high school can be both scary and exciting. In order to make the most of your high school career, you may want to take this advice from upperclassmen:

- Join a club/get involved
- Do homework every night to keep from getting behind
- Ask for help when you need it
- The teachers aren't really that scary – in fact – they're pretty helpful
- If you have any marking period failures, make them up in summer school or through credit recovery – even if you still have enough to graduate
- Get into the habit of being at school and in class on time (unless you really like Saturday school or noon detentions!)

Academically:

This pretty much sums it up for your freshman year. If you did not study or complete homework in middle school and you continue this habit, you will most likely find yourself in summer school. In the past you may have failed a class. The difference now is that each course you take earns you credit - .5 units for every class. You do not automatically go on to the next grade. You have to have the credits to move on. Also, your grades (and attendance) are now being recorded on a permanent transcript. This is the same transcript that in the future will be required by colleges, some scholarship committees, and the armed forces. Also, future employers sometimes see these if they need proof of graduation. Start strong and the momentum can carry you through the next three years!

Careers:

You will be updating your career cruising portfolio in school, but you may also update it at home whenever you want. If you do not remember your password/screen name, email me at dfallot@morencibulldogs.org You can always access the general site at www.careercruising.com with the general password of “morenci” and screen name of “dawgs”.

Testing:

NWEA a couple of times a year and the PSAT9 in April.

SOPHOMORES

Congratulations! You've made it through the first year and you're on your way. Your primary job this year is to keep up on your studies and really start considering career path(s). In December of this year, we will be visiting the LISD Technical Center (TECH Center) and those of you interested in this option will be applying for next year. Your attendance record is important in this process. The TECH Center has a fair but strict policy. I have had students not receive TECH Center credit due to attendance issues. Don't let this be you!

Whether you are interested in vocational training or not, you need to be exploring your options for post high school education/training. If you are planning to graduate from a four year college/university, it would be a good idea to start researching them and their requirements. Check their GPA requirements and make a list of at least 4 or 5 places that may interest you. (All colleges now have websites with a wealth of information!) If you are considering a 2 year school, apprenticeship, or armed services, again, research their requirements. If you are considering playing collegiate sports, check into the NCAA academic core requirements.

Academically:

Keep up on the grades and continue to advocate for your education. Ask questions. Start seriously narrowing career options and make plans for your next two years of coursework so that you will be prepared for the choices ahead.

Careers:

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Testing:

NWEA a couple of times a year and the PSAT10 in April.

Some students opt to take the ACT or SAT at the end of this year. Results from these tests may help to identify weaknesses and strengths in academic preparation and allow for scheduling changes as needed. The SAT is a part of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) that all students are required to take in the spring of their junior year. As a junior, you will be required to take the SAT at the expense of the state.

JUNIORS

This is the year that tends to guide a career path. Whether you attend the LISD Technical Center (TECH Center) or stay at MHS, you will be encouraged to start narrowing down your options for post high school study/training. Colleges (2 and 4 year), tech schools and the military all visit our campus. Watch your emails and the bulletin board outside the counseling office for the calendar indicating these visits. As a junior, you may attend these information sessions. Be advised, you may not attend a session if your academic record does not line up with the requirements of the college. (Example: Albion College presentation - Albion admissions advisors are looking for an average GPA of 3.5. Do not plan to attend if your GPA is 1.7).

Academically:

Prepare for your future by taking upper level classes as possible. Many students do not know what they want to do after high school. In order to keep your options open, push yourself academically.

And now a word about GPA; DO NOT chart your high school course schedule based only on which courses will protect your GPA. Colleges/post high school institutions will also be looking at the level of course difficulty, ACT or SAT scores and your record of perseverance and extracurricular activity. Exposing yourself to new information and challenging yourself to excel also prepares you for college admittance tests and life after high school.

Careers:

You will be updating your career cruising portfolio in school, but you may also update it at home whenever you want. Be sure to use the college links to explore their sites and get a feel for at least five colleges you would be interested in researching further. Be advised, *colleges begin accepting applications in the fall of your senior year.*

Testing:

This is the year that the State of Michigan has all high schools administer the MME (Michigan Merit Exam). This is a three part test. The first day will consist of the SAT + Writing test. The second day is the ACT Work Keys test. The last portion consists of a Michigan developed assessment and will be given on day three.

ATTENDANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT ON THESE DAYS! The state pays for this testing and is scheduled to be given in April. This test must be taken in order to graduate!

College Night:

This Lenawee County Counselors Association hosts a college night every October. This year it will be on Wednesday, Oct. 7th at Adrian College. Colleges and armed service representatives are available to answer your questions. This information night is open to the public.

SENIORS

Congratulations! Perseverance and hard work is paying off. I know how tempting it is to give in to Senioritis, but be strong. You still have some major senior year tasks to accomplish.

Four year college applications can be sent in anytime starting in September. U of M closes their priority admissions on Oct. 1 and MSU closes for their first considerations by early November, so do not wait to apply until second semester.

Two year community colleges generally want applications for the fall to start coming in after they begin their January semester.

Electronic transcripts are provided through Parchment.com. We will create an account on this site during a school day. This will allow your transcript to be sent to the college(s) of your choice in an efficient manner.

NOTE: Many scholarship applications ask what college you have been accepted to and some even want a copy of the admittance letter. It is important not to wait.

Academically:

Well, you've almost made it. Notice I said almost. Every year I have at least three or four students who make it this far and think they are done. Believe me when I say that you must all your credits in order to walk across that stage so hang in there and save the celebrating for June.

Careers:

This will be the last update to your career cruising portfolio. If you have been diligent and detailed, this program can put all of your information into a resume format. It is also helpful as a history of your activities for the past four years – information that is often requested on college and scholarship applications.

Testing:

If you did not take the MME last year, you will take it this year. If you did not receive the score you wanted on your ACT last spring, plan on retaking this test at your earliest convenience. Dates are posted on the bulletin board outside the counseling office and at actstudent.org.

Financial Aid/Scholarships/College Visits

Our [financial aid workshop](#) is scheduled usually around the beginning of December. Please plan to attend as information regarding the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be presented and explained. **Our meeting for this year is Dec. 3rd at 6:00pm in the Library.**

Scholarships: Most of our local/county scholarship applications come out in January and are due the end of March up to the middle of April. I will try to keep up with these on

our website. The list is always updated weekly and will be emailed to all seniors. National scholarships may be available starting in October. BEWARE of scholarship scams. You should NEVER have to pay a fee for scholarship information.

College Night:

This Lenawee County Counselors Association hosts a college night every October. This year it will be on Wednesday, Oct. 7th at Adrian College. Colleges and armed service representatives are available to answer your questions. This information night is open to the public.

College visits: be sure to sign up for the college presentations you are most interested in. Not all colleges make it to our campus – that is where “College Visit Days” come in. You are excused from school for these visits, but they must be pre-arranged at least three days in advance.

Morenci High School Graduation Requirements

Morenci High School has divided the school year into semesters. The State of Michigan has created a required curriculum for all graduates.

Class of 2016

Total credits possible – 31.5 credits. A **minimum of 29** credits are required to graduate. Within these 29, 16 must be completed in the following subject areas-

Michigan Merit Curriculum – State Mandated

4 English

4 Math (must include 1 credit of Algebra I, Geometry & Algebra II)*

3 Science (must include 1 credit of biology and 1 of either chemistry or physics)*

3 Social Studies (must include 1 credit of World History, 1 credit of American History, .5 credits of Economics and .5 credits of Gov.)

1 of Fine or Performing Arts

1 PE/Health

*These requirements are subject to change dependent upon State Department of Education requirement changes.

Graduation 2016

Graduation Date: Sunday, May 29, 2016

Baccalaureate at the Morenci United Methodist Church

2:00 PM

Graduation in the Gymnasium at Morenci High School

4:00 PM

GLOSSARY

ACT – this college admittance exam is a national test and is usually given off of our campus. Testing dates, fees, and directions can be found at www.actstudent.org. You can register for this test on-line at this address or pick up a paper copy in the counseling office. Registration deadlines are about a month before the testing date. The exam can be taken by any high school student on national testing dates, but must be taken in the junior year as part of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. A workshop usually scheduled in early December will address this process and answer other financial aid questions. You can get more information at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

MME- Michigan Merit Exam – This exam replaces the MEAP assessment and consists of about 8 hours of testing. The sub-tests consist of the ACT or SAT, ACT Work Keys, and a test developed by the State of Michigan that covers social studies benchmarks and other subject benchmarks not covered in either of the national tests. This test is given in April and is mandatory for graduation.

NCAA - National Collegiate Athletic Association. In order for students to participate in college sports, certain requirements must be met. Their web address is www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

SAT - Scholastic Assessment Test. This test is also used for college admittance and is the test that the class of 2017 will be taking as part of their junior year Michigan Merit Exam.