



The MCDS College Application Process

MCDS School Code: 502-396

The goal of the college counseling program at MCDS is to facilitate the placement of each student at a college or university where he/she will be able to fulfill individual aspirations for higher learning and career preparation. The college counselor, as well as teachers and the administrative team, works with students and families to facilitate the process of identifying, applying to, and selecting a “best match” college.

Applying to colleges presents an opportunity for each student to demonstrate initiative, motivation, organizational skills, maturity, and thoughtful planning. Parents are involved, to be sure, but MCDS expects students to meet this challenge with a great deal of independence. In many ways, applying to college is one of the rites of passage into adulthood, and the role of “applicant” must truly belong to the student.

Please read the material in this packet carefully. You, the student, are responsible for following MCDS guidelines for the college application process. Our deadlines have been established so that you will not have to rush and be stressed as college deadlines approach, your parents will be as relaxed as possible, your teachers have a reasonable amount of time in which to craft their letters of recommendation, and your transcripts and other supporting materials are received on time and in good order by the colleges.

Below is a condensed to-do list. Please refer to the appropriate sections of this packet for more detailed information about each item.

- ★ Work hard in all your classes. Junior year is the most important year in terms of college applications.
- ★ Make your list of colleges. Spend plenty of time researching a variety of colleges, and update your list regularly. Have a near-final list by the first day of senior year.
- ★ Take standardized tests as required/recommended by your colleges.
- ★ Keep your Extracurriculars/Awards Resume up-to-date throughout your high school years.
- ★ Write drafts of your essays during the summer before senior year.
- ★ Request letters of recommendation from teachers.
- ★ Request transcripts from Mrs. Stade.

★ Fill out the Common Application and Supplements, and applications to colleges that don't use the Common Application.

★ Submit your applications.

★ Submit financial aid forms.

★ When you receive acceptances, be prepared to make your decision quickly; notify each college that accepted you of your plans. Be sure to accept one offer, and only one offer, by May 1.

★ Submit your housing application as soon as possible.

★ If you were waitlisted, decide whether to withdraw or stay on the list; follow the instructions from the college precisely. Be sure you have accepted an offer from some other college in case you are not admitted from the waitlist.