

Junior and Senior Timeline

JUNIOR YEAR

Take the PSAT in October.

Students in the top 25% are encouraged to test. Any junior who qualifies to take college courses should test. The PSAT is the only means of entering the National Merit Scholarship competition (top .5% of juniors in the nation). Sign up is posted on junior google classroom.

Meet with college representatives who visit WDC or connect with them virtually!

Ask the school counselor for help in answering any college questions!

VISIT PROSPECTIVE COLLEGES WEBSITES!

Check them out. Do your research. Have fun looking!

Take the ASVAB.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery is a test for all juniors. The test serves as a tool to see where your abilities and interests match up. This is a career test sponsored by the military.

Take Practice Tests for ACT/SAT.

Additional practice materials are available in the media center and online at <https://academy.act.org/>

Register for the college admission test considered by the school you are considering (ACT or SAT). Most juniors test in the spring of their junior year. ***We are planning to offer the ACT to all juniors in the spring.***

Register for classes that meet graduation requirements and best prepare you for college/work.

If interested in U.S. Military Academies or ROTC programs- see your counselor.

If you intend to take college classes outside of WDC through the Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program, see your counselor ASAP for enrollment requirements and deadlines.

Surf the Net! Some helpful sites:

www.collegeboard.org

www.peterson.com

www.finaid.org

www.fastweb.com

www.gocollege.com

www.bridges.com

www.collegenet.com

www.iseek.org

www.wdc2155.k12.mn.us

www.myroad.com (note: fee for this resource)

Be cautious of internet sites. Some sites will take your information and share it with others. Before submitting information, carefully scrutinize any automatic check-offs that will allow your info to be shared with others.

SUMMER BETWEEN JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR

Visit college and take tours. Begin to narrow down school choices. Be aware of test requirements (U of M now requires a written portion of the ACT for admittance).

Consider doing some volunteer work and/or job shadows in area(s) of interest to you.

Consider who you will ask to write a letter of recommendation for you next year.

Scholarship committees will often ask you to write an essay for them to allow them to know more about you, certain colleges may ask this of you as well. Take some time this summer to think about what is really important to you, what has influenced your life, and what your definition of success is.

Take the ACT on June 13, 2026, if you didn't take it in April or want to improve your scores! Remember the deadline for registration is May 8, 2026. Sign up at www.actstudent.org
SOME COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES REQUIRE THE WRITING PORTION OF THE ACT TEST FOR ADMISSIONS.

WADENA-DEER CREEK GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ENGLISH 8 CREDITS

English 9, English 10, English 11 and 2 elective English credits

SOCIAL STUDIES 8 CREDITS

Civics, US History, World Geography, World History, Economics
and 1 elective social credit

SCIENCE 6 CREDITS

Physical Science, Biology and Chemistry or Prin. of Eng./Physics

MATHEMATICS 6 CREDITS

Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II

P.E./HEALTH 4 CREDITS

Phy-Ed 9, Health 9, Phy-Ed 10 and Health 10

ART (Music, Visual) 2 CREDITS

Music or Art credits qualify

ELECTIVE 18 CREDITS (MINIMUM)

anything over courses listed above

WDC SENIORS NEED A TOTAL OF 52 ACADEMIC CREDITS TO GRADUATE.

34 OF THESE CREDITS ARE FROM THE

REQUIRED CORE CLASSES LISTED ABOVE.

THE OTHER 18 CREDITS ARE FROM ELECTIVES.

SENIOR YEAR!!!!

Continue to maintain a high standard of behavior (in and out of school), as well as good attendance and academic achievement. MAKE IT COUNT!!!!

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

VISIT YOUR COUNSELOR!

Senior conference credit checks, discuss college applications and deadlines, college entrance exams, and available scholarships in the career center.

Read the Fall Senior Bulletin. It contains information about deadlines for scholarships etc. Keep it handy for reference. Record important dates on your calendar!

LISTEN TO AND READ DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!!

Attend the college fair in the fall. Must pre-register online. See announcements for more information. Ask questions, get information.

Take and/or re-take any college admission test required by the schools you are considering. ACT for most four-year schools, you will need to sign up by September 12th to take the test on October 18, 2025 and avoid late fees. Sign up at myact.org

Visit additional colleges. Make second visits if desired.

See if any of the colleges you are considering offer a free financial aid eligibility estimate.

Watch college application deadlines!

Most schools have a priority deadline. *Application process should begin now.*

Complete applications online. Request transcript(s) be sent through SchoolLinks, if needed. Many applications are due the 1st of December.

Respond promptly to any additional requests for information from the college. Some vocational programs are so popular they fill up fast. Early application may be to your best advantage.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid becomes available for next year's college students on October 1st. www.fafsa.ed.gov Print a copy of what you send, and make a note of when you sent it. 1040 tax forms from 2024 (of students and parents) must be filled out to complete the FAFSA form. Do NOT fill out this form early, make sure it is the 25-26 application.

Apply for the scholarships in which you have qualified.

Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

SAR report is in response to the FAFSA form.

Ask teachers, coaches and employers who know you well to write letters of recommendation for you. Remember to ask early and give them time to do a good job for you. Also provide them with a list of activities and/or achievements during high school.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

For scholarship financial information and deadlines.

PHOTO COPY EVERYTHING YOU SEND OUT!!!

If you are considering applying for a private school, you should find out if the school requires the Financial Aid PROFILE, a customized application for institutional aid that is made available by the College Scholarship Service. If so, you will have to send out a registration for the PROFILE first and in 2-3 weeks, you will receive the application from CSS. Deadlines for the PROFILE are determined by individual schools, and some are as early as December.

JANUARY

Apply for dormitory arrangements. Many schools fill on campus housing before February.

Apply for local scholarships through Wadena clubs and businesses. These will be posted on google classroom. Do NOT miss it. Pay close attention to deadlines as posted in Senior Bulletin #2.

Make sure you are signed up for what you need for second semester.

If the school you applied for has a mid-year report, make sure that it gets sent once first semester grades are in. The school counselor will mail these out for you.

FEBRUARY/MARCH

Scholarship applications deadlines begin for local scholarships. Turn them in on time. You need to apply to receive a scholarship.

Keep track of notices from colleges.

APRIL

Review award letter(s) you receive from each college to which you have been accepted. The award letter states the type and amount of financial aid you are being offered. Make sure they reflect accurate information. Contact the financial aid office at your college if you have any questions.

Decide on which college you will attend if you haven't done so already. Make sure the school counselor knows where to send your final transcript.

KEEP WATCHING THE ANNOUNCEMENTS. . . .

MAY

Keep your grades up! Remember, final transcripts get sent to colleges/universities!

***CONGRATULATIONS! YOU MADE IT!!!!
GRADUATION IS HERE.***