

Counseling Newsletter

APRIL 2025

Upcoming:

4/1

NACAC West Michigan National College Fair
(8:30-11:30am OR 6:00-8:00pm)

4/2

Be NICE Spirit Day - Wear green or pink

4/3

Be NICE Spirit Day - wear BC gear or future
college/career gear

4/4 - 4/11

Spring Break

4/16

PSAT/SAT State Testing Day (early release)

4/17

M-STEP Test Day

Wayland Training Facility Field Trip

4/22

Navy Recruiter visit at lunch

4/23

Army Recruiter visit at lunch

4/24

Air National Guard Recruiter visit at lunch

Important FAFSA Reminder for Seniors:

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now a graduation requirement for the class of 2025+. Families will have the option to either:

1. Complete the FAFSA
2. Sign a waiver stating they will not complete the FAFSA

The FAFSA waiver can be found in the counseling office or attached to this newsletter.

Comparing Financial Aid Offers:

MI Student Aid recently released [this video](#) as a resource for students and families. This video shows how to compare financial aid packages. More information on FAFSA can be found [here](#).

NACAC West MI College Fair:

The West Michigan National College Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The fair will have two sessions: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event provides an excellent opportunity for students and parents to meet with representatives from various colleges and universities to explore higher education options. Admission is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to register in advance to receive a barcode for easy access to information from participating institutions. More information can be found [here](#).

Wayland Training Facility Career Day:

On April 17, 2025 from 10:00am-1:00pm Byron Center High School is taking a group of students to tour the Wayland Carpenter & Millwright Apprentice Training Center. Students will learn about various opportunities for post secondary training and careers. The facility allows for cross-training between Carpenters, Floor Layers, and Millwrights, equipping workers with unique hard and soft skills to successfully take on any project. Transportation and lunch will be provided.

Students who are interested in attending this field trip should sign up in the counseling office and pick up a permission slip. **Permission slips are due by Tuesday, April 15th at 3:00pm.**

Note: this field trip conflicts with the M-STEP assessment that all Juniors must complete. Only 9th, 10th graders will be able to attend.

Metro Police Academy:

50 hours of specialized law enforcement and physical fitness training that is facilitated by officers from local Kent County police agencies. The academy provides students with firsthand knowledge of police activities and gives participants a hands-on experience of law enforcement trainings as well as various networking opportunities. More info can be found on the attached flyer,

Additional Resources:

- Check out [these opportunities](#) to explore the workforce through the Kent ISD.
- [Career Chats](#) - Kent ISD's Career Chats are designed to provide 7-12-grade students a virtual opportunity to meet real professionals employed in real jobs. Professionals will share their career paths, along with valuable industry insights that support student career exploration.
- If you're interested in calculating your GPA, check out this [GPA calculator](#)!
- [Senior Scholarship Spreadsheet](#)

Emergency Mental Health Resources:

Suicide hotline: 9-8-8 (free, anonymous, available 24/7)

Trevor Project 1-866-488-7386 (call, text or online chat)

Network 180- (616) 336-3765 The Access Center remains open 24/7

Text "nice" to 741741

[Mental Health Resource Guide](#)



Office of
Higher
Education

Universal FAFSA Waiver

The Universal FAFSA Waiver must be completed for graduating students who are opting out of completing the FAFSA using one of the options below. **A copy of the Universal FAFSA Waiver must become part of each student's cumulative school record.**

An incomplete waiver will result in non-compliance for districts participating in the Universal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Challenge per [Sec. 67f of Public Act 120 of 2024](#).

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student First Name _____ M

Last Name _____

Student Date of Birth ____/____/____

OPTION 1: STUDENT OR PARENT CERTIFICATION

I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the student listed above, or I am the student listed above and I am at least 18 years of age, or I am a legally emancipated minor, or I am an unaccompanied youth and am authorized to decline to complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

I have read the information on page 2 and understand that completing this waiver does not prohibit my student (or myself) from completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at any time in the future.

☐ Parent or Legal Guardian

☐ Student age 18+/Emancipated Minor/Unaccompanied Youth

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

OPTION 2: DISTRICT CERTIFICATION

I certify that the school administrator of the student's high school demonstrated to the district board that good-faith efforts were made to assist the student or the student's parent/legal guardian in either completing the FAFSA or obtaining a parental waiver.

District Name _____

High School Name _____

School Principal Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

WHAT IS THE FAFSA FORM?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is the online application that allows a student to apply simultaneously for federal student aid (including the Pell Grant, work-study opportunities, and federal student loans) and state scholarships. Many colleges and universities also use it for their scholarship programs as well.

ISN'T THE APPLICATION TOO LONG AND DIFFICULT TO COMPLETE?

Not at all! Most students and their families complete the FAFSA form in 30 minutes or less. If you have questions, talk to your school counselor or visit fafsa.gov.

DO I NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA FORM TO QUALIFY FOR THE MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP?

Yes! Recent high school graduates must complete the FAFSA to qualify for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship. No matter your next step after high school, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship can help you earn a skill certificate or college degree and significantly lower your costs. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the scholarship can support their path: Community College Guarantee (free or deeply discounted tuition for recent grads regardless of income), Public or Private/College University (up to \$27,500 for qualifying students), or Career Training (up to \$4,000 for qualifying students). Learn more at: mi.gov/achievement.

IF I WANT TO LEARN A TRADE, CAN THE FAFSA FORM STILL BE OF ASSISTANCE TO ME?

The FAFSA form is not just for associate or bachelor's degree programs. Students may receive need-based Pell grants, federal student loans, other federal student aid or state student aid, including career and technical education programs at community colleges and at many other schools and training programs. Students should check with the school they want to attend to find out if they accept state and federal financial aid.

DOES MY FAMILY MAKE TOO MUCH MONEY TO BENEFIT FROM THE FAFSA?

Financial aid is left on the table every year by students who did not apply because they thought they were ineligible. You really don't know until you apply! Did you know, all recent high school graduates qualify for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Community College Guarantee (a tuition free path at your local community college), regardless of income! For students from families that do make too much to qualify for need-based grant aid, the FAFSA form may still be helpful, since it's needed for state scholarships and grants, work-study, or a federal student loan. Your college may offer financial aid based on your FAFSA too.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT A STUDENT LOAN?

Completing the application does not commit you to anything, including a student loan.

HOW IS FAFSA DATA PROTECTED?

By law, your personally identifiable Information (PII) included in the FAFSA form may only be used to award scholarships and grants. Although your high school will know whether you completed the FAFSA form, it will not have access to the information that you provide on your FAFSA form. Your information is not sold.

IF I CHOOSE TO FILE A FAFSA FORM, HOW WILL I KNOW THAT MY FAFSA FORM IS COMPLETE?

Once you submit the FAFSA form, you will receive an email confirming your application was received at the email address you provided in the application.

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JUNE 9TH - JUNE 12TH, 2025

Orientation will be scheduled in April/May 2025



Location

This year's Metro High School Police Academy will be held at Grand Rapids Community College.



What Is It?

50 hours of specialized law enforcement and physical fitness training that is facilitated by officers from local Kent County police agencies. The academy provides students with firsthand knowledge of police activities and gives participants a hands-on experience of law enforcement trainings as well as various networking opportunities. *Lunch is included!*



Who Can Apply?

The application process is open to high school juniors and seniors who are interested in learning more about law enforcement and criminal justice. The academy is free of charge and is ideal for students looking forward to a career in law enforcement.



CONTACT US

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Or speak with your School
Resource Officer for more
information