Choosing your College: May 1 is National Decision Day

Many of you are busy comparing award letters and determining what school will be your perfect fit. There are several factors you should consider when making this decision.

- You are unlikely to find the perfect school. All schools will be a series of trade-offs. You want to select the school that gives YOU (not your friends, but you) the greatest benefit.
- What’s the likelihood that you’ll graduate in 4 years (saving yourself time and money)?
- What will your estimated monthly loan payment be when you graduate? Are you choosing a career that will give you the opportunity to pay that amount back on a monthly basis?
- Does your number one school have programs to support your 2nd and 3rd choice of careers?
- Try using the Compare Your Aid Awards tool from BigFuture.

Do you understand Federal Work Study?
Check out this article form U.S. News for some details.

Are you ready to start your career?

Overwhelmingly, employers are looking for employees with professional skills. Basic punctuality, reliability, accountability, self-motivation, and problem solving skills are prized in the workplace. Many employers believe they can teach you anything as long as you come in with professional skills.

Consider:
Are you always on time?
Are you prepared to work hard?
When faced with a challenge, do you problem solve?
Do you take initiative?
What type of impression are you making?
Still no post-secondary plan?

It's not too late to get on track for the future you want! You are fortunate that our economy has many great opportunities available to you. Have you considered apprenticeship (careers in the building trades) or service (military or other)? You do need a plan. Stop by to see Mrs. Bonnett if you need help getting started. Avoid dead end jobs!

What is CTE?

Our economy is demanding CTE professionals, & that demand is outpacing students who are acquiring those skills.

1:2:7 ECONOMY

For every 1 occupation that requires a master's degree or more, there are 2 professional jobs that require a 4-year degree, and 7 that require a 1 year certificate or 2 year degree. Many of the jobs represented by that 7 require middle and highly skilled professionals.

Examples of Middle Skilled Jobs:
- Computer Network Support Specialists
- Dental Assistants
- Electrical Engineering Technicians
- Heating, AC, and Refrigeration Mechanics/Installers
- Medical Lab Technicians
- Surgical Technologists
- Telecommunications Equipment Installers/Repairers
- Web Developers

The key to finding a high-paying career you like: Earn the right type of degree or certificate that meets your goals.

TIP: Regardless of your path, consider developing technical skills along the way.

Resources:

Don’t forget to apply for local scholarships. Learn about some of the fastest growing occupations here. Check out vacancies and salary by occupation here. Need a career after high school? Check out Anoka County’s Career Pathway Training (maybe free). For Parents & Students: How to Turn College Rejection into a Lucky Break.

Opportunity:

Communications Internship
(learn and earn credit during your school day) with FLAS district!
To apply, click here.