

MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR HANDBOOK

2023-2024

School Counselors:

Mrs. Muckey ~ A - E
cmuckey@mexicocsd.org

Mrs. Morley ~ F - M
cmorley@mexicocsd.org

Mrs. Hyde ~ N - Z
lhyde@mexicocsd.org

Mexico Website:

www.mexicocsd.org

Student Services Website:

Mexicocsd.org > Schools > Mexico High School > Student Services

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NOTE: As a senior, you will be busy. This is an exciting time full of questions about your future. We hope this handbook will provide you with useful information that will answer some of your questions about being successful in this journey of completing your senior year and making many decisions about your future after high school. We know that each senior will proceed through this process in their own way. However, we do expect students to take control of the process. We hope this handbook will help you do just that.

Mexico High School

SENIOR CALENDAR

2023-2024

Sept-Jan College Admissions Representatives

Sept 6 Join Senior Facebook page for all Senior Class related announcements

Oct 10 Financial Aid Night, OnPoint, Dollars for Scholars, OPWDD 6:00-7:30 PM, Mexico HS

Oct 18 ASVAB Testing in AM

Nov 1 Common deadline for some college early decision/early action applications

Nov 4 SAT @ Mexico High School

Nov 27 Unwritten deadline to aim for completing all college applications

Dec FAFSA opens for the 2024- 2025 college school year

Dec 1 Common deadline for some college early decision/early action applications

Dec-May Scholarship Applications

Jan 23-26 Regents Exams

March TBD ASVAB Testing in PM

May 4 SAT @ Mexico High School

June 4, 14-25 Regents Exams

June 28 Commencement, 7:00pm, Mexico High School

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

Your senior year is your opportunity to strengthen your skills and broaden your experiences, in school and out, to prepare for all of the challenges ahead. A successful senior year can help launch you on the path to a successful future. Make the most of your senior year:

- ★ Maintain a challenging course load.
- ★ Stay involved in activities, sports, volunteer work, etc.
- ★ Take advantage of internships or career-focused job

September

- Join Senior Class Instagram page "@macs_classof2024" to receive all Senior Class related information. This groups is private and a request must be made to join.
- Encourage your Parent or Guardian to join the Parent Facebook group, also private and must be added by an existing member, "MACS Class of 2024 Parents"
- Look at Mexico Home Page website (left hand side) for senior links, announcements and important information
- Complete "Senior Interview" with your counselor where you will review your transcript in detail and check credits for graduation. Review information with your parents/guardians.
- Provide counselor with your completed Senior Brag Sheet
- If you haven't already, make a list of colleges that interest you and request information from them. Look up application deadlines.
- Create a CommonApp account if you are planning to apply to Private/SUNY College. OR Create a SUNY App if you are applying only to SUNY Schools.
- Register for ACT & SAT as soon as possible whether you are retaking or taking for the first time.
- Make plans to visit the colleges of interest to you.
- Work on completing your 20 hours of community service needed for graduation
- Consider volunteering or getting involved in a service project. (This can help make you "stand out from the crowd" in your application.)
- Developing discipline in your habits now will make the adjustment easier when you get to college and there is no one to tell you to study.
- Contact a recruiter from each military branch to start weighing pros and cons of each branch.

October

- Narrow colleges of interest to approx. five. Research these thoroughly and compare characteristics of different schools during your research. (see pg. 22 in packet for comparison chart)
- All high-school athletes wishing to compete in Division I or II college sports must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Information about the Clearinghouse can be found in the Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete at www.eligibilitycenter.org. See the website for the eligibility standards. (see pg. 24 of this packet for more information)
- Begin applying to colleges -If you qualify for free or reduced please come to student services for a fee waiver
- Inform your counselor of which college major you intend to pursue - used to provide scholarships
- Financial Aid Night, Dollars for Scholars, Office for People with Disabilities (OPWDD) and OnPoint- October 10th at 6:00 PM
- Pay special attention to early application deadlines for selective programs (typically Nov 1)
- Request recommendations, in person, at least **14 school days** prior to the deadline.
- Submit Early Decision or Early Action applications **before the college deadlines**.
- Find out if your colleges have institutional scholarship deadlines by visiting their web sites, reviewing their literature, or calling their financial aid office.
- **If you are not planning to attend college, see your counselor and begin procedures for other post-high school opportunities.**

November/December

- **Additional Information, Recommendations/Transcripts, needed to complete a College application due over Christmas Break must be requested by Dec. 1 to ensure it is sent in time.**
- Parents should file the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** as soon as possible in December. Visit FAFSA on the Web (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>) to download the FAFSA worksheet & request

FSA ID (<https://fsaid.ed.gov>). Both student and parent need a separate FSA IDs before completing the FAFSA. Applying early improves the chances of receiving aid from as many resources as possible.

- Search and apply for scholarships by visiting the student services website or seeing your counselor. Many national scholarship deadlines fall on or around Dec 1.
- Be sure to apply for scholarships in time to meet application deadlines.
 - There are scholarships available for students who plan not to attend college too!
- The **Student Aid Report (SAR)** should arrive electronically 1 to 3 weeks after the FAFSA is submitted. The Student Aid Index (SA) figure is printed on the front page at the upper right. If the SAR has not been received four weeks after submitting the FAFSA, call 1-800-4-FED-AID. If there are any errors on the SAR, make corrections and e-mail the financial aid office immediately. If you have provided a valid email address, you can view and make corrections online.
- Financial award letters may arrive for early admissions applicants. If you have questions about the financial aid award, contact the financial aid office directly or OnPoint.

January

- Be sure to complete the financial aid process for each college. (Fin. Aid Counseling, sign doc., etc.)
- Male students who will be 18 at the time they complete the FAFSA are required to register with Selective Service (www.sss.gov) to be eligible for federal and state aid.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
 - Complete Dollars for Scholars Application by end of Jan. to secure money (all complete applications will qualify.)
- Make sure you are reading emails and following instructions from colleges (ex: sign up for college portals, etc.)

February/March

- **Avoid Senioritis.** Senior grades are crucial to your admission (including 3rd and 4th quarter grades). Acceptance is conditional until colleges deem your **final** grades have met their standards.
- Colleges will begin notifying students who applied through regular admissions of admission status and financial aid. If financial aid is not adequate, call the specific financial aid office.
- Continue to apply for scholarships. Applications for local scholarships are online and in Student Services. Check the Scholarship file in Student Services or speak to your counselor.
- Watch deposit deadlines for housing.

April

- April 15 - Most colleges will have notified you of their acceptance decision by this date.
- Continue to apply for scholarships. Apply! Apply! Apply!

May

- Colleges have an acceptance reply deadline of **May 1** (excluding early decision candidates), which you must confirm with an acceptance letter and deposit.
- Let Student Services know your exact plans for after High School. (college you are attending, place of business, etc.)
- If you take college courses through CCC, OCC, SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Oswego or RIT, fill out the online request to make sure your final transcript will be sent to your appropriate college

June

- Finalize your housing plans.
- Attend Senior Awards Ceremony
- Complete the school year with good attendance and academic standing
- Continue to listen to announcements and check the senior facebook/instagram pages for senior event

MILITARY RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

Reasons to reach out to Recruiters:

- Military Options (speak with **ALL** Branches)
 - Know what you want out of the military before inquiring
- Future Careers in the Military
- ASVAB Testing
- Requirements to join
- Important Dates



Army Recruiter/Reserves/ROTC

Staff Sergeant Austin Wilkins
219 West 1st Street
Oswego, NY 13126
Telephone: 315-882-3675
Email: Austin.t.wilkins.mil@army.mil

Air Force Recruiter

Staff Sergeant Sarah Pietricola
219 West 1st Street
Oswego, NY 13126
Telephone: 315-901-2949
Email: sarah.pietricola.1@us.af.mil

Marine Recruiter

Sergeant Dillon J. Baum
219 West First Street
Oswego, NY 13126
Cell: 315-345-1181
Email: dillon.baum@marines.usmc.mil

Navy Recruiter/ROTC/Reserves

Petty Officer Zach Harrington
372 Northern Lights Plaza
North Syracuse, NY 13212
Cell: 315-742-0102
Email: zachary.b.harrington.mil@us.navy.mil

New York Army National Guard

Sergeant Jontae Brown
250 West Seneca Street
Oswego, NY
Cell: 315-641-4881
Email: jontae.L.brown.mil@mail.mil

****Recruiters visit during lunch blocks throughout the school year****

ASVAB TESTING DATES:

October 18, 2023 (AM) & March 2024 (PM)

Testing in Room 226

****See Lieutenant Colonel Freda or First Sergeant Benjamin in Room G7 with questions****

TRAINING PROGRAMS/ CAREERS

CiTi Adult Ed Programs

Course	Website
CDL – B Dump Truck	Adult Offerings / CDL-B (Dump Truck) (citiboces.org)
Heavy Equipment Maintenance & Operation	Adult Offerings / Heavy Equipment Maintenance & Operation (citiboces.org)
CDL-A Tractor Trailer **must be 21 or over	Adult Offerings / CDL-A (Tractor Trailer) (citiboces.org)
Welding	Adult Offerings / Welding (citiboces.org)
Truck and Equipment Tech	Adult Offerings / Truck and Equipment Technology (citiboces.org)
Phlebotomy	Adult Offerings / Phlebotomy (citiboces.org)
Dental Assisting	Adult Offerings / Dental Assisting (citiboces.org)
Medical Assisting	Adult Offerings / Medical Assisting (citiboces.org)
Home Health Aid	Adult Offerings / Home Health Aide (citiboces.org)
Practical Nursing	Adult Offerings / Practical Nursing (citiboces.org)

[Course Catalog for CiTi Offerings](#)

****FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFYING STUDENTS****

TRAINING PROGRAMS/ CAREERS

Apprenticeship: a real job where you learn, gain experience and get paid. The individual is an employee with a contract of employment. By the end of an apprenticeship, the individual will have the right skills and knowledge needed for the chosen career. "Earn while you learn."

Trade: any occupation typically requiring specialized skills learned through advanced training, rather than a 4-year college or university. (Ex: Plumber, Electrician, Construction, Health Care)

Union: an organized association of workers in a trade, group of trades, or profession, formed to protect and further their rights and interests; a labor union.

For information on local trade/apprenticeship opportunities:

Information on beginning an apprentice in NYS: dol.ny.gov/apprenticeship/become-apprentice

Apprenticeship Opportunities through SUNY: www.suny.edu/apprenticeship/students/

Health Care Earn While You Learn: morningstarcares.com/JobApplication.aspx

Free CNA Certified Program: www.oswegohealth.org/careers/cna-program/

Career Opportunities: <https://www.oswegohealth.org/careers/>

Find Vocational Training: www.trade-schools.net/

The Manufacturing Association of Central New York: www.macny.org/

Beauty School: continentalschoolofbeauty.edu/locations/syracuse/

Test Prep: <https://www.jobtestprep.com/trade-apprenticeship-exam-sample-questions>

CAREERS

Important Links for Career Opportunities can be found by visiting the Student Services Website: Mexicocsd.org > high school > [student services](#)

Oswego County Employment and Civil Service Opportunities:

https://www.oswegocounty.com/departments/finance_and_personnel/human_resources/exam_employment_information.php

Career and Interest Inventories:

Interest Assessment | CareerOneStop:

<https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/careers/interest-assessment.aspx>

O*NET Interest Profiler at My Next Move:

<https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>

** Come to Student Services for more help with starting your career, including building your resume and mock interviews**

MOCK RESUME

Jane E. Doe

1234 Main Street Mexico, New York 13114 - (123) 456-7890 - youremail@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Mexico High School - Mexico, New York *September 2020 - Present*
· Junior Status | 11th Grade
· GPA 93.12 out of 100 | 3.8 out of 4.0
· Honor Roll Student

ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONORS

Member - National Honor Society- Mexico High School *September 2020 - Present*
Student of the Month Recipient - Mexico High School *February 2021*

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Editor in Chief - Yearbook Club - Mexico High School *September 2022 - Present*
· Execute and Meet deadlines
· Review all pages to ensure they correspond with yearbook theme
· Trained and supervise new yearbook members
Captain - Varsity Basketball - Mexico High School *September 2021 - Present*
· Point Guard
· Boost team morale and encourage teammates to perform their best
Stage Crew Member - Theater - Mexico High School *November 2020 - March 2021*
· Handled behind the scenes tasks necessary to ensure a smooth theatrical performance
· Managed costumes and guaranteed the right costume was going to the correct character

WORK EXPERIENCE

Residential Lawn Mower - Peterson Mowing - Mexico, New York Seasonal: June 2018- Present
· Provide weekly lawn care services for 5 homes
· Operate Lawn Mower, Weed Wacker and hedge trimmers
· Communicate with customers to schedule services
Babysitter - Mexico, New York *Seasonal: June 2018- Present*
· Care for children ages 5 - 8, during parents scheduled absences
· Create innovative games and read bedtime stories
· Clean and organize house once children were asleep

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Participant - ACR Health First Frost Walk - Watertown, NY *October 2021*
· Raised Money at event to help support Teen AIDS Task Force program and client support services

SKILLS

- Microsoft Office
- CPR Certified

****THIS MOCK RESUME IS INTENDED TO SHOW YOU CONTENT THAT YOU MIGHT INCLUDE IN YOUR OWN RESUME. SOME GENERAL RESUME GUIDELINES INCLUDE: KEEP TO 1 PAGE, USE TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT (11-12PT), LIST MOST RECENT ACTIVITIES FIRST, ETC. SEE YOUR COUNSELOR FOR HELP BUILDING YOUR OWN PERSONAL RESUME.****

Going into a trade? Check out these leads!

Central and Northern NY Building & Construction Trades Council

107 Twin Oaks Dr. • Syracuse, NY 13026 • Phone: (315) 437-7397 • Fax: (315) 437-2951 • www.cnybtc.org

Gregory Lancette, President • Ronald Haney, Secretary/Treasurer

Heat & Frost Insulators 30

Robert Reap, Business Manager
107 Twin Oaks Dr.
Syracuse, NY 13026
Phone: (315) 475-1246 • Fax: (315) 475-4042
local30insulators@gmail.com

Electrical Workers 910

John O' Driscoll, Business Manager
25001 Water St.
Watertown, NY 13061
Phone: (315) 782-5630 • Fax: (315) 788-5701
jo@ibew910.org

Laborers 35

Carmen Nicotera, Business Manager
10 Main St.
Whitesboro, NY 13492
Phone: (315) 732-7965 • Fax: (315) 732-1741

Painters 38

Dan LaFrance, Business Representative
12829 Timerson Rd.
Red Creek, NY 13143
Phone: (315) 396-3301 • Fax: (315) 754-8026
dlafrance@dc4.org • www.dc4.org

Boilermakers Lodge 5

Greg Peterson, Business Manager
131 West 2nd St.
Oswego, NY 13126
Phone: (315) 343-3821 • Fax: (315) 343-3563
bms5zone175@yahoo.com

Elevator Constructors 62

Ken Clark, Business Manager
615 West Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13204
Phone: (315) 422-5219 • Fax: (315) 475-9956
ineec2@hotmail.com

Laborers 1822

Richard Daddario, Business Manager
PO Box 361
Massena, NY 13662
Phone: (315) 769-8731 • Fax: (315) 769-8522
llocal32@twcny.rr.com

Road Sprinkler Fitters 669

Mark o' Connor, Business Agent
District 34, Western NY • PO Box 610
Manlius, NY 13104
Phone: (315) 682-0224 • Fax: (315) 682-0225
nyoc669@gmail.com • www.sprinklerfitters669.org

Bricklayers 2

Luke Renna, Business Agent
Martin Dillon, Organizer
7705 Maitlage Dr.
Liverpool, NY 13088
Phone: (315) 622-2081 • Fax: (315) 622-2082
lrenna@bac2.org • www.bac2.org

Glaziers 672

Bob Casella, Business Representative
244 Paul Road
Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: (585) 271-2490 • Fax: (585) 271-2907
bcasella@dc4.org

Laborers 633

Gabe Rosetti III, Business Manager
Vince Lazarro, Organizer
Joe Solazzo, Organizer
7051 Fly Rd., Suite A
East Syracuse, NY 13057
Phone: (315) 471-1591 • Fax: (315) 474-4025

Plumbers & Steamfitters 112

Jim Rounds, Business Manager
Tom Zalocha, Business Agent
301 Blecker St.
Utica, NY 13501 • Phone: (315) 724-0948
Fax: (315) 437-7397 / (607) 723-9467
jrounds@ualocal112.org • www.ualocal112.org

Bricklayers 2

Dale Stehlin, Field Representative
312 Pratt St.
Watertown, NY 13601
Phone: (315) 788-4774 • Fax: (315) 755-5795
dstehlin@bac2.org

Iron Workers 60

Gary Robb, Business Manager
500 West Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13204
Phone: (315) 422-8209 • Fax: (315) 478-2630
Busmgre@ironworkers60.org

Operating Engineers 545

Terry Hogle, District Manager
5612 Business Ave
Cicero, NY 13039
Phone: (315) 492-1752 • Fax: (315) 469-787
thogle@iouel58.org • www.iouel58.org

Plumbers & Steamfitters 73

Pat Carroll, Business Manager
PO Box 911
Oswego, NY 13126
Phone: (315) 343-4037 • Fax: (315) 434-5810
lu73bhm@uanet.org • www.ualocal73.net

Electrical Workers 43

Donald Morgan, Business Manager
4568 Waterhouse Rd.
Clay, NY 13041
Phone: (315) 422-0435 • Fax: (315) 472-5823
dmorgan@ibew43.org • www.ibew43.org

Iron Workers 440

Tom Thomas, Business Manager
10 Main St. #100
Whitesboro, NY 13492
Phone: (315) 735-4531 • Fax: (315) 735-9228
iw440sec@verizon.net

Painters 31

Michael Dems, Business Representative
615 West Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13204
Phone: (315) 471-5874 • Fax: (315) 471-1027
mdems@dc4.org • www.dc4.org

Plumbers & Steamfitters 81

Greg Lancette, Business Manager
Brad Ward, Business Agent
107 Twin Oaks Dr.
Syracuse, NY 13206
Phone: (315) 437-7397 • Fax: (315) 437-2951
glancette@ualocal267.org • www.ualocal267.org

TIPS FOR COMPLETING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

In an admission report from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Education Council the following reminder was given to future applicants:

"The application is your single opportunity to influence the admissions process. Approach each aspect of the application as an opportunity. Devote time and thought to each of the various portions."

As you think about your application circulating among an admissions committee, consider the following:

- Be aware that along with your application, colleges review:
 - Your academic transcript for grades 9-11 as well as a list of your senior course load. Special attention is given to your grades, your grade pattern, your overall grade point average, the courses you have taken, and your class rank.
 - Some consider extracurricular activities, recommendations, the applicant's personal essay, personal interview, alumni connections, community service and personal strengths.
- Most colleges require online applications and you should:
 - Connect with your counselor to ensure they know where you are planning to apply and major
 - Invite your Counselor in CommonApp (Commonapp.org) or SUNY App (SUNY.edu) so they can begin their portion of your application
 - Give counselor permission to Preview Application Progress in CommonApp
 - Avoid filing/submitting your application online the week before the application deadline. This is the most risky time to file because of volume and likelihood of system failure.
 - Call or email the college within 14 days to verify receipt of your application and accompanied documents.
- Demonstrate your best work ~ something of which you are proud.
- Essays should be error-free, thoughtful, logical and organized. The essay should say something the rest of the application doesn't say ~ elaborate on a talent, an interest, and thoughts on a world or local problem, a personal accomplishment. Your essay should say something **unique to you**, not experiences shared by everyone. ex: COVID. Stay within the length limit for the essay. Admissions officers have limited time and lots of essays to review. The committee reading your application wants to know you.
- Use specific examples when describing your interests and achievements. Explain your involvement ~ why things you chose to discuss are important to you.
- Why are you going to college? To learn? To learn what? Why? A college should be convinced that you truly want an education. If you want to be an engineer, for example, cite some experience from your own life: Think about the activities and accomplishments that lead you to this choice.
- Typing or printing is acceptable. In some cases, you will be required to write an essay in your own handwriting. Neatness and legibility are obviously essential.
- Proofread. Spelling errors are unacceptable. Ask your teacher, friends, parent, counselors to read your application
- Xeroxed copies (clear ones) are perfectly acceptable, but sign each one individually. Your name should be on each page or article submitted in addition to the application.

The Etiquette of Asking for a Recommendation

1. Ask the teacher/counselor/coach **in person** at least **14 days prior** to when your recommendation is due.
2. Ask in such a way that the teacher is free to decline your invitation if he/she feels a strong, positive letter is not possible. ("Would you be willing to write a college letter of recommendation for me?")
3. If your person agrees to write a letter of recommendation, hand them a completed Senior Brag Sheet. Blank Senior Brag sheets can be found in Student Services.
4. Next, if the recommendation is being written for a college, log into Common app and add the recommender's email address under the correct section "teacher," "other recommender," etc.
5. Write a note of thanks to the writer of your recommendation(s).
6. Above all, remember that writing a good letter of recommendation requires a significant amount of time- time that is above and beyond the call of duty. Make sure that you stay on top of deadlines and paperwork, so that you do not make unnecessary work for the teacher and so that writing of the recommendation is as uncomplicated as possible.

ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Colleges and universities have varying admission practices. Information pertaining to the policy of a prospective school will be found in its publications. Some of the most frequently mentioned practices are:

- ❖ **EARLY DECISION** (ED) Students who have demonstrated sound academic ability apply for admission to their first choice college during the summer or very early in their senior year. Notification of admission is given usually in Dec or Jan. Restrictive policies vary with each school and must be checked carefully to see if early decision works to the individual's advantage. This plan is binding. **If you apply ED, you also sign a commitment to attend if accepted and you must withdraw all other applications.** You should apply under an ED plan only if you know that you can make a well-reasoned, first-choice decision.
- ❖ **EARLY ACTION** (EA) This plan does not require a commitment to matriculate. There are certain schools that have single choice early action (Stanford, Yale, and Harvard). If you apply to those schools, you must adhere to their restriction about applying early to other schools. This plan allows the applicant to compare admissions and financial aid offers.
- ❖ **REGULAR DECISION** This is a plan in which institutions review most of their applications before notifying the majority of candidates of their admission. Colleges set a deadline for completing applications and respond to completed applications by a specified date.
- ❖ **ROLLING ADMISSIONS** This application process allows colleges to review applications as they are received and offers decisions to applicants as soon as the application has been processed.
- ❖ **OPEN ADMISSION** Students are accepted upon application (usually community colleges). Some programs in these same schools may have more selective admissions.
- ❖ **WAIT LIST** This process allows institutions to initially delay an offer or deny admission. If on a waitlist you are extended the possibility of admission in the future.
- ❖ **DEFERRED ADMISSION** High school seniors are guaranteed admission to college a year after graduation.

QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE REPS

Admission

- Am I eligible for admissions?
- What tests are required?
- What is your college's retention rate?
- What are the deadlines?
- What high school course preparation is needed?
- What academic demands can I expect to find? How intense is the academic atmosphere (avg. hours spent studying, library full on weekends, avg. SAT, ACT scores)?

Cost

- How much will it cost?
- What kind of financial aid is available and how do I apply?

Majors and study programs available

- Does the school offer the major I want?
- Is the school strong in science, fine arts, humanities, my areas of interest?
- How many students are in my area of interest?
- What courses are included in a typical freshman program?

Social Life

- What is the dorm life like?
- What extracurricular activities are available?
- Is the college a part of the surrounding community or set apart from it as a self-contained unit? If rural, how far to the nearest town and how do students get there?
- What method of transportation do students use to get around campus?

Housing

- Do all freshmen live in dorms? Can I bring my own vehicle to campus?
- What is the cost?
- How do I apply? Is it a separate process from the admission application? When is the deadline to commit to housing on campus?

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR COLLEGE VISIT!

NOTE: Visiting a college is an excused absence! Bring in a note to the Attendance Office (Mrs. LaBouef)

Visiting prospective colleges can be a big help in selecting the right school. Its value is in providing a first-hand impression for you and your family about people, programs and facilities. Your presence on the campus and your readiness to talk about yourself and your college plans are indications of your serious interest in the college. Seeking and exchanging information with college officials is all part of the process in the campus visit. (If you absolutely cannot travel, check if any schools offer virtual tours online.)

COLLEGE VISIT TIPS

- ❖ Make a list of prospective colleges and research/ contact them. Be specific concerning your interests. (see pg. 22 for a template)
- ❖ Contact colleges you plan to visit well in advance. Make appointments at least 2-3 weeks before your intended visit or plan to visit during an open house. Experts recommend that you visit during the academic year to get the feel of the campus in full swing.
- ❖ Take an unofficial copy of your transcript and evaluate your record. Request a copy of your transcript from Student Services a few days prior to your visit.
- ❖ If possible, arrive on campus in the afternoon and take a late afternoon guided tour. Plan on staying for dinner and/or arrange to spend the night in the dorm. Include a social, cultural, athletic or special event in your visit and attend a class the next morning. You may also want to arrange to speak to faculty members or coaches in your field or sport of interest.
- ❖ Don't hesitate to discuss finances and ask about scholarships, loans and work opportunities. Even ask if the college provides a free application access code.
- ❖ Campus "must" sees: the library, academic facilities, living quarters, and talk to students when the official tour is over. It is important to get some idea about the kind of people you will live and work with on campus.
- ❖ Visit the neighborhood and look for transportation facilities.
- ❖ Parents are always welcome on college campuses.
- ❖ Campus tour guides are not all alike: some are lively, interesting students who are reliable spokespersons for the school while others may not be as well-versed or informed. Don't judge a school solely by the one student tour guide. Meet many other students to get a true picture.
- ❖ Check to see which colleges require and which only recommend an interview.
- ❖ If questions come up after the visit, don't hesitate to contact the admissions office
- ❖ Thank all individuals you meet with, during your visit, for their time
- ❖ If you are definitely interested in the college, follow through by filing your formal application as soon as possible.

The majority of Mexico seniors will apply to one or more colleges/universities. Many seniors will apply for multiple scholarships. Mexico Student Services will assist you every step of the way! Follow the guidelines described and stop in to see your counselor with any questions.

MEXICO TRANSCRIPT REQUEST PROCEDURE

1. High School Transcripts -

- If you would like an **unofficial** transcript you can request it through Student Services.
- If you need an **official** transcript for college you will request it through your online application process (Common App, SUNY App, online application to Community College, etc.)

2. Test Scores- All SAT, ACT, and AP scores that we receive are automatically included on your transcript. If the college to which you are applying requires test scores sent directly from the testing agency, it is **your responsibility to request these scores from CollegeBoard**. * If your college is test optional and you prefer your SAT/ACT scores not be included on your transcript, stop in to Student Services to inform one of the secretaries.

3. College Transcripts - If you received college credit for any class taken at Mexico High School (Ex: Health, Digital Photography, English 12, etc.) **you must request an official transcript from the college** to be sent to the college you have been accepted to. It is recommended that you click the box on the transcript request form that states "do not send until course completion" (verbiage might be different with each college.) If you need a more detailed report on how to request your college transcript, stop down to Student Services and speak with your counselor. *If you are unsure what college classes you have taken, look at your transcript (classes have an asterisk (**)) next to course) or visit the Student Services Website to view the Course Catalog for all course offerings

4. If you get a note from a college saying that a piece of your application is missing, **DON'T PANIC!** In all likelihood, it is at the college and simply hasn't been entered into the system yet. Check with student services secretaries about the date on which the material was sent, and give the college a few weeks to sort the mail and upload your documents before you call. Usually, time takes care of the problem ~ but if it doesn't, let us know and we can help.

SCAN THE APPROPRIATE QR CODE BELOW TO SUBMIT A TRANSCRIPT REQUEST!



CAYUGA CC



ONONDAGA
CC



SUNY
OSWEGO



RIT



SUNY
MORRISVILLE



Jefferson CC

STANDARDIZED TEST DATES 2023-2024

MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL CODE: 333-100

To register for the SAT visit: www.collegeboard.org

SAT Registration Fee: \$55

Late registration fee additional \$30.00

TEST DATE	LOCATION	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION (ADDITIONAL \$30)
OCTOBER 7	LIVERPOOL HS PAUL V. MOORE HS OSWEGO HS	SEPTEMBER 7	SEPTEMBER 26
NOVEMBER 4	MEXICO HS OSWEGO HS LIVERPOOL HS APW JR/SR HS CNS HS	OCTOBER 5	OCTOBER 24
DECEMBER 2	LIVERPOOL HS G. RAY BODLEY HS OSWEGO HS	NOVEMBER 2	NOVEMBER 21
MARCH 9	TBD	FEBRUARY 23	FEBRUARY 27
MAY 4	MEXICO HS	APRIL 19	APRIL 23
JUNE 1	TBD	MAY 16	MAY 21

* * * * *

**Free Test Prep- www.khanacademy.org

Fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch; see your counselor for code.

To register for the ACT visit: www.actstudent.org

\$85.00 w/writing - \$60 without writing,

Late registration fee additional \$36.00

TEST DATE	LOCATION	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION (ADDITIONAL \$36)
OCTOBER 28	OSWEGO HS LIVERPOOL HS	SEPTEMBER 22	OCTOBER 6
DECEMBER 9	PAUL V MOORE HS CNS HS G. RAY BODLEY HS LIVERPOOL HS	NOVEMBER 3	DECEMBER 1
APRIL 13	CNS HS	MARCH 8	MARCH 22
JUNE 8	OSWEGO HS PAUL V MOORE HS CNS HS G. RAY BODLEY HS LIVERPOOL HS	MAY 3	MAY 17

Fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

* * * * *

FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION

The primary responsibility for paying a student's educational expenses belongs to the family. However, the choice of a college should not be determined by family finances alone. Instead, a college should be considered based on the student's desire and ability to attend that college. If the proper procedures are followed, a financial aid partnership of parents, student, government and university can become a reality.

FUNDAMENTALS

Basically, there are two types of financial aid: merit-based and need-based.

- Merit-based awards are typically given by a private institution, your college, or the government. These awards recognize your academic, athletic, musical and various other talents.
- Need-based aid is awarded according to your ability to pay for college.

Colleges calculate your need using this formula:

- Cost of Attendance
- Your SAI (Student Aid Index on FAFSA)
- Outside aid (scholarships)
- = DEMONSTRATED NEED

You do not need to be poor to receive aid. There are funds available to help all students who demonstrate need. In order to receive financial aid you must ask for it, i.e., complete the forms and applications. And remember- if you apply for assistance early, you may be more successful in finding the aid you need.

HINTS

- o Keep copies of everything. Such as keeping all login information for all accounts in a "college" folder.
- o Open and read all mail and emails.
- o Use scholarship search engines. Etc. FastWeb
- o Apply for every scholarship, even if you don't think you will receive it. (Sometimes scholarships have no applicants.)

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

You should fill out the FAFSA in December 2023. You will need your **2022** income tax return for filling out the FAFSA. Institutions have different priority filing deadlines, check with your institutions' Financial Aid office. For answers to questions regarding the FAFSA, guidance is provided through FAFSA by phone or online, or you may wish to contact the specific institution's financial aid office to which you are applying.

Financing Methods: Financial aid usually comes in a "package" ~ a combination of the following methods:

Scholarships: monies you don't pay back

Check in the Student Services Office for scholarships or visit the Student Services Webpage.

- o Private scholarships -**FREE** Scholarship Searches are available via the WEB.
- o Many institutions offer "automatic" scholarships. Applications are screened upon admissions and monies are awarded if the applicant meets criteria.
- o Information on institutional scholarships may be obtained by writing to the Director of Financial Aid or checking the college's website under "financial aid".
- o While there are thousands of scholarships, many of them have strict requirements or are so competitive that they are available only to a few students.
- o Be aware of Scholarship Scams & Financial Aid Consultants- **US Department of Education**

Warning: Be wary of organizations that charge a fee to submit your application or to find you money for school.

Grants: monies you **don't** pay back

- Pell Grants
- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants

Loans: monies you **must** pay back

- Perkins Loans
- Stafford Loans
- Parent Loan (Federal PLUS Loan)

Employment: money you earn

Students may seek employment on their own while in college, or they may be eligible for Work-Study if financial need is demonstrated. Work-Study eligibility is determined by FASFA.

A quick summary of steps to Financial Aid:

1. TO GET YOUR FSA ID, PLEASE GO TO fsaid.ed.gov (student and parent both need to create an FSA ID (student must do this first using a personal email))
2. TO COMPLETE/APPLY FOR AID GO TO studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa ("start here")
3. TO COMPLETE YOUR NYS TAP APPLICATION, click the link on your FASFA Confirmation page. Button reads "Start your state application to apply for New York state-based financial aid"
 - If you missed the above opportunity when finishing the FASFA, go to www.hesc.ny.gov (go to "pay" and then "apply for tap")
4. Contact the individual colleges to which you are applying if you have financial questions.
5. Tell each college if you are applying for financial aid. Usually this is done by checking the appropriate box on the application. A college may also have its own financial aid form for you to complete.
6. Check for scholarships for which you are eligible: **from each college, those posted in Student Services, on the Mexico High School Student Services website, and those announced at school, Mexico scholarships and awards that are available in the Spring, corporations/ companies where parents are employed, military, various search engines.** (see pg. 20 for links)
7. Begin your Stafford Student Loan application by checking the appropriate boxes on the FAFSA.
8. If you have properly filled out the financial aid forms, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) in approximately 1-3 weeks. It will give you your eligibility index for federal and state aid. You will be asked to sign an acceptance of the amount received, and the money will be sent to the college. Colleges will notify you of further grants/loans you are to receive in their financial aid "package".
9. Ask your counselor for assistance if you have general questions. Specific questions should be directed to the college financial aid offices or the financial aid agencies.

Learn more about Financial Aid and the process by attending a Virtual Financial Aid session through SUNY. You do not need to be applying to a SUNY school to attend.

[SUNY - Financial Aid Sessions](#)

Help with Financial Aid, Scholarship Searches, College and Career Planning

www.suny.edu (Information on New York's 2-year & 4-year SUNY schools & SUNY college application)

www.commonapp.org (Common Application online)

www.finaid.org (financial aid information & estimator)

www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa (FAFSA on the Web)

<https://sunyocc.financialaidtv.com/play/46163-2020-2021-fafsa-tutorial/fafsa-getting-started-2022-23> (FAFSA Tutorial)

<https://fsaid.ed.gov> (get your FSA ID numbers for the FAFSA)

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov (pre-planning for the FAFSA & a financial aid estimator)

www.nysfaaa.org (Financial aid information)

www.hesc.ny.gov (Financial aid and TAP information & Excelsior Scholarship)

www.nelliemae.org (Student loan information)

www.ed.gov/inits/hope (Hope Scholarship & Lifetime Learning Tax Credits)

www.nysaves.org (New York State's 529 College Savings Program)

www.studentaid.ed.gov (College & Career information & Financial Aid information)

www.fastweb.com (Scholarship search)

www.schoolsoup.com (Scholarship search)

www.questbridge.org (College match program for high achieving & low-income students)

www.latinocollegedollars.org (Scholarship source for Latino families)

www.ncaa.org (Sports scholarship information)

www.eligibilitycenter.org (NCAA Clearinghouse) NOTE: Students intending to participate in Division I or Division II sports MUST complete the NCAA Clearinghouse application during the fall of senior year

www.ed.gov (US Department of Education)

www.skill-ed.com (College & Career information)

www.nymentor.edu (College & career planning for New York students)

www.bls.gov/oco (Career information)

www.mapping-your-future.org (Career planning)

www.naacp.org (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)

www.collegefund.org (Native American students)

www.nclid.org (Students with learning disabilities)

www.sss.gov (Selective Service)

www.militarycareers.com (Military career guide on-line)

www.military.com (ASVAB practice & military information)



We help with:

- **Applications for college, certificate, vocational, and training programs**
- **Financial aid forms**
- **Career Services!**

*For details contact:
Cielle at (315) 744-2108 or
cielletovey@onpointforcollege.org*

Scan me!



SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the scholarships offered to you from your selected institution, Mexico High School has a number of local scholarships available for students attending college, trade schools, or entering the workforce.

A list of scholarships is available on the Student Services Website. You can apply online using Kami or find hard copies in Student Services. Both the website and the scholarship cabinet in student services are monitored and updated regularly. **We encourage seniors to check often so they do not miss out on any scholarship opportunities.**

It is helpful for your counselor to know your intended career or major so we can recommend appropriate scholarships for you. However, Student Services does not know if parents are members of fire departments, clubs, where they work etc. so it is the senior's responsibility to research what scholarships are available to them through these outside organizations in addition to what we have listed on the Mexico Student Services Website.

Completing Scholarship Applications:

- Applications must be completed by the student and returned to the appropriate destination. Some scholarship applications are returned to Student Services, while others are mailed by the student to the scholarship granter. It is important to read the instructions thoroughly.
- Students should keep in mind that some scholarships have particular guidelines/instructions in compiling their applications and may disqualify students for not following them accordingly.
- If a student has questions about the scholarship process or needs to print applications they should stop in to Student Services during a study hall or before/after school for assistance.

After being awarded with a scholarship:

- Follow the instructions in the scholarship application or award letter in order to receive funds.
 - For example, you may need to 'accept' the scholarship via Dollars for Scholars or submit documentation to the scholarship granter (Ex: enrollment verification, copy of acceptance letter and schedule etc.)
- Send a thank you note to the scholarship granter

** The decisions of who will be awarded scholarships are made by the agencies, committees, and families who sponsor the scholarship. Many of the organizations participate in our Senior Awards Night. The main office will send an invitation to attend the event if you are a recipient of an award. We hope that all seniors will attend Senior Award Night to support friends and classmates. Many award presenters travel long distances and take time out of their busy schedule to be here to present their award. It is important that the senior be here to receive it.

Name of College	<i>College #1</i>	<i>College #2</i>	<i>College #3</i>
Location -distance from home			
Environment -type of school (2 yr. or 4 yr.) -school setting (urban/rural) -location & size of nearest city -co-ed, male, female -religious affiliation			
Admission Requirements -deadline -tests required -average test scores/GPA/Rank -special requirements -notification			
Academics -your major offered -special requirements -accreditation -student-faculty ratio -typical class size			
College Expenses -tuition, room & board -estimated total budget -application fee, deposits			
Financial Aid -deadline -required forms -% receiving aid -scholarships			
Housing -residence hall requirement -availability -types and sizes -food plan			
Facilities -academic -recreational -other			
Activities -clubs, organizations, -athletics, intramurals -Greek life -other			
Campus Visits -when			

DO YOU WANT TO PLAY SPORTS IN COLLEGE?



WHAT IS THE NCAA?

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes. The NCAA wants to ensure high school athletes meet academic standards that will best prepare them for success in college.

HOW TO REGISTER:

Students interested in playing sports in college must register through the NCAA Eligibility Center. Students should register in ninth grade! [Eligibility Center](#)

Profile Page Account:

If you plan to complete at a DIII school or currently are not sure in which division you want to complete, create a free Profile Page account. If at any time you wish to pursue a DI or DII path, you'll be able to transition to a Certificate account.

***you cannot move from a Certification page to a Profile Page account.*

Certification Account:

You must be certified by the Eligibility Center to complete at an NCAA DI or DII school. Before you can go on official visits or sign a National Letter of Intent, you must have completed the Certification account registration (including payment or fee waiver).

Students must take NCAA approved core courses.

To check and make sure that you are in the appropriate approved courses, see your school counselor or visit: eligibilitycenter.org/courselist

***If you are actively being recruited by an NCAA school and have a Profile Page account, transition it to a Certification Account*

Students interested in learning more about what sports are available along with the opportunities available at NCAA schools should visit: ncaa.org/playcollegesports

REMEMBER:

As a college-bound student-athlete, you are responsible for your eligibility that means planning ahead, taking high school classes seriously and protecting your amateur status. It can be a different first step, but the benefits of being a student-athlete are worth the effort.

Learn. Compete. Succeed.

