



The Buzz

How to get around EHS



A survival handbook for parents

Welcome!

Welcome to How to Get Around EHS, a Survival Guide for Parents. Think of this unofficial handbook as a fun-filled compendium of tidbits gleaned from experienced high school parents and passed down to enlighten those new to EHS. (We are, after all, a three-year high school, so it helps if entering sophomores hit the ground running.) Please note that there are a number of official resources and publications at EHS designed to help you navigate the system and we will direct you to them as appropriate. Unlike the official guides, the Survival Guide, written in a conversational manner—and hopefully with wit and compassion—contains the kind of information one might gather inadvertently over coffee at Caribou, between hockey periods in the stands at Braemar, and unexpectedly in chance encounters with other parents in the frozen food aisle at Jerry's or Lund's. For all those times you have opined, "I wish someone had told me that," this guidebook is the answer.

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Resources: Who to Call, Where to Go, How to Find Out

The Front Desk: 925-848-3800

When in doubt, call the “all knowing” receptionist. She can usually connect you with the right department or the right people to answer your questions.

Other great resources are the administrators:

Principal Dr. Bruce Locklear	848-3899
Assistant Principal Eric Nelson	848-3906
Assistant Principal/ Activities Jenny Johnson	848-3805
Assistant Principal/ Athletics John Soma	848-3816
Dean of Students/ Academic Success Coordinator Heidi Howard	848-3897
Dean of Students/ ALP Coordinator Michael Pretasky	848-3140
The School Nurse Ann Little	848-3075
School Psychologist Paul Lee	848-3148
School Social Worker Doug Eischens	848-3139
Police Liaison Kenna Dick	848-3809

Or try your child’s counselor, assigned according to the initial letter of your child’s last name:

Grade 10			
A-Bri	Janet Schmiel	janschmiel@edina.k12.mn.us ,	848-3125
Bro-Fo	Jeanne Brown	jeabrown@edina.k12.mn.us ,	848-3142
Fr-Ka	Michael Holbach	mikholbach@edina.k12.mn.us ,	848-3122
Ke-Mo	Lisa Burnham	lisburnham@edina.k12.mn.us ,	848-3126
Mu-Se	Sandy Schmidt	sanschmidt@edina.k12.mn.us	848-3128
Sh-Z	William Hicks	wilhicks@edina.k12.mn.us .	848-3127
Grades 11 & 12			
A-Bro	Janet Schmiel	janschmiel@edina.k12.mn.us ,	848-3125
Bru-Fo	Jeanne Brown	jeabrown@edina.k12.mn.us ,	848-3142
Fr-J	Michael Holbach	mikholbach@edina.k12.mn.us ,	848-3122
K-Mi	Lisa Burnham	lisburnham@edina.k12.mn.us ,	848-3126
Mo-Sa	Sandy Schmidt	sanschmidt@edina.k12.mn.us	848-3128
Sc-Z	William Hicks	wilhicks@edina.k12.mn.us .	848-3127

The Counseling office receptionists can also help direct you to the best sources:

Nancy Knutson (A-J)	848-3131	(Schmiel, Brown, Holbach)
Lory Mullis (K-Z)	848-3129	(Burnham, Schmidt, Hicks)



The Edina High School Website

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/>

links you to EHS athletics, Buzzwords, Parent Council news, counseling, faculty, and a host of other resources. It will take you to places you've never gone before ... and leave you all the more informed!

E-mails are the preferred means of communication by most members of the administration and faculty, who respond quickly and efficiently for the most part. The following formula applies: use the first three letters of the individual's first "given" name followed by the person's last name. For example, to e-mail John Doe: johndoe@edina.k12.mn.us. A complete staff e-mail list can be found at www.edina.k12.mn.us/site/phonedir/staffdirectory.cfm?SiteNum=10) for your convenience.

Voice Mail is also a useful way to communicate with teachers and administration. Dial 848-3931, then dial the staff member's extension number. If you don't know the extension, enter the last name, followed by the first name until the system recognizes the name. In addition, direct lines are listed in the Student Phone Directory. These go directly to the teacher in the classroom, so please use them with discretion during the school day.

The EHS Parent Council is made up of lots of dedicated Edina High School Parents, who support staff, faculty and students with membership fees and volunteer time. Members, and particularly chairs of various committees, are a fountain of knowledge and can be most helpful when it comes to tidbits of information not often found in school publications. Check them out in the Student Directory, which by the way, is published by the Parent Council and available to you by becoming a member. Dues are \$30. The parent council website is at ehsparents.com.

EHS Parent Council News is a little like having a personal secretary to remind you of your son's swim meet or your daughter's orchestra concert. (Go to EHS home page, click on EHS Parent Council, click on "subscribe," and follow directions. Your e-mail address will be put on a private list, not made public or shared with other organizations.) Provided by the EHS Parent Council, the Parent Council News is a free self-subscribing e-mail service that sends e-mail messages of importance directly to you.

EHS website:

www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/

E-mail addresses:

First name + first three letters of last name + edina.k12.mn.us

Voice mail:

848-3931, then the extension

EHS Parent Council News:

To subscribe, go to the EHS home page, click on EHS Parent Council, click on subscribe.



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You will receive an updated list of high school activities, meeting times and testing information on a regular basis and will be advised of emergency school closings as well. Parent Council News will not inform you of dental appointments, however. If Parent Council News publishes dates and times that conflict with information you have gotten elsewhere, be sure to confirm with teachers, advisors or EHS.

Forms can be found on the Edina High School website under Announcements and Information – in the School Forms Folder.

Edline is a web-based communication service offered at Edina High School. Teachers can post and update grade reports and send them directly to parents/guardians who have registered for the service. Please note that edline does not carry over from middle school to high school, so it needs to be activated (by both students and parent) when a student enters high school. Activation codes are available at Get Connected Day and after that in the Media Center; eventually, they will be mailed to your home. Remember to check the email option if you would like to receive regular emails from the high school with important dates, activities and notices pertaining to what's going on at the high school.

You can activate Edline by visiting <http://www.edline.net> and clicking on the link labeled "Click here if you have a new activation code." Enter this activation code exactly as shown. It is unique for you (parent/guardian) and only needs to be used once on the initial activation. Midterm reports, most quarter reports and information specific to your student's grade level will be sent directly to you. Edline is a closed system, meaning that it is exclusively for the use of Edina students, parents and staff. No one else has access to your code. If you have questions or are not receiving edline emails, please contact Diane Morris at 848-4804.

The EHS Site Council is another group to contact if you have questions regarding decisions or policies made at EHS. Comprised of administrators, teachers, parents and students, the Site Council acts as an advisory council to already-existing decision-making teams.

Edline:

Check grades and assignments
www.edline.net

Edline does NOT carry over from middle school-must be re-activated by student and parent.

EHS Site Council:

Administration, students, teachers and parents who advise other decision-making teams.



Official EHS Publications

We know the temptation exists to clear the shelves, but the following official booklets are indispensable:

The Student/Parent Handbook covers the gamut from graduation requirements to student conduct and dress code. Here you can ferret out the district's definition of hazing, uncover the mysteries of the lunch program and the bell schedule, and learn more about the attendance policy.

Check out

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/students/index.html>

The Registration Catalog is the curriculum guide given to all students in grades 8-11 each year in February. You will want to refer to this little gem as your student crafts his/her schedule for the following year. Keep in mind your student's post high school aspirations as you help him/her make course selections. Included in the catalog are descriptions for both conventional courses and for alternative learning experiences, specific information about graduation requirements, credits for each course, and general information for the planning of post high school options. Print up a copy of this publication and read it. There are an amazing number of opportunities, both traditional and alternative, to be had. This publication can be found online at

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/registration/index.html>

Rights, Opportunities, and Responsibilities for Student Management covers the realm of students' rights and discipline policies. Look online at

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/students/index.html>

Arts/ Athletics/Activities Guide is a directory of extracurricular activities.

This publication can be found online at

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/athletics/pdfs/ARTACTGUIDE0809.pdf>. What you will not find in this booklet is the competitive level of each of the extracurricular activities described, nor the time commitment involved. If your student wishes to participate in a given sport, publication, musical organization, or club, they will want to explore the relative ease or difficulty of joining. If you are more of a visual learner, you may also find a slide show of current EHS

Publications:

Student/Parent Handbook – grad requirements to dress code.

www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/students/index.html

Registration catalog – curriculum guide for students grades 8-11.

www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/registration/index.html

**Arts/
Athletics/Activities
Guide - a directory of
extracurricular activities.**

www.edina.k12.mn.us/athletics/pdfs/ARTACTGUIDE0809.pdf



opportunities on the activities website! There are specific registration days for sports. Students can find out which dates to register by checking the website and must register on those days.

The Guide for Edina High School

Seniors is distributed to Seniors when counselors come into the students' Senior Social Studies classes in September to discuss college planning. It includes helpful information about selecting colleges, common mistakes, testing, the application process, alternatives to college, financing and resources. This guide is updated every year.

The Guide for Edina High School

Juniors is distributed to Juniors when counselors come into U.S. History classes in January to discuss post secondary planning.

The Student Phone Directory will not only give you the names, addresses and phone numbers of students and parents by class, but also provide you with teacher voice mail numbers, essential district office numbers, administration numbers, counselor numbers, parent council board and committee chair numbers and bell times. When you join Parent Council, you become the proud owner of two copies of the directory, which are usually distributed in early fall. We recommend that you save directories past and present.

Publications:

The Guide for Edina High School Seniors - helpful information about colleges

The Guide for Edina High School Juniors - Info about post-secondary planning

Buzzwords - parent newsletter (website temporarily unavailable.)

“The Buzz” How To Get Around EHS: A Survival Handbook For Parents

is what you are reading now. You can view it at <http://www.ehsparents.com>

Buzzwords is the parent newsletter produced by the Parent Council. Current and back issues are available for viewing and downloading at the Parent Council Website: <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/parents/buzzwords.htm>. This newsletter is posted online 7 times a year. Read it carefully, lest you miss an important tidbit. If you have a student who is involved in any educational or extra curricular activity that could use some press, feel free to contact the Buzzwords editors at



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ehsbuzzword@hotmail.com. Don't forget to include your name and phone number.

Student Publications

Windigo is the EHS yearbook, which is delivered and distributed in late May. A spring supplement is prepared in the latter part of the school year to cover major spring activities and events including spring sports and prom. The website,

www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/activities/windigo/index.html, includes information about online ordering, dates and deadlines, photo submissions and advertising opportunities.

Images is the student literary magazine featuring the photography and creative writing of EHS students.

Zephyrus is the student newspaper, produced monthly and distributed free to students. It's possible to have a subscription mailed to you directly for \$20 a year. Just call the Zephyrus office. You can also read it online at: <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/activities/index.html>

Student publications:

Windigo - EHS yearbook.
Ordering information at
<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/activities/windigo/index.html>,

Images - literary magazine

Zephyrus - student newspaper.
Online at
www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/activities/index.html



Websites and Phone Numbers

You will want to bookmark these Websites for easy access:

Edina Athletic Booster Club	www.edina.k12.mn.us/athletics
ACT and SAT practice exams	ecos.princetonreview.com/
	www.collegeboard.com
	www.act.org
Edina High School Band	www.edinabands.com
Edina High School Guidance Office:	www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling
Edina High School Website	www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/
Edina High School Parent Council Calendar	http://ehsparents.com/event
Edina High School Parent Council Website	http://parents.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/index.htm
Edina High School Social worker	http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/services/socialworker/
Edina High School Sports Hotline	952-848-3814 - Times, directions, cancellations and other information is updated daily on this phone line.
Edina High School Thespians	Temporarily unavailable
Parent Communication Network (PCN)	www.edinapcn.org
To subscribe to EHS Parent Council News, go to	www.ehsparents.com/email_list.htm
To un-subscribe from EHS Parent Council Mail, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options	http://mail.ehsparents.com/mailman/listinfo/ehsparentcouncilmail_ehsparents.com/#subscribers .
To subscribe to Edline go to	www.edina.k12.mn.us/edline



Getting Connected

The Day

(Tuesday, August 25, 2009, 2:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., EHS; enter at Door 7)

This is a great way to get organized for the school year ahead for both parents and students. Make sure and go online and complete forms in advance. Orientations for incoming 10th grade and new families are held at 4pm and 6pm in the Edina Performing Arts Center (EPAC) located at the high school.

In addition, Spanish New Family Orientation is at 5:00 p.m. and Somali New Family Orientation is at 5:30 p.m., both in the EHS Community Room.

Parents: Finding Your Way

Senior parents who have spent many hours planning the Senior Party, painting backdrops, and working the plant sale side-by-side with other parents of seniors have often said that they wish they'd had that experience as sophomore parents. It's a great climate to make friends and share war stories, to think through options and exchange information. There are opportunities, however, to find your niche and make friends for life **before** your child graduates from EHS.

If you're looking for ways to get connected with the school and with other parents:

- "Get involved!" is probably the best advice we can give parents. There are volunteer opportunities for any sport, club or organization your child is interested in. Contact the staff advisor or booster club president to offer your services. You'll make an instant friend!
- Read *Buzzwords* and subscribe to EHS Parent Council News. Get your information from the most direct source possible. Nothing is more damaging than rumors.
- Go to Parent Council meetings. There is usually a general meeting held in fall. The date and time will be posted online and in *Buzzwords*.
- Attend forums. General Forums include topics such as "Dance Fever," which is held in the Fall and

Get Connected Day
Tuesday, August 25, 2009
2 p.m.-8 p.m. at EHS
Enter at Door 7

10th Grade and new family
orientation at 4 p.m. and 6
p.m. in the Edina Performing
Arts Center



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brings you up to speed on the dances held at EHS.

Counseling Forums include:

- Junior Parent Night in Spring (This is a “head’s up” about college planning)
 - College Night for Senior Parents in September
 - Financial Aid Night for Senior Parents in January
-
- **New Families:** New Family “Reps” are available throughout the year to answer any questions. Their names are listed in the Student Directory. There are many services available to new families, whether they are from across town or across an ocean.
 - **Parent Communication Network (PCN)** (<http://www.edinapcn.org>) is a volunteer organization, committed to providing parent education forums throughout the year that may be applicable to the High School experience. Videos featuring speakers from past forums are available in the Career Center (Room 227.)
 - While you’re at school, check out the magazine rack in the main office where you will find many forms, permits or applications pertinent to High School life.
 - In the hall outside of the counseling department, you can take a look at the Staff Picture Board, which will help familiarize you with teachers and staff members. You will find that knowing specialists, custodians and front desk people as well as teachers and administration, will be invaluable to you as you volunteer for various events or need to get answers to questions left unanswered here.

New families:

New family “reps” are listed in the Student directory

Parent Communication Network (PCN):

A volunteer organization that provides parent education forums
www.edinapcn.org



Parents: Building Bridges

- Know your child's teachers and counselor. Call, write notes, read all missives sent home. Students should preferably meet their counselor in 9th grade. (By the way, colleges do look at 9th grade classes, credits and grades.)
- Make an effort to ask questions of other parents, teachers and counselors. Learn about scholarships, special programs and courses available to your child. Read the course catalog. Do not hesitate to attend grade level meetings slated for Juniors and Seniors when your child is only a Sophomore or Freshman. It pays to know what issues your child will face in advance.
- Know the parents of your child's friends. If they're having a party, call them. Will there be active chaperoning? And set rules for your own home: (No alcohol use. No chemical use. No tobacco use. If something gets broken, please tell us. The party is inside - once you leave the house, you will be gone for the evening. Our doors close at :00. Please have rides arranged to be here before then. Have fun and if you need anything, just ask.)

Tips for parents:

- Know your child's teachers and counselors
- Ask questions of other parents, teachers and counselors
- Know the parents of your child's friends



Student Life at EHS

The best advice we can give is to encourage your son or daughter to find something that interests him or her and jump in. Sometimes the competitive nature of various activities can be intimidating, but there are many activities that are all-inclusive, such as intramural, non-cut sports, and clubs and organizations throughout the school. Have your son or daughter check with fellow students and advisors for the scoop.

The EHS Student Directory will be invaluable for connecting with friends and fellow classmates. Membership in the Parent Council gets you two free copies, usually made available in early fall. Parents who are members of the Parent Council may purchase additional copies for a small fee by submitting their request for extra copies with the EHS Parent Council membership form. Nonmembers can purchase copies of the directory sometime after Winter break if they are available.

Students: Clubs & Activities

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. The Arts/Athletics/Activities Guide (<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/athletics/pdfs/ARTACTGUIDE0809.pdf>) provides a more comprehensive list.

Students and parents should use imagination and legwork to find what activities exist for students in their particular areas of interest. From Latin Club to Quiz Bowl, from 212° to the Fall musical, from pit orchestra to the Multi-Cultural Club, possibilities for involvement are out there. Let's help students plug in!

Rule of Thumb: the higher the level of band, chorus, or any athletic team, the greater the selectivity, time commitment and competitiveness. Check with the individual advisor/instructor for more information. Some non-cut sports are also available and are noted in this section.

Because of recent budget cuts, a fee is associated with most activities.

SAAC Committee: The Student Activity Advisory Council is comprised of a group of teachers, advisors, coaches,

Clubs and activities:

See the Arts/Athletics/ Activities Guide for a comprehensive list, or visit

www.edina.k12.mn.us/athletics/pdfs/artactguide0809.pdf

Rule of thumb:

The higher the level of band, chorus, or any athletic team, the greater the selectivity, time commitment and competitiveness.



parents and students who study extracurricular issues, raise concerns and help create school-wide policies. If you have any questions or concerns about extracurricular activities, consult The Arts, Athletics, Activities Guide or contact your SAAC parent representatives or the Athletic Director, who is the Council Chair.

Students: Music

Band : Auditions, held in the spring, will determine band placement:

Marching Band – includes all band members and is primarily a fall activity that includes pep fest participation. Summer Band Camp, held the second to last week of August, is a requirement.

- **Symphonic** – consists mostly of Grade 10 musicians and includes some Juniors and Seniors
- **Varsity** – more selective than Symphonic, includes mostly Grade 11 musicians and some 10th and 12th graders as well.
- **Concert** – 11th and 12th grades only. This is the most selective of the lot. Concert Band is featured in the annual POPS Concert.
- **Jazz** –audition only, is open to all grades and to non-“bandies” as well, and meets at 7:00 a.m. once a week. Placement will be in one of two jazz bands.

Choir : Choir options are currently being reevaluated and discussed. These are the current options:

- **Varsity** - largely comprised of sophomores. No audition is required. All 10th grade students are welcome!
- **Varsity Ensemble** - audition only, comprised of a select group of Varsity Choir members.
- **Bel Canto** - audition choir for women in the 11th and 12th grades. (Existence of this group is dependent upon boy/girl ratio in the choir.)
- **Bel Canto Ensemble** - auditions in the Fall, comprised of a select group of Bel Canto members. (Existence of this group is also dependent upon the boy/girl ratio in the choir.)
- **Mixed Choir** - audition choir for men and women in grades 11 and 12. (This is dependent upon the boy/girl ratio)

Music options abound:

- Band
- Choir
- Varsity
- Varsity Ensemble
- Bel Canto
- Bel Canto Ensemble
- Mixed Choir
- Mixed Choir Ensemble
- Men’s Chorus
- Concert Choir
- Chambers Singers
- Alternative



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- **Mixed Choir Ensemble** - audition only, comprised of a select group of Mixed Choir members.
- **Men’s Chorus** - meets Wednesday mornings from 7:15-8:00 AM and is open to all adult men and male high school students in the community. Required for boys in Concert Choir.
- **Concert Choir** - audition choir, comprised of Juniors and Seniors. Highly competitive.
- **Chamber Singers** - by audition only, a select group of Concert Choir members with a heavy performance schedule during the holidays. Auditions are held in September.

Alternative Music Opportunities: If your kids want to get involved in non-structured, non-academic musical opportunities, we suggest Environmental Jamnesty, held every January, which benefits Youth Serving Youth (YSY) groups and features 4-6 local high school bands. Contact Rachael Pream Grenier, 848-3124.

Students: Leadership/Speaking skills

212: Edina High School’s 212 Student Leadership Program is a program where students are taught leadership skills and then given the opportunity to practice those very skills to execute a student developed school improvement plan. Opportunity, skill development, and practical application of skills define the 212 Student Leadership Program.

Student Council: Student Council meets daily during 6th hour and is a graded and credited class at EHS. Four officers from the Senior class and 6 representatives from each class (Senior, Junior and Sophomore) are elected annually by a school-wide election in the spring.

Debate : EHS has fielded some excellent debate teams. Beginning in ninth grade, debaters can compete on 3 levels – Novice, Junior Varsity, and Varsity. Novice and J.V. debaters generally compete within the state of Minnesota and can expect approximately two 2-hour practices per week and five competitions a season. Varsity debaters compete in Midwestern cities and states and often participate in more than 5 competitions a season, including

<p>Student leadership/speaking skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 212 • Student Council • Debate • Mock trial
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the Nationals if they qualify. Varsity debate is a time-intensive commitment. The level of debate at which one competes (i.e. novice, J.V. or varsity) is contingent upon the level of individual commitment and choice rather than seniority. Note that two types of debate are available: (1) Lincoln Douglas Debate and (2) Policy Debate.

Mock Trial : This is an intensive preparation of legal cases based on materials from the Minnesota Bar Association. Students act as witnesses or attorneys and generally meet twice a week during the season (Nov.-Mar.). Competitions, usually two a season, begin on a regional level and may progress to a state level.

Students: Service

Youth Serving Youth: This program encourages youth leadership, community service, and social awareness through many extracurricular student-led groups that meet regularly during the school year. YSY also just helps kids connect with their peers. Check out Anime Club, Amnesty International, Gay-Straight Alliance, Habitat for Humanity, Peace Jam, Project Earth, Purple Ground, Volunteer Club, Writer's Club and others. Several of these groups grant community service credit. For more information, contact Rachael Pream Grenier at 952-848-3124, or look for her in Room 231 at EHS. The Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Trip has become very popular and usually fills up in the fall. Students vote on the location of the project. If your student is interested, be sure to have them contact Rachael early!

Service Learning: The difference between service learning and community service lies in their intent. Service learning is a teaching method that weaves service into the curriculum. It engages young people in addressing community issues, problems or needs as a part of their academic studies or as part of another kind of intentional learning activity. Picking up trash on a riverbank is service. Studying water samples under a microscope is learning. When science students collect and analyze water samples, document their results, and present findings to a local pollution control agency...that is service learning. For more information contact Julie Rogers Bascom at julbascom@edina.k12.mn.us

Student Service opportunities:

- Youth Serving Youth – Contact is Rachael Pream Grenier at 848-3124

Service Learning – Contact is Julie Rogers Bascom at julbascom@edina.k12.mn.us

- SALT – Service Adventure Leadership Team – go to www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/services/socialworker/SALT/index.html



SALT (Service Adventure Leadership Team) Through backpacking, BWCA expeditions, rock climbing, and other high adventure activities, students build relationships with young people from different backgrounds, as well as leaders from the school, community and business world. This program, consisting of both guys and girls, includes monthly meetings and activities, day field trips, weekend retreats, and wilderness expeditions. SALT operates year-round, but students can be involved in just one event if they choose. For an application or more information, please see Doug Eischens, EHS Social Worker or see the web page at <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/services/socialworker/SALT/index.html>

Students: Reading and Writing

Breakfast Book Club: What a concept! Give students interesting, contemporary books to read, and a relaxed atmosphere where they can talk about their ideas, and they'll come in droves! This club is open to all students, grades 10-12, and meets before school.

Images is the student literary magazine featuring the photography and creative writing of EHS students. The Images staff meets once a week during the school year and produces one major publication annually. Applications are taken and interviews are conducted in the fall. One need not be a staff member to submit work for consideration.

Windigo is the EHS yearbook, produced by students and taken as a class. Selection is by application and is based on a balance of gender, grade levels and interest in writing, lab work and photography. An interview with the teacher is also a part of the application process. Those interested, including ninth graders, apply in the spring.

Zephyrus is the student newspaper, also produced by students and taken as a class. Selection is by application and is competitive. Those interested, including ninth graders, apply in the spring.

Reading and writing:

- Breakfast Book Club
- Images – literary arts magazine
- Windigo – EHS yearbook
- Zephyrus – student newspaper



Students: Sports

Non-Cut Sports: Despite a highly competitive athletic program, there are places where athletes can test their prowess, develop in their sport, participate as part of a school team, and conceivably even letter. Non-cut sports participants play as a team, against other schools. Currently available at EHS are: boys' and girls' cross country, football, boys' and girls' Nordic skiing, boys' and girls' swimming, boys' and girls' track and field, and synchronized swimming. If a non-cut sport were to become oversubscribed to the point of exceeding available facilities, cuts are possible. Thus far, this has not been an issue in any of the above sports. All students must meet registration deadlines for sports activities, including non-cut sports.

Intramural Sports: The intramural sports scene at EHS is alive, well and a lot of fun. Students organize their own teams and play against each other in the field house. Check the athletic office for options and the seasons when intramural sports are offered. Touch football, basketball and badminton are some activities that draw a lively following of students every year.

Cheerleading: EHS cheerleading consists of JV and Varsity teams whose primary purpose is to encourage school spirit and involve fans with athletic games. Both perform at EHS sporting events and compete in local and sometimes national competitions. Cheerleaders are able to earn letters in their activity. Participants try out for the team in the spring, start their season in mid-August and end in March. Additional summer commitments are optional. Both the JV and Varsity team prepare a routine that includes cheer, dance and tumbling. Cheerleading is not a Minnesota League-sanctioned sport, but is an activity.

EHS Dance Team: consisting of 25 to 30 girls, holds tryouts for spots in the spring and performs at home soccer games, football games, and some basketball games. Practices take place after school for two hours a day, Monday through Friday. During the winter season, the Hornets compete in the Minnesota State High School League. Members may earn letters in this sport. Junior Varsity Hornets, now in its third year, consists of 15 to 20 girls who perform at Junior Varsity games and events. J.V.

Sports:

- Non-cut sports – boys and girls cross country, football, boys and girls Nordic skiing, boys and girls swimming, boys and girls track and field, synchronized swimming
- Intramural sports – touch football, basketball, badminton and more
- Cheerleading – JV and Varsity
- EHS Dance Team – 25 to 30 girls



Hornettes are not eligible to letter in the sport and finish their season in February.

Students: Miscellaneous

Senior Women is an unofficial organization for all Senior women. An informal organizational meeting is held at the end of summer to vote on t-shirts and sweat shirts and a Senior Women acronym. Traditionally, the organization sponsors a homecoming float, community service project, and a winter dance, all with the approval of the administration.

Senior Women get together at the end of the summer before their senior year to order apparel (typically a t-shirt or sweatshirt) which they can choose to buy or not. Every senior woman has an opportunity to purchase Senior Women apparel, be a part of their service project and/or make a homecoming float. “Senior Women” is not a club or official EHS activity, but a bunch of girls who organize these things on their own.

DECA (Distributive Education Club of America) is the school’s business club manages a coffee shop in the lower level of the high school called De Café which gives the students an opportunity to learn about all aspects of a business on site.

Multi-Cultural Club is a group of EHS students who promote diversity. The group presents a multi-cultural program each year in early spring.

International Club is designed to help acclimate exchange students and recent immigrants to EHS, and to encourage all students who are interested in sharing their own heritage with others.

“I think the key to a successful high school experience is that you belong to something, that you are a contributing member and that you are a part of a bigger picture. Whether that is participating in Cross Country or being an “Edina Ambassador,” there’s a feeling of personal success when you do something that matters.”
-EHS parent



Students: Support Groups

All groups are facilitated by the school social worker, are open to grades 10-12, meet weekly and welcome new members. Information regarding the groups listed here can be found on the EHS Social Worker website <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/services/socialworker/index.html>

New Students Students who are new to Edina High School should contact Heidi Howard.

Growing Through Grief: For youth who have experienced the death of a parent or family member, this group is co-facilitated by a Methodist Hospital Grief Counselor.

Against the Flow: For youth who know that drugs or alcohol have had a negative impact in their lives and want support for reducing their use. This group helps students connect with others who want to make better choices for themselves, even when their friends aren't.

Student Support Groups

- EHS Social worker website <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/services/socialworker/index.html>
- New students – contact Heidi Howard
- Growing through Grief – for those who have experienced the death of a parent or family member
- Against the flow – for youth who want support to reduce drug/alcohol use



Incidentals: all four years

When it comes to incidentals, it helps to think about a year at a time, never losing sight of the whole picture. Knowing what is two years down the road helps parents and students alike focus on what is necessary and what is important. With that in mind, we offer you the breakdown, year by year.

A Word from Our School Social Worker, Doug Eischens

- Less is more—instead of constantly adding on to your or your child’s schedule, do less and enjoy life more. At some point people reach their maximum capacity and “no” may be the most freeing thing you can say.
- Don’t deprive your child of being deprived—whether it’s the cell phone, the car, the latest clothing, getting to go to Cancun on Spring Break, giving them money whenever they want, etc.—intentionally do not give your kids everything. Kids don’t need to get everything they want, and neither do we.
- Remember parents are still the most important influence in their kids’ lives, regardless of what it may seem. As humbling as it may be, keep in mind that they are always watching you.
- Encourage excellence, but be careful about expecting perfection.
- Encourage exploration of several post-secondary options, not just four-year and elite colleges. Encourage kids to take charge of their learning early on by asking them questions rather than telling them what they “have” to do. Technical Colleges and Community Colleges are good options for many kids, and should be presented as viable ways to begin building an awesome resume.
- Highly discourage unchaperoned Spring Breaks.

Tips from School Social Worker Doug Eischens:

- Don’t overschedule
- Don’t get them everything they want
- You influence your children
- Encourage excellence
- Encourage exploration of several post-secondary options
- Discourage unchaperoned Spring Breaks



The Buzz: How to get around EHS

- Encourage kids to get involved in service to others-- those who really love to serve should be encouraged to letter in community service (120 hours over grades 9-12). See "community service hours" for more information.
- Encourage kids to take advantage of the May Term program at the end of their senior year--this is an excellent opportunity to design a project or experience that could very well be the highlight of their high school careers.
www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/students/mayterm/index.html

Attendance has become more defined in the past several years. Tardies and absences are taken seriously and are noted on report cards. Call if your student will be absent or late, or write a note and send it along with your student. If your student must leave early, you will need to write a note or make a phone call (early enough to get it recorded by the attendance office.) The attendance office will then issue an excused pass to the student which he/she would present to the teacher from whose class they need to be dismissed early. Obtaining a pass should be done preferably before school or between classes. Refer to The Student/Parent Handbook for more details:

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/ourschool/hours.html>.
<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/pdfs/absences.pdf>

Excessive student absences can result in a student being dropped from class. The attendance line for absence notification is **952-848-3802**. All students who come to school late, must sign in at door 7, in just inside the main entrance.

Students, who will be going to **medical appointments** during the school day, must bring back a slip from the medical office. Notes from parents may be used to initially excuse students from school, but we do need documentation from a doctor upon return.

If a student will be going on a **family vacation or a college visit**, they will need to completely fill out the Pre-Arranged absence form and have all of their teachers sign it and return it to the main office FIVE school days prior to the anticipated absence.

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/pdfs/vacationform.pdf>

"Sometimes kids have to look hard to find something that works for them. My son found a niche building stage sets and then got to help with lighting and sound for stage productions. It gave him a place to belong and he loved it."

- Mom of an EHS Graduate.



Attendance . . . continued

Students going on **visits to colleges** must bring back signed documentation from the college. The documentation may be turned in to either Mrs. McPherson, at door 7, or Mrs. Kohlmann in the main office.

Busses : Truth be told? Not all EHS students ride in carpools. Here's the scoop on busses:

- **Tardies:** If your child's bus is late, s/he will have an excused absence, so long as s/he waits for the bus. If the bus is late, you pick him or her up at the bus stop on your way to work and they get to school late, they are considered tardy.
- **Late Start Days:** If your student has a late start day, the busses will come as usual, delayed the same amount of time as the school day is shortened. So, for example, if the day starts three hours late, the bus will come to your child's stop three hours later than usual.
- **Student Activity Busses:** These are busses that run later so students can participate in after-school activities. Three of them leave doors 1 and 3 at 4:30 PM. Students must purchase tickets (\$1 each) at the front desk earlier in the day. They can refer to a schedule there to find out which bus they are to ride. If you have other questions about the transportation system, you can call the Edina Schools Bus Garage (952-848-4979.)

"Co-curricular" activities, such as band, orchestra, theatre, and choir trips, are wonderful opportunities, and are offered yearly in the more experienced and competitive groups. Some of these trips are more elaborate than others. Expenses vary, especially if they are overseas trips. Costs can usually be defrayed by fund-raisers.

Community Service Hours: EHS encourages every student to complete ten hours of community service during their High School residency. Hours can be accrued from 9th-12th grade. If your child is involved in lots of outside volunteer activities, he/she could be eligible for a school letter in Community service. For more information, contact Rachel Pream Grenier at 848-3124.

Hazing : Sometimes thought of as a prestige/popularity deal, hazing is a threatening act. Encourage your kids to

Student Activity Busses

- For after-school activities
- Leave at 4:30 p.m.
- Students must purchase \$1 tickets earlier in the day



The Buzz: How to get around EHS

talk about their fears. Remember you should call the administration and/or the police if hazing truly becomes an issue at your house. It is important to name names if you want it to stop!

Help : The High School years can be hard for kids. In a rapidly changing and increasingly diverse society, there are a growing number of issues our youth (and their families) face on a daily basis. Teachers and counselors are often a “first stop” for students who need help, primarily because students feel more comfortable talking with someone they see in front of class every day, or they feel they have a relationship with. If necessary, the teacher or counselor will refer the student to Doug Eischens, the EHS Social Worker, or Dr. Janet Schank, District Chemical and Mental Health Coordinator. Both are valuable resources to the school community, providing a variety of support services to students, families and staff. As a parent, you can feel free to call either one of them if your student needs help to address tough life issues that may have a direct impact on his/her academic performance. They are available to intervene during times of personal, school or community crisis, can help you connect with resources and people both in-school and outside-of-school, and can be an advocate for students whose needs are not being met.

Many otherwise “average” youth and their families are dealing with complex issues and are simply feeling overwhelmed as the margins of their lives are packed to overflowing in a world reeling from option-shock. Moving to a new school or community; the death of a parent, sibling or friend; the pressures of high school and preparing for college; balancing family, school, work, extracurricular and religious activities; drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse; depression, suicide, disconnected and estranged youth; eating disorders, other serious mental health concerns, and divorce are serious issues that need attention. Support services offered during these stressful times can make the difference.

The EHS Social worker website is <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/services/socialworker/index.html>. There you will find information regarding student support groups, educational alternatives, referral information, and links to all kinds of issues. Mr. Eischens' e-mail address is doueischens@edina.k12.mn.us. Dr. Schank's address is janschank@edina.k12.mn.us.

EHS High School Code is 240708, and is required for all college applications and national testing



High School Code: This is 240708, and is required for all college applications and national testing, this number is particularly important for seniors and should be emblazoned on your refrigerator or at the very least, have a special place in your phone book.

Illness/Medications : Ann Little, our school nurse and for all practical purposes, our kids' "Mom-Away-From-Home" has put together a wonderful website that includes everything from policy info and forms (including medication at school), to community and school resources, to guidelines about when to keep your child at home. It also has links to numerous other good medical resources on such conditions as ADHD, asthma, eating disorders, sleep, diabetes, chemical health, mental health and more. She has included two Power Points that address commonly asked questions concerning asthma and diabetes. Check it out at <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/support/healthservices>.

If a student needs to take medication during the school day s/he needs to keep it in the health office and needs to have it administered by the Licensed School Nurse. Students who carry inhalers for asthma may keep their inhaler with them as long as the school nurse has been notified and the student is in compliance with a doctor's orders.

Make-up work while your student is sick : The health office does not collect homework when students are sick. If your child is interested in getting homework due to an absence, it is best to e-mail that teacher if s/he will not be returning within the next day or two. The staff directory is on the site link at the EHS homepage. Students can click on their teachers' name to take them to their e-mail. That way the teacher can e-mail assignments, directions, attachments, etc. by just hitting the reply button. It is not a bad idea for students to check either EDLINE and/or the teacher's website. Often assignments are listed there for the entire semester.

If your child is absent for an extended amount of time due to a health reasons, it's a good idea to let the school nurse know. She can be a liaison between school and home in ways that can be very helpful.

Late Start Days: are days once or twice a month when classes begin later to accommodate for required testing during school days. Late Start also allows for faculty-centered staff development times and student-help

Illness/medications

- Info available at <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/support/healthservices>.
- Students who take meds during the day should leave them in nurse's office
- Students should email teachers to get missed assignments



sessions. The faculty uses staff development time to discuss curriculum, instructional approaches and students' needs. The student-centered days provide students an opportunity to meet with teachers for additional help. The focus of each late start day will be published in *Buzzwords*.

Lockers: There are two types of lockers in the high school full length lockers for general purpose. These lockers are available upon student request (see Pam Berling in the main office) and have a built in lock. Oftentimes students use the longer lockers to stash their ipods, cell phones, book bags, clothes, wallets and other valuables because they're bigger and more convenient, but thefts can easily occur, and nothing can be more frustrating than having to admit, when filling out a theft report, that the locker wasn't locked. Better yet, leave valuables at home. The second type of locker is for phy ed.

Parking Permits : "No one takes the bus." At least that's what your child will tell you. Sophomores are most likely the students you'll find standing at the bus stop on school mornings. By 11th grade, many kids are in car pools. The high school has a tiered priority system for granting parking passes, which is outlined on the applications available online under forms. There is a mad rush for these before school begins in the fall. Application forms are made readily available by mid-August. Stay on top of parking permit deadlines (they seem to change every year.) Outside of PSEO students, carpool must have three or more **high school** students. Parents of all car pool participants must sign the application before it is turned in to the office. Permits are distributed the first week of school. The parking fees at EHS are now \$112.50 per semester. (Valet parking can't be far away!) If a car is illegally parked or doesn't have a permit posted, the booting charge is \$30 for the first offense. Lost permits are replaced for \$30. Permits are hung from the rearview mirror and can be transferred from one car to another within the same carpool. Carpool partners can change by semester.

Daily parking permits are available at door 7 for \$3. The permit must be put on the car before the school day starts.

The Spirit Store : Edina T shirts, sweatshirts, etc. are available on the website. Generally, Edina paraphernalia is also available on a conspicuously placed sales table

Parking permits

- Many students carpool
- Permits are \$112.50/semester
- Parking permit applications available by mid-August
- Carpools must have three or more high school students



during open houses and teachers' conferences and at all home football games.

Spring Break : Picture this. It's late March. The snow has melted. (Well, almost, except for that stubborn little mound in your driveway's northeast corner.) The sun is shining, the birds are twittering. And it seems as if everyone is going somewhere exotic for spring break. The truth is not everyone goes, regardless of what your children will tell you. Doug Eischens, our school social worker strongly recommends against unchaperoned Spring Breaks. If your student wants to go away and seeks an alternative to the typical spring break escapes, there are other options, such as community service trips where you can build houses for the poor or tutor inner city kids. Scholarships, in some cases, are available for the latter.

Tickets : Weekly activities are actually moderate in cost. Tickets to sporting events are \$4 -\$7 each. The Caribou bill after the game is double that. If you're interested in attending performances at EHS, some tickets are more difficult to get than others. POPS, Current Jam and the Fall Musical tend to be very popular events for the whole community. Generally you can purchase tickets at the box office one hour prior to the event or call 848-3144 between the hours of 11:30 and 1:00 one week before the show. In many cases, tickets can be purchased online as well. For free passes to arts & athletic events for senior citizens call 952-848-3900.

Yearbook : The **Windigo** is a high-quality publication, encapsulating the year for students. Your child will probably want to own one. Getting an order turned in early gives you a price break, so watch for notices in the Buzzwords. The longer you wait to purchase Windigo, the pricier it gets.

Jostens has an efficient online ordering system which is really slick. No more forms, no more checks, no more mistakes. <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/activities/windigo/>

The Windigo includes all deadlines for purchasing books, both upcoming and back copies, and submitting photos, parent ads, Senior bios and special moment photos (see "Senior Year.") Parents are encouraged to contribute pictures of students participating in both school and outside activities. Outdoor pictures of students camping, fishing, boating, scouting, dancing, performing, horseback riding, etc. are welcomed. You may place these pictures in the

Windigo

Can be ordered online at

www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/activities/windigo/order.html



Windigo box in the office, or send them to Edina High School, Attn: Windigo, 6754 Valley View Rd., Edina, MN 55439.

Dances

Dances are a big part of the social picture at Edina. All dances are open to all EHS students and their dates. You will want to be as informed as possible. Plans tend to spin out of control without some direction.

The first big dance of the year is Homecoming and it seems to swoop down on EHS with all the speed and intensity of a late season hurricane. A “heads-up” to sophomore parents: Some Sophomores start planning dates and parties as well as techniques for asking the girl out in late July to August. No pressure Mom, but occasionally invites get quite elaborate — decorated cars and bedrooms, balloons and Hershey kisses, etc. On the other hand, it is entirely acceptable to make a simple old-fashioned phone call to invite your date.

If you have a son who is dragging his heels, but wants to attend a dance, encourage him to get with it; a date needs time to plan! Attending STAG with a group of friends is also a popular option, particularly with sophomores. If your son or daughter shows no interest in attending a dance, that’s okay too.

An interesting note: Depending on the relationship of the couple, there are times when your child and his/her date will get to the dance and separate to socialize on their own or with other groups. This may be entirely acceptable in their minds. Seeing and being seen can be the focus for some. Socializing with friends outside their own group may be the focus for others. Still others would consider this rude. It’s a good idea to broach this topic with your child so that there is an understanding among the group or couple, and that expectations are met.

Dances:

- Homecoming
- Sadie Hawkins
- Sweetheart
- Prom

If your child would like to bring a guest from another school

Please fill out a Guest Request Form (located on the Edina High School Website, School Forms). The form needs to be signed by an administrator at the guest’s school and faxed to EHS main office (848-3801) at least 2 days prior to the dance.

Q and A Regarding Dances



Q: What's the scoop on the dances at the High School?

There are four:

- **Homecoming** (October) Semiformal/formal - held at the high school
- **Sadie Hawkins** (November or December)
Typically, the girl does the asking for this dance- Cowboy/cowgirl-type wear, but couples or groups also dress in random "themes". Kids can get carried away on this one, so please help your son or daughter understand that dress appropriate for school is still important! - Held at the high school.
- **Sweetheart** (February) Again, typically the girl does the asking - Semiformal
- **Prom** (May) Formal (Prom is an event open to all, but, generally, it's Juniors and Seniors who attend.) Held off-site.

Q: What are the traditions planned around Homecoming?

During the summer, Student Council goes to work on Homecoming plans. Two weeks prior to the big event, EHS Seniors receive a roster of all 12th grade students and are asked to cast votes for 10 girls and 10 boys. These finalists become the Homecoming Court from which the entire school will elect a queen and king. In addition, there's a week of school-wide fun and frivolity, from barbecues to outdoor movies and bonfires. These activities are all-inclusive, encompassing even those students who choose not to participate in the dance itself. Coronation is on Thursday; the Pep fest is on Friday, followed by a late afternoon parade and the football game that night. The Homecoming Dance is on Saturday evening. There are a number of events that take place prior to the game and dance.

Q: What is this I hear about "groups?"

Part of the fun (and complexity) is putting together groups of friends with whom to move through the evening. This can be very complicated. Your son's date, for instance, wants to have her best friend, Sally, in the group, so he might have to find a date for Sally from a pool of boys he doesn't really know very well. Bill agrees to go with Sally but he wants to have a couple of his friends along who have dates no one knows. It is an opportunity, particularly for sophomores, to get to know another group of people

"Along with the homecoming dance itinerary our sophomore son circulated to parents of girls in his group, we invited all the parents to our house for a potluck hors d'oeuvre party after the group photos at another parent's home. Since we didn't know many of the people, it was a great way to spend time with them and to await the calls to shuttle the group from one place to another."

-Edina Parent



and may be a very positive thing. On the other hand, this process might be very unsettling for parents, who don't know many of the members of their child's group. In addition, the size of a group can become fairly cumbersome. Listen to your child. If things seem to be getting too stressful, offer some suggestions or offer to host a meeting of the group planners. Numbers can change overnight with couples moving in and out of groups as they shift one to another until their needs are met.

What type of "schedule" is there before and/or after the dances?

Variety and creativity abound, but the norm seems to be as follows: Pre-dance there is a "photo get-together" at a private home, a local park, church or some other venue, where an entire group assembles and has both group and individual pictures taken. (Due to a lack of interest or need, professional photographers are typically not present at the dances.) Then it's off to dinner for dance-goers at a restaurant or home depending on preference. Having parents host a dinner for students at a private home is a popular and less expensive option than dining out at a restaurant. The dance is from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the high school (with the exception of Prom and Sweethearts). Following the dance, there are a number of possible student-planned events, such as hayrides, splatball, bowling etc. Sometimes these activities go on well into the wee hours of the night.

Talk to your child and other parents about curfews, safety issues and behavioral expectations! Every parent should have a list of all group members, their parents' phone numbers and an agenda for the evening.

Q: What about transportation?

There are lots of ways to get the students to their various activities, but the number one concern should be safety. Some options that parents have used include parents driving, students driving, limousines or buses. If considering a limo or bus, here are some guidelines:

- Select a company that does NOT rely on high school events for the bulk of its business and one that requires parental agreement or permission even if the students are 18.

"Listen to your gut. What are your family rules? Don't compromise them for the group."

-Sr. Mom



The Buzz: How to get around EHS

- Avoid one-car-owner services or those that have not been in business for very long.
- Know the policies and procedures required by the company you hire. (Certain companies, for example, require that underage customers sign a no-drug or alcohol agreement. Some will search bags and/or lock them in the trunk. Violations can result in taking the group home at the expense of other students and a loss of payment.)

Q: What about cost? How much can a person expect to spend on an evening?

Students seem to accept the notion of doing things gradually - in other words, start small and build up to the big wallet blowout your Senior year. The range is \$100 to \$500 depending on clothing, food, transportation, etc. Prom is the most expensive dance. Tickets for the dance itself run \$35-\$60 per couple, and usually include two souvenir t-shirts.

Q: How can costs be curbed?

- Instead of hiring a professional photographer for group shots, ask a take-charge parent to do the honors
- Do in-home dinners or progressive dinners
- Borrow a dress or suit jacket for the evening
- Shop at the Dance Attire Sale, sponsored by the Parent Council. Held in January, this event offers people an opportunity to bring in gently used formal dresses, shoe, wraps, shawls, men and women's shoes, suits, blazers, dress trousers, ties and evening bags to sell on a consignment basis. The clothes, marked by the owners are displayed in the Cafeteria. Try-on rooms are available.
- Check the Yellow pages for used formal wear and vintage clothing.
- Plan group parties in homes

Q: What's the attendance like at school sponsored dances?

Dances are generally well attended. Approximately 1,000 students attended the Homecoming dance last year. 800 attended the Sadie Hawkins dances. Sweetheart draws about 650, and Prom, about 500, although these numbers vary from year to year. Individual tickets are sold and students may attend with a date or go alone. A few dozen students attend the dances without a date every year and that's okay!

“Know where they are going, who they are with, what they are doing. Beware of overnights! ‘Everybody’s doing it’ is no excuse.”
–EHS Parent



Q: What about chaperones?

Usually six faculty members and several parent couples (drafted by the Student Council) volunteer to chaperone. All adults make a solemn promise to recede into the background like wallflowers.

Q: Let's talk about safety and expectations with regard to tobacco, alcohol, and other substance use and abuse.

Know your students' dates and party companions. Talk to their parents ahead of time and get an evening agenda from the teens. After-dance parties are not required. Use your best judgment, and consult with the other parents of the group before promising anything in this regard. Remind students that Edina High School has a zero tolerance policy regarding tobacco, alcohol and other substance use and abuse. Kathy Iverson, Chemical Health Coordinator for the City of Edina, states, "The policy is very clear that students will not use tobacco, alcoholic beverages, marijuana or any other substance. This includes consumption, possession, selling, giving away etc. Violation of this policy results in penalties." For more information see your student handbook.

Dance Logistics: How Parents Can Help!

Here are several ways to help your students with the logistical planning of dance-related activities:

- Check out the restaurant planned for part of the night's activities. The larger the group, the more difficult it is to (1) get seating and (2) get seating together. A lot of restaurants do not treat students the way they treat adults. An adult, quite frankly, has more skill and clout than a teenager when it comes to dealing with another adult (i.e. restaurant manager or host). Check with the restaurant to see what kind of payment they accept for large parties. It is unfortunate (and inconvenient) to find out after the meal that the establishment is cash only! Negotiating specific arrangements and quite possibly a banquet type price are often best left to a parent.
- Occasionally, groups are able to arrange a mini-banquet in a separate room or space. Remember

How to help with dances

- Check out the restaurant ahead of time
- Arrange ahead for set menu
- Consider hotels for dinner and photos
- Check out photo sites ahead of time
- Help your child think through the evening



The Buzz: How to get around EHS

that while everyone enjoys a filet mignon, the nature of the entree is not nearly as important as the nature of the company. The social aspect is the key. Arranging for a menu ahead of time facilitates the efficient delivery of everyone's dinner at approximately the same time as well as paying the bill at the same time.

- Hotels can often provide the dining accommodations like those mentioned above and a place to take photographs.
- Parking is a major factor in selecting a location for dinner and photographs. It should be easy to get to both your dining and photo location and nearby parking should be readily available.
- Not all restaurants are suitable for high school students. Consider the safety of a location and the clientele of the establishment or neighborhood. While most restaurants serve alcohol, how visible are the bar and its inhabitants to your dining students?
- A note on picture-taking: Check out all sites ahead of time. Some sites look great on the surface but prove impractical in practice. Think of size to accommodate your group, lighting and availability. Think about weather. Rain, sleet, snow and high winds are not uncommon most times of the year in Minnesota. Goosebumps on prom pictures are not exactly flattering. Country clubs are often ideal. Church foyers, and some park and municipal sites are also excellent but in considering these, take into account how regular users of such facilities might react to a group of highly excitable high school students alighting on their premises.
- Help your son or daughter think through the evening. How will the restaurant check be handled? How much time should be allotted for eating? How early does the group want to get to the dance. Do they plan to stay until the end of the dance? Will the group be changing clothes later in the evening? Where will they do that and when? Have they talked to the date's parents about curfew and explained their plans clearly? Is everyone in the group in agreement about after-dance activities.



Year-by-year information

Sophomore year

Moving to the high school brings much change to your student's life and, with that, many new distractions. Parents may find it helpful to begin the year by paying special attention to homework. Ensure your student establishes a good routine and builds a schedule around the expectation that they will have homework every night. Be positive and show interest in the work they are doing. Ask questions to help them deepen their understanding and interest in the work they are doing. Encourage your student to develop a personal relationship with their teachers. After all, teachers became teachers because they enjoy working with kids. In regard to homework, the daily planner and using Edline are two additional tools that successful students site as important to their success.

Class Ring : Your son or daughter will come home with information about class rings their sophomore year. Popularity varies with the students. Prices also vary — from \$80 to hundreds. If you are inclined to buy a ring, purchase one sophomore year, and optimize the amount of time your son or daughter is likely to wear it. Insurance against loss, theft and damage is included for a small replacement fee with the purchase of the ring, and re-sizing, polishing and repair are covered under warranty. Class rings are sold in the fall of every year.

Sophomore year testing

- **MCA** is the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment, which is used to assess where students are progressing beyond the basic skills. Beginning with the class of 2010, all MN students must pass the MCA reading, writing and tests to graduate from high school. All Sophomore students take the MCA Reading Test. The MCA writing test is taken in 9th grade.
- The **PLAN Test** is administered in the fall to all sophomores during the school day. This test is a practice for the ACT, the American College Testing assessment, which is popular in the Midwest, as well as in the Southeast and Southwest. The ACT is a

Sophomore year testing

- MCA
- PLAN Test
- PSAT
- For further info, check www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/testing/index.html



The Buzz: How to get around EHS

subject-based test scored on a basis of 1 to 36. PLAN results can be used to determine your strengths and weaknesses.

- **PSAT** (Practice SAT Test) is open to 10th and 11th graders and gives them an opportunity to see what standardized tests are like and also for 11th grade students (a very few) to qualify for National Merit status. Registration is held in September at the High School. Information is on the counseling website.

The Counseling Office has put together a website for testing information which may be helpful:

www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/testing/index.html

The Counseling Office has also put together a planning calendar for sophomores to help them think ahead a bit:

www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/calendars/sophomore_cal.html

A word to the wise : It's not too soon to start thinking about your student's post-high school goals and what it will take to reach them. Encourage your child to meet his or her counselor as a sophomore, just to get acquainted. Get familiar with the Guidance Office Web Page.

(www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/index.html) Have your child browse through the Career Center (see page 25.) Visit college fairs (like the one held in the fall at The Convention Center.) And don't be shy about attending Jr. and Sr. Grade Level Forums a year early, just to get a "head's up."

Explore college and vo-tech websites . They give lots of information and often provide virtual tours. Focus on elimination. It is as important as selection in many cases. Look at test scores, at size and location, and at the profile of the freshman class to ascertain if your child is a fit.

Begin to Put Together a Resume, citing the activities and leadership roles your child is involved in, not only at school but in their church, synagogue or community as well, so that he or she will have an easier time pulling that information together when filling out college applications as a senior. This is also helpful if he/she is planning to letter in community service. You will find the resume planning link to the counseling Website very helpful:

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/resume/index.html>

During sophomore year

- Look at college websites
- Look at vo-tech websites
- Begin to put together a resume – find help at www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/resume/index.html



Junior Year

College Preliminaries

- Mail carriers instinctively recognize you as the parent of a Junior when they begin feeding your mailbox with brochures, catalogs and magnetic reminders to visit their campuses. This is a year of learning and exploration for you and your student. Stay calm. Take a deep breath and dive in.
- Encourage your child to visit the Career Center or explore colleges and careers online to get a handle on his/her various areas of interest.
- Watch for registration dates for ACT and SAT tests. These are listed in Buzzwords and on the counseling Website.
- PLAN (Practice SAT) is available to Juniors, see Sophomore information above.
- Check out the EHS Junior Planning Calendar, found online at www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/calendars/junior_cal.html, which lists all the important steps and dates necessary for Juniors headed to college.
- The Counseling Center offers a Junior Parent Night in spring each year to answer questions you're sure to have by now, concerning colleges and testing information.
- NAVIANCE is the best (and most underutilized) tool that supports course, career, and college planning. Parents and students alike that have used this tool highly recommend it. For detailed information on Naviance go to the section title "The Academic Front" found later in this handbook. At a minimum all students should log into Naviance (<http://connection.naviance.com/edina>) and go to "my colleges" to add colleges that the student is considering. An email will be sent to notify them when that college visits Edina.
- Use MEA Weekend, Thanksgiving Break and Spring Break as opportunities to visit college campuses or other post-high school options. These can be worked into family vacations or used expressly for the purpose of looking at schools. Rather than intense visits, however, use these times to get a feel for the kind of setting in which your child seems most

Party people in training

As a junior parent, you will have an opportunity to have a sneak peek into the workings of the Senior Party if you volunteer to do Junior Security before and during graduation of the Senior class in June. You may also be asked to volunteer for a committee for your child's Senior Party the following year.



comfortable. Does he or she like urban or rural, big or small, near or far?

Senior Year

Hang on to your hats! This year is laden with choices, decisions, expenses and a roller coaster of emotions. Give your senior some space and be available to offer help when needed. Otherwise, try to step back and let your child take the lead. After all, in one short year, they'll be living independently of you. Give yourself a little time to explore and nurture those feelings within yourself as well. Letting go can be difficult for parents, but not necessarily for 18-year-olds!

Off-campus lunches are a big draw for seniors, who have waited 11 years to go to Subway, wolf down a sub and be back in class in 37 minutes. This privilege is **ONLY** open to Seniors who have received written permission to do so. Seniors can get these forms on the EHS website or in the main office. Time and safety are big issues here, since students can't use study halls in conjunction with their lunch (half) hour. Parents do have the opportunity to sign off on this.

Pictures : Your mailbox will be flooded with glossy brochures from a plethora of photo studios the summer before your child begins Senior year. The choices can be overwhelming: 4-5 changes of clothing, props, indoors or outdoors settings, head shots or full body shots, color or black and white. The Senior pictures dominate the month of August. Before picture day, many girls schedule manicures, make-overs, and hair foiling. Sitting fees range from \$35 to \$125, depending on the number of clothing and scene changes. Most photo "packages" are between \$165 to \$300. If your son or daughter has very specific ideas about what they're looking for, the selection of a photographer and poses could be effortless, but, wading through the choices can be difficult and time-consuming, as well as overwhelming for your Senior-to-be.

The decision cannot be delayed for long, since the yearbook needs proofs from the photographer early in the school year. The Windigo Website outlines deadlines for senior pictures and also presents a list of recommended photography studios which will send the required EHS

"I learned that looking at colleges in person can help your child eliminate categories of schools just as much as add schools to their wish list. Both are valuable. Does he/she shiver at the thought of a northern school...dislike the idea of an urban school or seem overwhelmed by a very large school? All of this helps to narrow the decision."

-EHS Parent

"If my daughter learned anything by visiting schools over MEA, she learned not to close the door on anything. The school she was least interested in was the one she was most impressed with."

-Jr. Parent



yearbook picture to Windigo at no charge. Check out www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/activities/windigo/index.html

Yearbook ads: All yearbook (Windigo) information is posted online for your convenience <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/activities/windigo/index.html> In fact, all students can order their yearbooks online now! In October of your child's senior year, you will get an edline mailing from Windigo detailing Senior Parent Ads (but you can go to the above web address anytime and get the lowdown.) You will be given the opportunity to write a message to your graduate and send it, along with a baby picture for the yearbook senior pages. Friends, siblings, youth leaders and coaches can also submit photos and captions for the "Special Moments" portion of the Windigo. They can choose horizontal or vertical orientation, can cut and paste and add words, pictures and poems. There is a limit of four submissions per student. Yearbook videos are also available.

Senior Spring Break : A long-standing but not necessarily golden tradition, senior spring break often entails graduating seniors winging off en masse to some exotic locale for sun, fun, and nonstop partying. Many parents accompany students on this trip. Doug Eischens, high school social worker, strongly recommends that these trips happen ONLY if there is parental supervision. Favorite destinations in recent years have included Mexico and the Dominican Republic, where the legal drinking age is lower than our own, and this can be a dangerous situation. Not all students choose to drink excessively or even to drink at all, but the temptation is enormous (especially when the resort is an all-inclusive.)

Stats from chemical & mental health professionals:
"According to the American Medical Association, alcohol-related deaths and injuries among young people have been rising dramatically during spring break."

The Journal of American College Health states that during spring break, the average male drinks 18 drinks/day, and the average female drinks 10 drinks/day, with 40-50% of young people drinking to the point of sickness or passing out."

The National Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services administration states that the vast availability of alcohol and drugs to young people during spring break can lead to

"Check to be sure that the photographer you have selected sends a proof to *Windigo* by the yearbook deadline, which is usually mid-September. By early November we have already laid out those pages and sent them in."
-Yearbook Advisor

"My son did two sittings; one at a professional studio for his yearbook photo and parent/grandparent portraits , and one at Pro-ex, where he had wallet-sized photos made up to send with thank you cards and to hand out to friends. This saved him mega bucks."
-Parent of a graduate



dangers such as violence, promiscuity/unprotected sex, crime, injury, and date rape.”

With those sobering statistics in mind, consider the fact that Spring Break is not an entitlement. You can say no. In fact, some kids are relieved to hear the word “no” (even if they don’t act like they are.) Be aware that not all seniors go – regardless of what your student tells you. School-sponsored Concert Band and Orchestra trips, the Youth Serving Youth Habitat for Humanity trip, college trips, family trips and mission trips are great alternatives. Spring break can also just be a restful time at home.

May Term : While you’re busy planning your student’s graduation party, he or she has a great opportunity called “May Term,” which opens the door for senior students to create, plan, and execute an educational project of their own design the last few weeks of Senior year. These projects, at their best, reflect your student’s personality and interests, and give him/her a way of pursuing something they might not have been able to do while in high school. Oftentimes these projects are internships or exposure to a new art form or hobby. Your student may want to consider a service learning project (see Get Connected; Student Clubs & Activities in this publication for more information). It’s best if your student has given some thoughtful consideration to what they would like to do before the applications are due, since the May Term project must be a structured learning experience in an area that is acceptable and consistent with the purpose of the May Term Program’s objectives. Take deadlines seriously as the district and school has a lot of planning to do and exceptions for missing the deadline are simply not granted. All eligibility requirements are outlined on the website: www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/students/index.html. The fun part for parents is the presentation night, when we’re able to see what has been accomplished by these incredibly talented young people.

Senioritis

Caution! This is a dangerous virus and it spreads. At some time during your child’s Senior year, she/he will start to exhibit the symptoms of burnout, lack of motivation, reluctance to do homework, and an overwhelming need to spend more time socializing. Watch for dropping grades and remind your students that schools may rescind offers of admission. Be firm, encouraging, and know that this, too, shall pass.

Graduation

Senior Party: A tradition started in 1951, this is the ultimate graduation celebration and truly a labor of love on the part of Edina parents. Following graduation, the seniors are bussed to an all-night party (a lock-in), which has been elaborately orchestrated and beautifully



executed by the parents. Every year a party theme is chosen and carried out in the most creative and elaborate of ways. Party themes have included The Titanic and Survivor and the results, trust us, uniquely qualify each graduating set of parents for full-time positions at EPCOT, or at the very least, The Magic Kingdom. A year of planning ensues and a parent work crew in the hundreds swings into action. The budget is supported by fund-raising and a student fee of about \$85. Financial aid is available. After twelve years in the system, you will be struck by the fact that you are only now meeting all of these fabulous parents. It is fun. You will want to participate!

Invitations, Caps and Gowns: Herff Jones announcement and invitation “packages” vary widely. Many Edina parents buy enough traditional announcements for the relatives, and design their own party/open house invitations. Hats and gowns are also available through Herff Jones. You can typically expect a to see a company representative at Fall events such as “Get Connected Evening” and November conferences to take orders for class rings, invitations, and caps and gowns can be ordered at “Get Connected” Day in August. The form is available on the high school website under forms. Questions regarding ordering Cap/Gown ordering can be directed to Nancy Knutson, counseling.

Graduation Parties: These can be as unique as the graduate. Some parents schedule them a week or two before graduation, some up to a month after graduation. Some have brunches, some have dessert buffets, some have pool parties. Some rent popcorn machines, cotton candy machines or sno-cone machines. Some parents hire bands. Some parties are held in homes, some at parks. Combined open houses work well for families whose graduates share many of the same friends. Some families have power point or video souvenirs made that are shown at the party. Open house costs vary, but based on anecdotal evidence, the sums range from \$200 to \$1,000. **Never serve liquor.**

For many parents one of the biggest challenges is completing the **SENIOR BODIES:** The body (a life-size paper doll of each child) decorated to reflect their personality and interests. The party committee will provide many tips and tricks for this parent project as spring approaches.

Post-secondary planning tips for seniors



This is a crucial part of senior year. (See the Academics Section of this guide for more detailed information.) But specific to seniors, we offer this advice:

- If your child is still searching for the right college or post-secondary option at the beginning of senior year, be sure he/she attends the Mpls. College Fair, held at the Convention Center in mid-September.
- Use MEA weekend to scout colleges and alternative options.
- Get a calendar and begin to plug in various deadlines and important dates. A useful tool is the EHS Senior Planning Calendar, found online at www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/calendars/senior_cal.html, which lists all the important steps and dates necessary for seniors headed to college. “Planning for the Future; A Guide for EHS Seniors” is also an invaluable tool for working your way through senior year. This guide is available at www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/pdfs/sr_planningforthefuture_2008.pdf.
- The College Application Process Evening for Parents of Seniors is held in late September each year, to help parents understand the admissions process. Counselors also visit the senior social studies classes, pass out “senior packets” and review with seniors the college application process and time lines.
- Seniors need to ask teachers and counselors to write letters of recommendation by mid-October; sooner if they plan to apply early admission. Be considerate of teachers’ busy schedules and have your students get their requests in as early as possible. Forms are available in the counseling office.
- The Financial Aid Night Seminar for Senior Parents is held in January.

Post-secondary prep tips

- Attend Mpls. College Fair in mid-September
- Use MEA weekend to check out schools
- Keep a calendar of important dates
- Attend the College Application Process for Parents, held in late September
- Students should ask teachers for letters of recommendation by mid-October
- Attend the Financial Aid Night Seminar in January

The Academic Front



Helpful resources

The Edina High Counseling Website: You and your son or daughter will have lots of help from many sources, but primarily from the counseling office. The best way to find out how they can help is to take a gander at their fantastic website. Trust us, <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/index.html> is an invaluable resource.

Do you want to know the difference between the ACT and the SAT? Do you want easy access to Internet links such as ECOS, U.S. News and World Report, or the Princeton Review? Do you want to know the schedule for college representatives' visits to campus? If just reading this makes you want to crawl into a hole, the EHS Counseling website provides a number of useful internet sources and links to a plethora of college websites, including the ones that allow your student to register for college entrance exams online.

Naviance : Naviance is a web-based resource that supports course, career, and college planning. The program compares colleges, link to resources, track deadlines and applications, produce scattergrams, lists college representative visits at Edina, and lists available scholarships. Registration codes for student accounts are distributed during sophomore year. Parent codes will be distributed at the fall Junior parent meeting. Any student or parent that needs an access code may contact Nancy Knutson (nanknutson@edina.k12.mn.us)

EHS College & Career Center: The EHS College & Career Center is located in room 312 next to the Guidance Office. The center is staffed with approximately 80 parent volunteers and a volunteer coordinator. Together these parents work a 2.5 hour shift every 2 weeks throughout the year hosting college and career visits for the students of Edina High School. In the past year over 250 post secondary schools visited EHS, and over 1600 junior and senior students were able to visit and sometimes re-visit with these college/career representatives. The EHS College and Career Center is open and staffed when there are visits scheduled. It is home to many materials and applications from hundreds of post secondary schools, although many of these same items can be as easily found online as well—and, many colleges today prefer online applications.

College not for you?

College is not for everyone—your student may have a passion for aviation, culinary arts, design, child care, electronics or the finishing trades. Talk to your student's counselor about alternatives. Check out the College & Career Center, where there is a large selection of materials highlighting trades and vo-tech schools, community colleges and special needs alternatives, including Outward Bound. Also, use the Career Center computers to access internet links to various military options and art and technical schools.

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/careercenter/index.html#catalogs>



College and career visit : All college/career visits are listed as they are scheduled at:

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/collegevisits/visitingcolleges.html>

The schedule of visits is also posted outside the EHS College & Career Center, as well as English and Social Studies classrooms (specialty schools—such as art and music—will be posted in those specific areas as well.) Seniors and juniors must obtain permission from their teacher and a college & career center pass from their teacher to attend a presentation.

Another reminder for when college visits will happen in found through Naviance:

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/naviance.html>.

Once a student has added a college on his/her list “My Colleges” in Naviance, the student will get a reminder email from Naviance when that college will be visiting.

The EHS College & Career Center opens its 2009-2010 season on September 21.

To Tutor or Not To Tutor

When should your student seek outside academic help?

The answer is not always obvious, but if your son or daughter is challenged in a subject and has pursued every avenue available within school to address his or her needs, do not stand on ceremony, but swing into action. Most teachers will try to accommodate students seeking additional assistance before and after school as schedules allow. Also, some late-start days are set aside for helping students and students can use the media center after school for a quiet place to study and use computers.

There is no stigma whatsoever in procuring a tutor. In fact, on many different levels, from academically strong students seeking to boost a grade to students requiring a slower pace and additional explanations in any given subject, tutors are a very helpful component for many students.

The EHS Counseling Office or the District office provides a list of tutors in the area. As it is often the case, word-of-mouth from a satisfied customer can prove the best means to the right match for your student. Tutoring, however, can be a costly avenue. Private sessions can easily run upwards from \$30 to \$50 an hour and often more, depending on the tutor. Current Edina Staff cannot provide tutoring services or recommendations per district policy.



Books you want

Cliff Notes for AP preparation : Those books are specifically designed to prepare students for AP subject tests. Inquire at your favorite bookstore if they are not readily found.

The Fiske Guide to Colleges : by Edward B. Fiske, the former education editor of The New York Times, provides lively write-ups on more than 300 colleges and universities replete with statistical summaries and rankings of schools by academics, social life and quality of life.

How to Get Into the Top Colleges : by Richard Montauk and Krista Klein - Excellent resource for all college-bound students (not just for those seeking top-tier schools). Filled with valuable anecdotes, in-depth explanations of standardized tests, and advice from admissions counselors, among other things.

The Insider's Guide to the Colleges : by the staff of the Yale Daily News - Billed as a "reality handbook for the college applicant, this book is written for students by students."

The K & W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorders : published by Princeton Review – a resource book for students, parents and professionals. Peterson's has a similar guide.

Peterson's Summer Opportunities for Kids and Teenagers : from wilderness adventures to AP course work for introductory college credit, this guide provides an exhaustive list of possibilities for summer enrichment. From cyber-camp to sailing camp, it has it all.

Princeton Review Guides or Barron's: SAT I and II preparation

Surviving Senior Year, A Parent's Guide to Successfully Navigating Your Child's Last Year of High School : by Linda B. Keene - offers advice on everything from senior pictures to money management in a practical month-to-month format.

Books for your bookshelf

- Cliff Notes for AP preparation
- The Fiske Guide to Colleges
- How to Get Into the Top Colleges
- The Insider's Guide to the Colleges
- The K & W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorders



Tooth and Nail, A Novel Approach to the SAT : by Charles Harrington Elster and Joseph Elliot – Students learn SAT vocabulary words within the context of a mystery novel for a true “learning through reading” experience.

The Ultimate High School Survival Guide – Solutions, not Sermons, for Doing High School Right : by Julianne Dueber - Covers the gamut from math anxiety to anorexia and provides sensible tactics for dealing with a multitude of issues.

A Writer’s Reference : by Diana Hacker – A user-friendly grammar book. Divided into easy-to-access sections for quick reference. (Generally required for 10th grade composition, this book should remain on your shelves for any writing activity.)

Classes

AP : Advanced Placement courses, or AP courses as they are commonly called, are sponsored by the College Entrance Examination Board and allow motivated students to take college level courses. Students receiving scores of 4 or 5 on AP tests given in the spring of the year may receive some form of college credit depending on the school. AP scores can also affect college placement in a particular subject. The district has moved to an online registration process. Information to register will come home mid-winter from the AP Coordinator Debra Richards.

A few things to remember about AP classes:

- The grades in AP classes are weighted (see dual weighting next page)
- Scores of 4 or 5 on these tests are achievements that can be noted on a college application or on a resume.
- If your student believes the test really did not go well, he/she may cancel the scoring of an AP exam.
- If your student does not cancel a grade but does not wish to have a grade reported to a school with the rest of his/her scores, he/she can request that it is withheld. The cost for this service is \$5 per grade per school report.
- When an AP grade has been cancelled, it’s gone forever, deleted from the official records. The grade



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reports sent to your student and his/her high school will list the exam, and in the place of the grade, a message appears indicating that the grade was cancelled. There will be no indication on the grade report sent to the college that the exam was taken at all. So, if there is a question at all, have the grade withheld.

To cancel an AP grade permanently , write to:
The AP Program
P.O. Box 6671
Princeton, NJ 08541-6671

Be sure to include the following information: student's full name and home address; the year(s) in which the AP Exams were taken; the name, city, and state of the college; and the name(s) of the exam(s) for which you wish a grade canceled. There is no fee for this service, but the full exam fee is still charged for the canceled grade. The request must be received by June 15 of the year in which the exam was taken. The grade report that you and your school receive will indicate that the grade has been canceled. If you have other questions, check out APCentral.collegeboard.com

Enriched classes : "Enriched" is a label designating classes that are more rigorous than their traditional counterparts, but not fulfilling requirements necessary to be called Advanced Placement. At EHS, for example, a student may take chemistry, enriched chemistry or AP chemistry. Each course is progressively more difficult, with AP Chemistry representing an introductory course on the college level. Enriched classes are not weighted.

NOTE: Some enriched courses at EHS, including Enriched Biology, help prepare students for AP testing in those subjects in the spring. However, additional preparation is recommended for the test - the Cliff Notes and similar guides are a big help.

Dual grade-weighting : This is a grading system in which two options exist — one in which GPA is determined on a non-weighted basis and a weighted alternative where Advanced Placement courses are weighed more heavily. Thus, all students will have two GPAs (weighted and non-weighted). Both GPAs are reported to colleges, and colleges generally use the best score.



Zero Hour Classes : These classes are offered at 7:30 a.m., to provide students an opportunity to take an additional course. Students most likely to take advantage of this option are taking 4 year's of world language and 4 years of performing arts.

Alternative Classes

Just a precautionary note: If your student chooses to participate in any of these alternative classes, stay current with Buzzwords and EHS Parent Council News so you and your student know what is happening regarding school activities; plays, sports, Windigo deadlines, graduation ceremonies, gown rentals, etc. are all a part of a student's school culture, whether they spend every hour of the day at the high school or not. Feeling connected is an important component to the adolescent years.

PSEO : Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) allows high school juniors and seniors to take courses, full-or part-time, at a post-secondary institution for high school credit. The program provides students with a greater variety of class offerings and the opportunity to pursue more challenging coursework than may be available at the high school. The tuition, fees and required textbooks are at no cost to students. Students or their parents are responsible for transportation to the post-secondary institution.

The decision to participate in PSEO is not to be taken lightly. The student is expected to be a responsible, self-starting, independent learner. Students should seek out additional information and discuss that option with their counselor early on to ensure that they are making the best choice for themselves and their educational future.

Refer to the EHS STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK for details under the header *Alternative Methods for Earning Credit at EHS*. The criteria are specific for this option. Excellent information on PSEO is also available on the University of Minnesota's Advanced High School Student Services web site at <http://www.cce.umn.edu/ahs>.

Mentorships (Academic): Check with Janet Schmiel, the high school liaison in the Gifted Ed Department to get a full description of the types of mentorships available at EHS.



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Students, in some cases, have designed their own mentorships by working with professionals in the community or professors at local universities. These experiences can be enriching, look good on college applications, and provide some excellent letters of recommendation. Beware, however, of using a mentorship to replace a core course.

Hennepin Technical College : If your student leans toward “hands-on” experiences, this may be the path they’re looking for. Edina High School is a member district of the Hennepin Technical College (HTC) located in Eden Prairie. HTC offers two distinct types of courses to match each student’s level of career readiness: Career Clusters and College Major courses.

Career Cluster class activities include tours of business and industry, exposure to equipment and practices that apply to an area of interest, and lab projects. Courses include Child Development careers, Communications Technology, Computer Technology, Construction and Building Systems, Culinary Arts, Computer Art, Multimedia and Print, Service Occupations, Manufacturing and Engineering, Medical Careers and Transportation Technology.

After successfully completing a related Career Cluster Course, your student may continue by enrolling in College Major courses. This is an excellent opportunity to begin your college course work while still enrolled in high school. More information can be found on the counseling website: <http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/registration/htc/index.html>

West Metro Education Program: (WMEP) is a partnership of ten metro area school districts. The Inter-district Downtown School, a magnet school of WMEP is located in the heart of the metro area, close to real-life learning labs in the arts, education, business and government. Its curriculum taps into the vast resources of the city. Students have the opportunity to study music at MacPhail and Orchestra Hall and can study theater at the Guthrie, the State Theater and the Orpheum. Students may learn about government, the judicial system and law enforcement at City Hall, in courtrooms, or judges’ chambers. Applicants are selected by lottery, based on space available for the home district, and attend full time.



“Options” at Edina High School: Options at Edina High School provides an alternate educational experience for students who have fallen significantly behind in their graduation plan. This program provides a smaller learning environment in which instruction is personalized and the student experience is unique to their needs. The course schedule is flexible and much of the coursework is offered in a computer-based format. Students will have the chance to work at their own pace, toward their own learning goals. Online coursework, however, is supplemented by direct instruction from a highly qualified teacher. In addition to their core coursework, students will have the opportunity to participate in a school-to-work skills seminar as well as service learning projects for credit. For more information, please contact Michael Pretasky at micpretasky@edina.k12.mn.us

Alternative Schools: As defined by Minnesota Statute 124D, “alternative schools” are designed to serve at-risk students who have not been successful at traditional schools. They may also have dropped out, fallen behind in credits, be a parent, or fit other “at-risk” criteria. Check the EHS Social Worker’s Web site, where you will find an array of different learning environments including sober schools, recovery schools, charter schools, home schooling, GED, independent study and “Out of the Box” Learning Adventures. Click on “Educational Alternatives” to search for alternative schools in the area. The Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP) homepage has links to alternative schools which are also designated by region. The “Metropolitan Federation of Alternative Schools” link lists member schools and has links with both a description and photo of each school.

The high school social worker web page, which includes PSEO, GED, alternative schools, sober schools, home schooling, charter school options, and many other alternatives can be very helpful. Check out www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/services/socialworker/education/alts.html

Testing, 1-2-3- testing...

Required for HS graduation



- **MCA –II Test:** Beginning with the class of 2010, all students in MN will be required to pass the MCA-II , reading and writing test to graduate from high school. The BST tests, which used to be required to graduate, have been phased out and replaced by the MCA's. MCA tests are given during school in mid-April. You can find out an abundance of information regarding the MCA tests on the MN Department of Education website, and a brief history of the advent of the test is noted below as well.

The launch of the new MCA-II assessment program came in response to the state's more rigorous academic standards. The development of 14 new tests required standard setting, new achievement level descriptors, new cut scores, new scale scores, quality control procedures and review of alignment to the new academic standards. The MCA-II tests are fully aligned to the new academic standards adopted in 2003. The standards were created by committees made up of a diverse group of Minnesotans, including parents, educators and representatives from business and higher education. The new standards were approved by the legislature. Because they are new tests aligned to new standards, the MCA-II tests cannot be compared to previous years' tests.

Tests for the college-bound

Tests for the college-bound high school student are a fact of life, but they need not be the anxiety-mongers they tend to be. First of all, a high school record outweighs test scores—which is not to say that test scores don't count. Given that, take a breath, and know what you're facing.

Testing help

- Reading a lot will increase your child's vocabulary and improve his/her verbal score.
- The Counseling Department has put together a Web site that will answer most of your questions about testing. Check it out at www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/testing/index.html
- For both math and verbal tests, many classes are available through learning centers and the Edina Community Ed program to help your child prepare for the college entrance exams.
- Books and computer programs abound on the subject. Practice exams are available online.



Websites for online practice exams include
www.ecos.princetonreview.com,
www.collegeboard.com and www.act.org.

SAT, ACT or both? EHS counselors believe there is good reason to try both. It is often the case that a student may score better on one test than the other. Once the initial results are in, students may choose to pursue a prep course or undertake a personal course of study in the test that best represents them. **Counselors note that all but a small number of schools now accept the ACT.**

PLAN – Administered in the Fall to all sophomores, the PLAN test is a warm-up for the ACT, the American College Testing assessment, which is popular in the Midwest, as well as in the Southeast and Southwest. The ACT is a subject-based test scored on a basis of 1 to 36. PLAN results can be used to determine your strengths and weaknesses. Although the PLAN is scored differently, it gives an estimated ACT score.

ACT – American College Testing is a subject-based alternative to the SAT I and accepted by most schools throughout the U.S. (See PLAN above.) It is always a good idea to check which tests your prospective college requires ahead of the game. Unlike the SAT, the ACT allows students to send **ONLY** their highest score to prospective colleges.

PSAT – The Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test is usually taken by Juniors as a kind of preliminary SAT (see description below), but is open to Sophomores as well. Watch for registration dates in Buzzwords in the fall and/or on the EHS Counseling website. The results of the PSAT taken by students in their Junior year, provide the basis for National Merit Scholarship eligibility. Only a small percentage of students will earn status as a National Merit Commended Scholar, Semifinalist or Finalist, but the practice test is an invaluable tool in preparation for the real thing.

SAT I – The Scholastic Assessment Test I – Reasoning Test is the most frequently used college admission test in the U.S. All SAT I scores will be sent to prospective colleges, who claim to only consider the highest scores from multiple sittings for admission. There are two sections to the SAT I: Verbal and Math. Scores for each section are reported on a



200 to 800 scale, with additional subscores reported for the essay (ranging from 2-12) and for multiple choice writing questions (on a 20-80 scale).

SAT II - The Scholastic Assessment Test II is a one-hour, content-specific subject test that measures a student's knowledge in a given subject. Scores are reported on a 200 to 800 scale. The SAT II was once referred to as an "achievement test." Some schools require SAT IIs in addition to the SAT I.

These are best taken immediately after the completion of the course. For example, students who study AP U.S. History junior year should take the SAT II in U.S. History that spring. Most schools requiring the SAT II want the writing, math (IC or IIC; IIC is for students who have taken pre-calculus and/or trigonometry in addition to 3 or more years of college preparatory mathematics), and a third test of the student's choice. The fee structure is available on the testing website.

AP or Advanced Placement exams - can be taken after completion of an Advanced Placement (or AP) course. Sponsored by the College Entrance Examination Board, these courses allow accelerated students to take college level courses. Students receiving scores of 4 or 5 on AP tests given in the spring of the year may receive some form of college credit, depending on the school. AP scores can also affect college placement in a particular subject. By the way, scores of 4 or 5 on these tests are achievements that can be noted on a college application or resume.

Post-secondary planning

Exposure to colleges and other post-secondary options - Some parents will say that it is never too early to expose kids to college campuses, but in truth, by Junior year, you need to at least be thinking about using a school vacation to take a look at a few local colleges, universities, and post-secondary options so that your child can start gathering information about what sorts of campuses they like and don't like. Are they drawn to small or large



campuses, urban or rural, private or public, near or far? Many will instinctively know whether this is a place they could prosper. Listen to them.

The College Fair Event held at the Mpls Convention Center in mid September is a good overview of colleges and universities around the country.

College representatives, as well as representatives from the military and vocational schools, visit the Career Center throughout the year. This is a great opportunity to get more information about facilities of higher learning that interest students. A list of visiting representatives is available online at

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh/counseling/resourcescollege.html>

As the list of potential colleges and options becomes shorter, students can arrange to spend an overnight or a weekend on a college campus of his or her choice. Admissions departments of the colleges can help arrange this.

Parents' tips on college prep

A panel of seasoned parents shared these insights at a Parent Council meeting:

- The admissions process is an art form, and while becoming more competitive, the resources are also better, such as books and the Internet. Check out *Books Worthy of Your Bookshelves* on page 27 of this guide and take time to explore the plentiful resources available in the Career Center.
- The average Edina student applies to 6 colleges, whose application fees range from about \$35 to \$65.
- Students applying to highly competitive schools may benefit from early admission.
- A professional career counselor or a personal coach, whose fees can be \$300 to \$1,200, may be beneficial for a student questioning which route to take.
- When you get to college, nobody cares where you went to high school. When you get out in the world, nobody cares where you went to college.
- Encourage your 11th & 12th grade teachers to assign "practice" admission essays. (This is regularly done in senior English classes.) Such assignments can provide



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the basis for your child's actual college admission essays.

- Start the process early by taking advantage of the informational meetings at EHS designed for older students' parents.
- Broaden your search and go beyond the obvious choices.