

Moving in a Forward, Positive Direction!

*Steps for a Successful Senior Year
2019-2020*



Start with the End in Mind

Mr. Gaier's goals for our students upon graduation:

- 1) 100% of students will graduate college and/or career ready.
- 2) 100% of students will feel like they belong. (During their time with us.)
Today he added: **Humility** of soul, **Curiosity** of Mind and **Empathy** in Heart

Mr. Anderson's view in how to best achieve these goals:

Rigor. Relevance. Relationship.

Measure this with a survey. The graduating class of 2019 (46 responses):

82.6% indicated they overall college and career ready

78.3% felt like they belonged at NHS

Senior Meeting Letter/Pre-Conference Sheet

Please see the “Senior Meeting” letter in your packet for your date/time.

Note: Meetings can be easily rescheduled in advance if the date/time listed does not work for you.

NEW THIS YEAR-**HOMework**: The pre-conference sheet (also in your packet) is meant to be filled out by the student and parent together PRIOR to attending your senior meeting. Please plan to bring this sheet with you to your meeting or feel free to drop off prior.

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate...

“Good communication is the bridge between confusion and clarity.”

~Nat Turner

- Students:
 - Face to Face: Stop in and visit anytime, ask to be requested during 8th hour (PIE)
 - Email: jbackaus@student.neillsville.k12.wi.us
 - Note: Important information will be sent to your student Gmail account
- Parents:
 - Phone: 715-743-8713 or Email: jbackaus@neillsville.k12.wi.us
 - Face to Face: I will try to accommodate impromptu visits, but scheduled apts. work best
- Both: Please sign up for REMIND

What is Remind?

Remind is a private mobile messaging platform that enables teachers, parents, students, and administrators in k-12 schools to communicate with each other.

How to join Mrs. Backaus “Class of 2020”

- 1) Go to the following link: <https://www.remind.com/join>
- 2) Enter **884c22** in the “Find Your Class” box
- 3) Click “Join Mrs. Backaus’ Class of 2020”

Senior Year: The Culmination & The New Beginning

- 1) The Culmination: *Enjoy being a Senior!*
 - a) **Transcript:** Wow! That's a lot of work completed so far!
 - i) Personal Info correct?
 - ii) Completed work and grades correct?
 - iii) ACT scores correct? Civic's test score correct if done as a junior?
 - b) **Schedule:** Wow! These are really the last classes I will take at NHS!
 - i) Is it appropriate for your post-high school plans?
 - ii) Are all classes needed to graduate scheduled?
 - iii) Is it going to be at least a little bit fun? :)

Senior Year: The Culmination & The New Beginning

- 2) The New Beginning: *Enjoy planning for being a productive adult!*
- a) What are the options for being a productive adult?
 - i) More schooling: Tech, University, Trade School
 - ii) Military
 - iii) Work Force: Directly or through an apprenticeship program
 - b) What are the steps? SEE CHART
 - i) Some steps are universal for all
 - ii) Some steps are specific for your path of choice

Steps to Take Senior Year Checklist	Additional Schooling	Military	Work Force	Counselor Interaction
<p>ALL Seniors To Do List :</p> <p>___ College Course(s) Spring Form(s) Completed or NA</p> <p>___ Senior Meeting</p> <p>___ Sem 1 Passed</p> <p>___ Sem 2 Passed</p> <p>___ Graduation/SR Survey</p> <p>___ Males: Selective Service</p>	<p>1) If taking college course(s) in the spring, submit required form(s) by Oct. 1</p> <p>2) Make schedule changes <i>if necessary</i> first 5 days of semester; schedule change forms available in counseling office</p> <p>3) Attend Senior Meeting: September or October; letter given at Open House or in mail.</p> <p>4) PASS all classes or, at the very least, the required ones to graduate! ;)</p> <p>5) GRADUATION: Saturday, May 23, 2020; Senior Exit Survey completed prior</p> <p>6) Males: Register for the Selective Service at https://www.sss.gov/RegVer/wfRegistration.aspx</p>			<p>1) College Course form(s)</p> <p>2) Schedule changes</p> <p>3) Senior Meeting</p> <p>4) Senior Exit Survey</p> <p>5) Join Class - 2020</p> <p>Remind https://remind.com/join/884c22 Available to help with any and all aspects of this year. J</p>
<p>Application & Selection Process:</p> <p>___ Application by Oct. 31 with Fee (\$30-\$60)</p> <p>___ Selection/Enrollment typically \$100 ASAP or by Jan 1;</p>	<p><i>UW System:</i> Can submit Aug 1 https://apply.wisconsin.edu/</p> <p><i>WI Tech System:</i> Dates vary, but often can submit end of junior year https://www.wistechcolleges.org/apply/timeline</p> <p><i>WAICU/Out of State:</i> Varies</p>	<p>Meet with Recruiter; individually plan</p>	<p>Employee contact; Apprenticeships have an application system dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/ or www.abcwi.org/education-training/apprenticeship</p>	<p>1) Send transcripts (request through Xello) https://xello.world/en/</p> <p>2) Send test scores, if necessary</p> <p>3) Send additional forms/supplemental materials, if necessary</p> <p>4) Send final transcripts</p>

The Post-Secondary Application Process

Official UW Online Application: <https://apply.wisconsin.edu/>

Opened on August 1; applications accepted all year at many, but “on-time” typically is by Oct. 31

The UW Help is a great website for more information about the UW system

<https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/> (Dates and timelines and Essay tab are specifically helpful.)

Official WI Technical Colleges Application/Timeline:

<https://www.wistechcolleges.org/apply/timeline>

How to Request Transcripts in Xello (formerly Career Cruising):

HS Transcripts are required as part of the college application process, both now for admission and final transcripts for confirmed admission

Steps are on the HS Counseling Website; 1st tab titled "[Transcript Request](#)"

The easiest way to log into Xello is with your Gmail Account through the link located in the instructions under the "Transcript Request" tab.

Example: Riley Voigt (with permission :)

<https://xello.world/en/>

The FAFSA Process

The 2020-2021 FAFSA Application opens on Oct. 1, 2019

FAFSA = FREE Application for Federal Student Aid

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> (Note, a .com might charge you a fee, use .gov)

You will use your 2018 taxes

Please note priority dates differ by institution; our Oct. 17 date will meet all

Whole application typically takes between 30 minutes to one hour

The Scholarship Process

There are thousands upon thousands of scholarship out there!

Our scholarship website: Schools, High School, Scholarships

<https://www.neillsville.k12.wi.us/schools/high/scholarships.cfm>

Links to scholarship search websites at the top

Listing of those sent to the counseling office below; all LOCAL scholarships come out in January and are due between March 1-April 30

Links to local applications will be listed on the scholarship tab or shared in Gmail. There is a "[Common Application](#)" used for several scholarships.

The Scholarship Process

Helpful Scholarship Hints:

- 1) Update your [Student Involvement Profile](#); it will make filling out scholarships much faster as you will have most of the info right there.
- 2) Make sure to check with your parents, grandparents & other family for scholarships at their employment, insurance companies, etc.
- 3) Once accepted to a postsecondary institution, make sure to check with them right away about their incoming freshmen scholarship opportunities.
- 4) Apply for all the local ones you qualify for.
- 5) Set realistic goals and give yourself a little grace if you don't meet them.

8th Hour (formally PIE) Help Sessions

Over the course of the year, I will host PIE help sessions:

>Sept-Oct: Application Help Sessions

>Oct-Nov: FAFSA Help Sessions

>Jan-March: Scholarship Help Sessions

>April-May: Requesting final transcripts, final odds and ends

1st One is next **Thursday, Sept 5** for Application Help. Please email me and ask me to request you in Roost if you would like to come.

Dates Approaching Soon

- **Friday, September 14** - Sign up for ASVAB
- **Friday, September 20** - Last day to register w/out late fee for the Oct. 26 ACT
- **Monday, Oct 1** - Last day to turn in paperwork for spring college courses (including CNA) if you have not already done so
- **Halloween, Oct 31** - **Submit college applications**

Ahhh....The Stress Level is Rising!

PAUSE...BREATH...and REMEMBER...

“Plans are of little importance, but planning is essential.”

— Winston Churchill

“Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans.”

— Allen Saunders

“I try not to make plans. God always laughs at your plans. I’m going to keep the door open, and keep the page blank, and see what gets painted upon it.”

— Tom Hiddleston

A little personal story...

For the planners in the room that are feeling a little stressed, I leave you with this little story to keep it all in perspective...

Time: March 2015

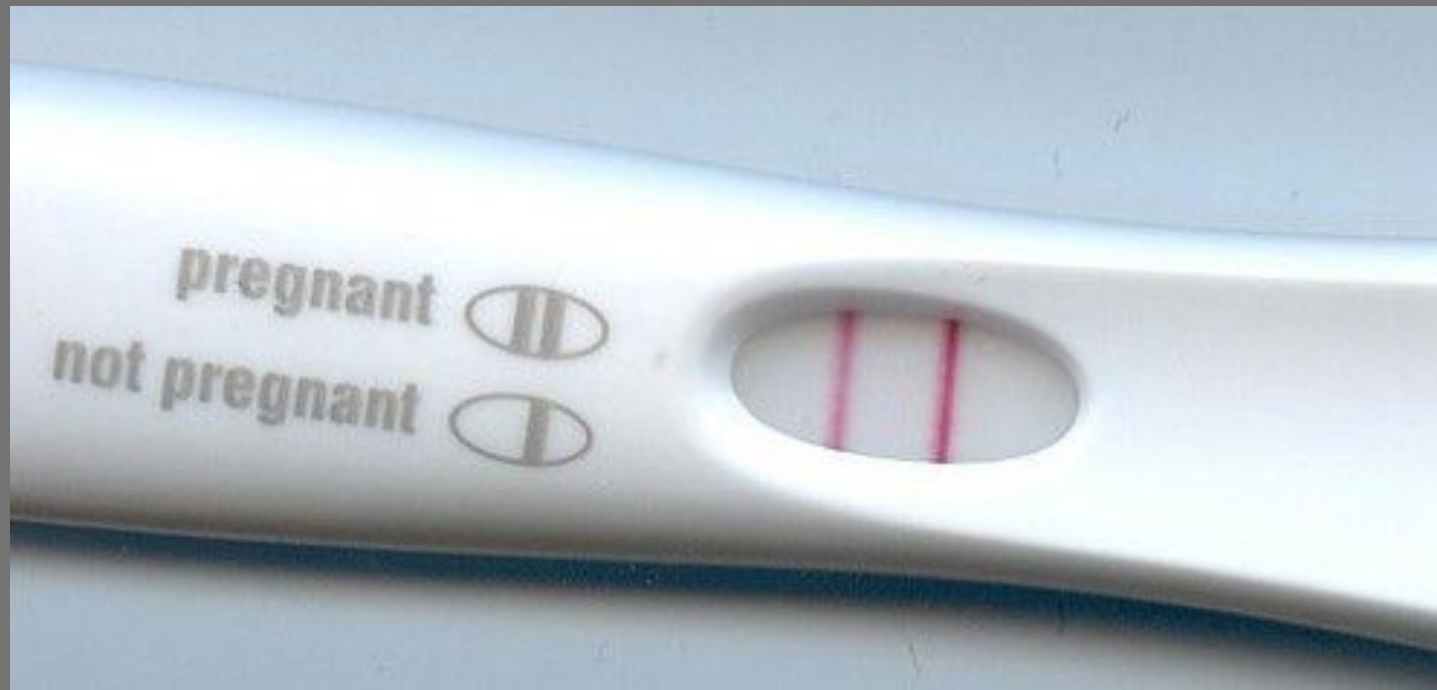
Event: Florida, Spring Break

Occupation: NHS Counselor

Number of Children: 3

Life going as planned:





About a week after returning from our trip...

MMMM...WHAT??? This was NOT part of the plan!



Time: December 2015

Event: Maria Sue is born

Occupation: Homemaker

Number of Children: 4

Life going as NOT as planned: PRICELESS





Time: July 2019

Event: Family Summer Road Trip

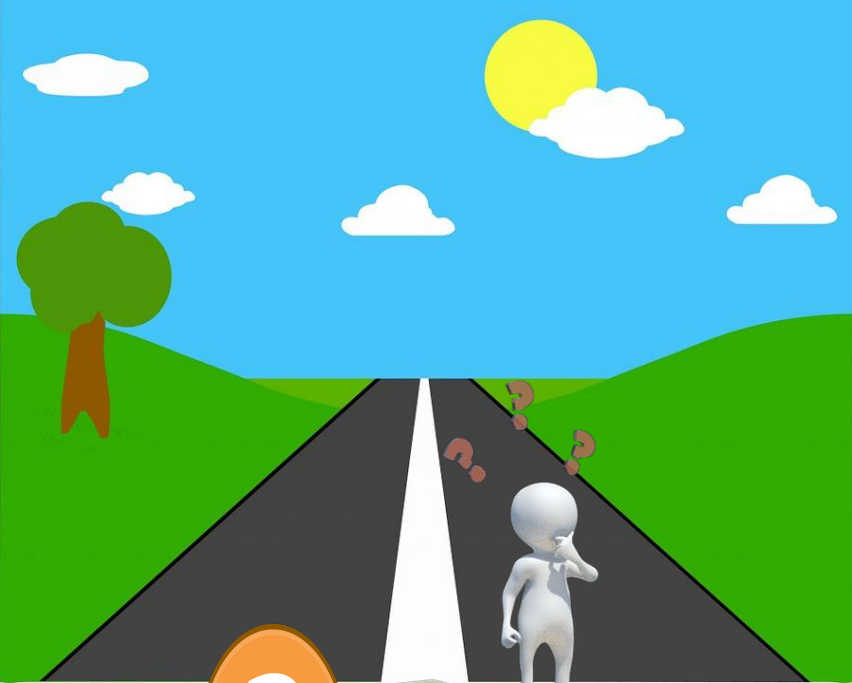
Occupation: NHS Counselor

Number of Children: 4

Life is back on a similar road with a little extra joy:

Pretty amazing how it all works out in the end.





SMILE! :)

It's going to be a great year!

We will get through all of this
(the planned AND the unexpected)
TOGETHER!



QUESTIONS?