

Welcome to the Class of 2026 Senior Meeting! October 31, 2025



Mr. Scott Smith, Principal



Introductions

- Ms. Tara-Dee Henry, Assistant Principal
 & 12th Grade Administrator
- Mr. Steven Krempasky, Senior Class Sponsor
- Ms. Kim Summers, Senior Class Sponsor
- Ms. Lisa Miller, College and Career Navigator
- Ms. Maggie Ledrick, SGA Sponsor





Meeting Outcomes

By the end of the meeting, students will have:

- Met key staff who will guide you through your senior year,
- Heard about important information and dates of the Class of 2026 events,
- Learned about navigating senior year and beyond,
- Reviewed the 4-year college application process, and,
- Learned about additional resources to help with post-secondary planning.



Northwest



High School

Administrative Staff Introduction



Scott Smith Principal

Danielle Abdelsalam Assistant Principal



Tara-Dee Henry Assistant Principal



Jake Lee Assistant Principal



Nikki Morales Assistant Principal



KeShawn Taylor
Assistant Principal



Lori Knight School Business Admin





Class of 2026 & SGA Sponsors

Ms. Kim Summers

Kimberly_Summers@mcpsmd.org

Mr. Steven Krempasky

Steven_Krempasky@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Maggie Ledrick

Margaret_M_Ledrick@mcpsmd.org





Senior Resource Bank



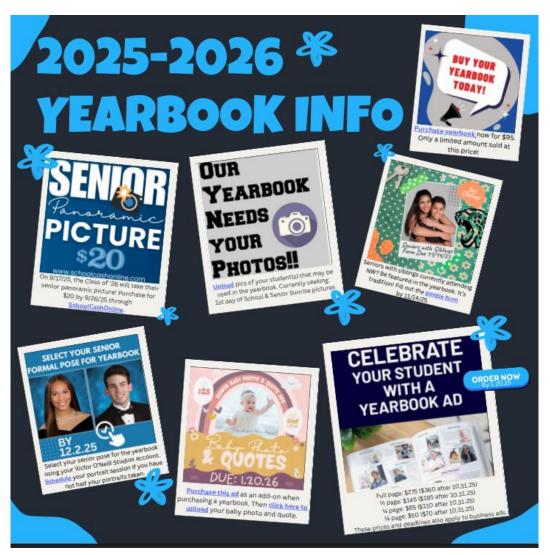
Senior Year Expenses



- ☐ Junior & Senior Prom w/ After Prom Party Ticket: TBD
 - ☐ After Prom Party ONLY Ticket: \$10
 - ☐ Ticket sales will begin Thursday, February 19, 2026 and end Thursday, March 19, 2026, at noon (prices TBD)
- ☐ AP Exams: Covered by MCPS (Benefits of taking the AP Exam)
 - All exam and activity fees will be paid using School Cash Online (SCO).
- ☐ Senior Fees (2026 cost): \$42
 - Senior fees can be paid September 10, 2025 February 2, 2026 via SCO and are a mandatory fee
 - ☐ Senior fees help to cover specific costs, such as prom, graduation programs, tickets, etc.
- ☐ Cap and Gown Package (2026 cost): \$55 \$59
 - ☐ Cap and Gown must be ordered through the Jostens website (link will be provided once it is updated)
 - ☐ Beginning February 1, 2026, there will be an additional \$5.00 service fee added, plus tax and online service fees, the entire unit will be approximately \$59.44



Class of 2026 Yearbook Information



Use the links below to:

- Purchase 2025-2026 Yearbook
 - \$95 *while supplies last*. Use promo code: **YRBK10** to save \$10.

BUY NOW & SAVE!

- <u>Upload Photos to Yearbook</u>
- Purchase Senior Panoramic Picture (9/26/25)
- Complete Seniors with NW Siblings Form (11/14/25)
- <u>Select Senior Formal Pose</u> (12/2/25)
- Submit Senior Quote (12/2/25)
- Purchase Baby Photo Ad & Upload Photo, Quote (1/20/26)
- Purchase Student Ad (1/20/26)
- Purchase Business Ad (1/20/26)

Questions?

Contact Ms. Dorothy Koutsos, Yearbook Advisor, at Dorothy_K_Ellis@mcpsmd.org



Class of 2026 Events



Important Dates

- Senior Panoramic Picture: October 31, 2025
- Senior Portraits Makeup Sessions: November 11, 2025 and December 5, 2025
 - > Access the appointment link <u>here</u>.
 - The information can also be found on the <u>Senior Resource Page</u>.
- Junior & Senior Prom and After Prom Party: Friday, April 10, 2026
 - Prom at Pinstripes 7:00pm-11:00pm
 - After Prom Party at NWHS immediately following Prom 11:30pm-3:30am
- Senior Class Awards Night: Thursday, May 21, 2026
- Last Day of School for Seniors & Senior Sunset: Friday, May 22, 2026

If you ordered a senior T-shirt and have not yet picked up, please pick up from the Media Center ASAP. Thank you!



Class of 2026 Fundraisers



Fundraiser Calendar - Save the Dates

Ongoing: Direct Donation Link

11/5/25: Chick-fil-A-Kentlands 5pm-8pm

11/13/25: <u>Silent Auction 6:30pm-9:30pm</u> (*After Prom*)

12/3/25: Taco Bamba-Gaithersburg 9am-9pm

12/7/25: Hot Fired Arts Craft Day 2pm-4:30pm (After Prom)

1/5/26: Ledo Pizza-Germantown 11am-10pm

2/1/26-3/1/26: Senior Yard Sign Sale

2/23/26: Panera-Kentlands 4pm-8pm

3/9/26: Tortacos-Germantown 5pm-9pm (After Prom)

3/26/26: Jersey Mike's-Kentlands 10am-9pm







@nwhs_26 @nwhsptsa



Dining Nights



Support Class of 2026

Chick-fil-&

Dine In or **Carry Out** at the **Kentlands**



11.5.25 5-9pm



Chick-fil-A: Kentlands

MENTION NW

when you order in store!

PROMO CODE: NWHS2026

3rd party orders do not count!



ORDER FROM TACO-BAMBA-GAITHERSBURG AND 20% GOES TO THE CLASS OF 2026! MUST MENTION NW OR USE COUPON CODE GIVE20.



12/3/25 9AM-9PM



TACOBAMBA.COM 670 QUINCE ORCHARD RD



MENTION NORTHWEST



USE COUPON CODE: GIVE20





Dining Nights







Jersey Mike's Kentlands 15% back to Class of 2026 Thursday, March 26, 2026 10am-9pm



MUST mention NW when you order OR type NW 2026 in Notes if ordering online or through the app.

Order Now! 301) 977-4842

• 249 Kentlands Blvd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

mww.jerseymikes.com/order/28005

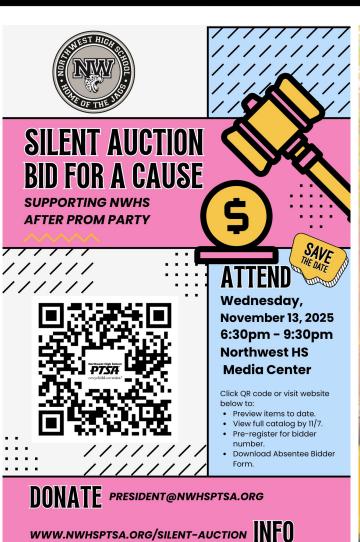
Kentlands - 120 Market St, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (240) 690-7220 / www.berriesandbowls.com APRIL 23, 2026 9AM - 8PM MENTION NORTHWEST WHEN YOU ORDER OR USE PROMO CODE: <u>NWHS</u> WHEN ORDERING ONLINE. Note: 3rd party delivery service orders (Uber Eats, Door Dash, etc.)



Other Fundraisers









- required, maximum of 40). Must RSVP using QR code below by 12/1/25.
- Choose your project: pottery painting, glass fusion, canvas painting, wine glass painting. You will choose project & pay the day of the fundraiser. Cash or credit card only.
- Enjoy a fun afternoon with friends of the Jag community!
- Complete a beautiful custom piece for a gift or to enjoy in your home!
- All proceeds will benefit the NW After Prom Party!

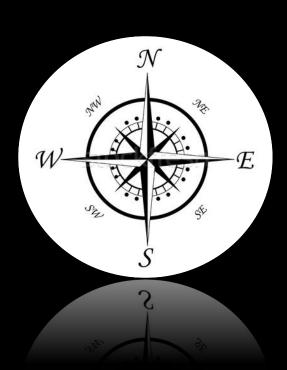


Sunday 12/7/25 2:00-4:30pm



20% Back to PTSA





Navigating Senior Year and Beyond



Class of 2026 Administrator-Counselor Teams

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL 2025-2026 Administrator & Counselor Assignments

Grades 9 – 12					
Last Names Beginning With	Counselor	Administrator			
All 9 th Graders	All (by alpha)	Mr. Taylor			
A-Ben	Ms. Bunting	Ms. Morales (Grades 10-12)			
Beo – Dai	Ms. McCarthy-Redd	Ms. Morales (Grades 10-12)			
Daj – Gira	Ms. Kravitz	Ms. Morales (Grades 10-12)			
Girb – Jon	Ms. Blanco	Ms. Abdelsalam (Grades 10-12)			
Joo – Mam	Ms. Cois	Ms. Abdelsalam (Grades 10-12)			
Man – Nz	Mr. Freeman	Mr. Lee (Grades 10-12)			
O – Pet	Ms. Cooper	Mr. Lee (Grades 10-12)			
Peu – Scip	Ms. Tanenbaum	Ms. Henry (Grades 10-12)			
Sciq – Vos	Ms. Kim	Ms. Henry (Grades 10-12)			
Vot - Z	TBD	Ms. Henry (Grades 10-12)			



Counseling Department

A-Ben Ms. Susan Bunting

Beo-Dai Ms. Tamela McCarthy-Redd

Daj-Gira Ms. Christine Kravitz

Girb-Jon Ms. Nancy Blanco

• Joo-Mam Ms. Athena Cois

Man-Nz
 Mr. Austin Freeman

O-Pet Ms. Kelly Cooper

Peu-Scip Ms. Alexis Tanenbaum

Sciq-Vos Ms. Christina Kim

Vot-Z
 Interim Counselor



Counseling Department Staff

The Registrar's office (located in counseling) processes all requests for transcripts.

Registrar

Ms. Angelica Agosto Ms. Anu Shivacharan

Assistant Registrar



College Career

Ms. Lisa Miller College Career Navigator

The NWHS College Career Center located in Room 126 has information and resources to help with college research, career planning, and financial aid/scholarships.

Visit the Career Center webpage:





Graduation Requirements*

*subject to change per MSDE

Earn 22 Credits

4 English 4 Math 3 NGSS Science 3 Social Studies 1 Physical Education 1 Health 1 Technology 1 Fine Art 2 Elective Program Completer

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program

English 10 Algebra 1 Government Science

Earn 75 SSL hours

- ☐ Check out the MCPS website for information on SSL opportunities and to access forms:
- MCPS SSL HUB FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES
- Students must earn hours from an approved activity or site.
- ☐ Ms. McCarthy-Redd SSL Coordinator



Important Reminders

- Financial obligations must be cleared/paid to the Business Office in order to purchase tickets to any future school event and/or to obtain a high school diploma.
- SSL Hours (75 minimum needed to graduate)
 - ★ Deadline for SSL hours is in April.
 - ★ Deadline for SSL hours towards Meritorious Certificate award (240+) is in March.
- Be aware of graduation requirement status! Contact your counselor as needed to review progress toward graduation.



Post-Secondary Options

- Military
- Trade School
- 2-Year College
- 4-Year College
- Gap Year



Considering 2-year, trade, or technical school?

Why attend a trade school?

- Trade schools provide students with an alternative to four-year college programs.
- Lower tuition costs and shorter degree pathways are benefits of trade schools.
- Career-focused, practical training can help trade school students pursue in-demand jobs.
- Some career and educational options may be limited for trade school graduates.

Popular Trade Schools

- Montgomery College
- Lincoln Tech Columbia, MD
- <u>Lincoln Culinary Institute Columbia, MD</u>
- PIA Hagerstown Campus
- Universal Technical Institute (UTI)
- Maryland Apprenticeship Program
- Full list of trade schools & apprenticeships





2-Year College Bound

Montgomery College:

Montgomery College is a great option and a safety school for ALL students. Montgomery College offers a variety of majors and career paths for students including business, engineering, education, health sciences and applied technologies.

Honors Programs:

- MC Scholars Program
- Macklin Business Institute

Scholarships

- Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship
- Board of Trustees Scholarship
- MC Foundation Scholarship

Germantown Campus

Pinkney Innovation Complex for Science and Technology (PIC MC)

20200 Observation Drive, Germantown, MD 20876

Rockville Campus

51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD 20850 Interim Vice President/Provost: Eric Benjamin

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

7600 Takoma Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 Vice President/Provost: Bradley Stewart







2-Year College Bound

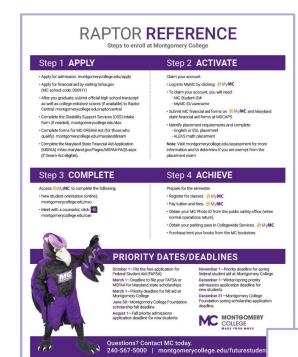
How to apply:

- Apply on the MC website. It is free to apply
- All students are admitted
- Activate MyMC account and continue the steps for enrollment
- Placement tests may be required based on the students academic record.

Explore the MC to USG pathway! After completing 60 credits at MC, students can transfer to the Universities at Shady Grove to complete a bachelor's degree program at one of their 9 universities!

Students can begin applying to MC beginning in October 2025!

MC will be here on November 17th at 9:30am in the Career Center!







4-Year College Application Checklist

- ☐ Complete the Northwest Brag Sheet 2025 in Naviance
- Research colleges and add colleges to the "Colleges I'm Applying To" section of Naviance
- Create your Common App (use your personal email address)
- ☐ Match your Common App with Naviance
- Complete the <u>Authorization to Release Records</u> form and turn in to the counseling office
- Request your transcripts using the <u>Transcript Request</u> google form
- Request your letters of recommendation from teachers in Naviance
- ☐ Finalize your college essay.
- ☐ Complete and submit your applications in the Common App
- ☐ Send your official SAT or ACT scores to colleges (*if applicable*)
- If you are in the Middle College, Dual Enrollment, or Early college program, you must request your MC transcript to be sent to your colleges from your MyMC account (*if applicable*)

UMD College Park	UMBC	Towson	Salisbury	Montgomery College
# of apps rec'd: 60K 45% acceptance rate 97% of students accepted had a 3.75+ GPA Mascot: Terrapin	# of apps rec'd: 13K 74% acceptance rate 72% of students accepted had a 3.75+ GPA Mascot: Retriever	# of apps rec'd: 19K 83% acceptance rate 60% of students accepted had a 3.75+ GPA Mascot: Tigers	# of apps rec'd: 8K 89% acceptance rate 50% of students accepted had a 3.75+ GPA Mascot: Seagull	Three campuses totalling over 30K students. Germantown campus: Biotech & Cybersecurity
Priority deadline: November 1 on Common App	Early Action deadline: November 1 on Common App	Early Action deadline & Honors College: November 15	Early Decision (binding): November 15 Early Action: December 1	Rockville campus: largest campus w/international flavor Takoma Park campus: Health & Art
Test Optional Fun Fact: Fall Open House: Monday, September 29th 8am-2pm	Test Optional Fun Fact: No. 1 producer of black undergrad completing Ph.D. in natural science or engineering	Test Optional Scores encouraged for merit scholarships Fun Fact: Ranked #1 public university in MD; Wall St. Journal	Test Optional Fun Fact: Ranked #27 as Best Value in US News & World Report	Open admissions Fun Fact: Ranked #10 best community college nationally and #1 in Maryland Mascot: Raptor



College Profiles for the Top five Maryland colleges for Northwest seniors



Application Process - Common App

The <u>Common App</u> is the online application that students will use to apply to their colleges. They will need to create an account using a **personal email** address, not their MCPS email. Their Common App account links with their Naviance account and makes applying much easier!

Please note, for the colleges that do not use the Common App, student's will need to apply directly on the school's website (i.e. Bowie, Montgomery College)

Stay organized and take note of each college's deadline.

Apply Early Action when possible!

Application Deadline Types: Regular Decision, Early Action (Priority), Restrictive Early Action, and/or Early Decision.





Requesting School Materials

Your college applications are not complete without your additional school materials. All colleges will require you to submit your official high school transcript and many require at least one letter of recommendation.

Students must complete the Authorization to Release Records and Transcript Request forms in order for documents to be sent. Both forms are located on the Northwest Counseling website.

Students will request their teacher letters of recommendation in their Naviance account.

ALL requests must be submitted at least 3 weeks prior to their college's deadline!

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNSELING OFFICE BEFORE ANY TRANSCRIPT CAN BE SENT

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL Release of Records & Early Decision Acknowledgement

Please drop off a copy of this signed document to the Counseling Office.

nerease ur necurus

Public law 93-380 requires a parent/guardian signature before records can be released. We are not

l authorize the Counseling staff of Northwest High School to release my child's scholastic record, activity Tauthorize the Courseling staff of Northwest High School to release my child's scholastic record, activity record, and any other pertinent information to college/universities, scholarship organizations and internship

Early Decision Acknowledgement (if applicable)

Early Decision Acknowledgement (if applicable)
From the National Association for Admission Counseling Statement of Principles and Good Practices Early Decision (ED) is the application process in which students make a commitment to a first choice institution Early Decision (ED) is the application process in which students make a commitment to a first choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. While pursuing admission under an ED plan, students may apply where, it admitted, they dennitely will enroll. While pursuing admission under an EU plan, students may apply to other institutions but may have only one ED application pending at any time. The institution must notify the to other insututions but may have only one ED application pending at any time. The insutution must notify the applicant of the decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time after the ED deadline. Usually, a constitution with ED plans may restrict applicant or the decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period or time after the ED deadline. Usu nonrefundable deposit must be made well in advance of May 1. Institutions with ED plans may restrict the state of the s nonrerunuagie deposit must de made weii in advance of May 2. Institutions with EU pians may restrict students from applying to other early plans. Institutions will clearly articulate their specific policies in their ED

If you are accepted under an ED plan, you must notify your counselor immediately and must promptly withdraw the annihilations submitted to other colleges and universities and make no additional annihilations. If you are accepted under an EU pian, you must notify your counselor immediately and must promptly withdraw the applications submitted to other colleges and universities and make no additional application. By signing below, I affirm that I have read and understand the <u>Release of Records</u> and the responsibilities of Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature



Deadlines to Request Materials

College Application Deadline	Deadline to Submit Transcript Request	
October 15	September 24	
November 1	October 10	
November 15	October 24	
November 30/December 1	November 10	
December 15	November 24	
January 1	December 11	
January 15	December 22	



Application Process

Student Sends/Requests

- Application
- Application Fees
- Essay(s)/Supplements
- AP/SAT/ACT Scores
- Transcript Request via Google Form
- Teacher letters of recommendation via Naviance

Teachers Send

- Letter of recommendation
- Teacher evaluation form

NWHS Sends

- Transcript
- School Profile
- Counselor Letter of Recommendation
- Secondary School Report Forms
- All sent via Naviance (not via common or coalition app)



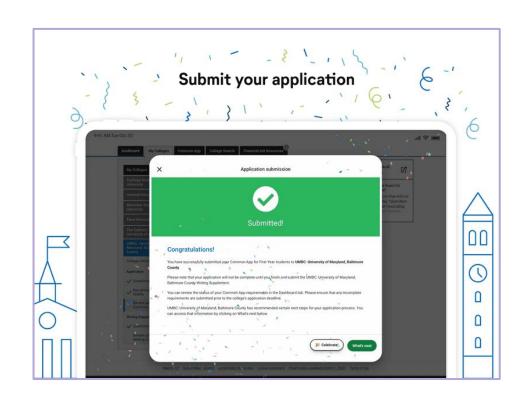
Ready to submit!

Once you have finished all parts of the Common App including the college specific questions and the essay, you can hit submit on your application!

Always have your application reviewed before you apply!

Next steps:

- Create a student portal account with college. In their student portal, they will be able to view their decision letter, complete housing application and view financial aid information.
- Apply for financial aid! Apply for the FAFSA by March 1st, Create MDCAPS account and complete the CSS profile if required.



Apply EARLY ACTION when possible!



Cost of Attendance

These are average costs. Actual costs varies by college.

Montgomery College

Cost of tuition \$5,034 a year

Public in-state colleges

- Tuition **ONLY** = \$11,500
- With Room & Board = about \$24,000

Public out-of-state colleges

- Tuition **ONLY** = \$39,626
- With Room & Board = \$52,610

Private colleges

- Tuition **ONLY** = \$48,672
- With Room & Board = \$62,424



Visit the college's website to use their Net Price Calculator tool to estimate your cost of attendance!



Apply for Financial Aid

FAFSA - The <u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</u> (FAFSA) and is required by all colleges.

CSS Profile - The <u>CSS profile</u> is an additional financial aid application that is only required by some colleges, primarily private institutions.

MHEC - The <u>Maryland Higher Education Commission</u> is where students can apply for grants & scholarships from the state of Maryland.

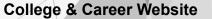
SCHOLARSHIPS - Search & apply for scholarships on various websites such as **College Board**

LOANS - If loans are needed, borrowing from the federal government is recommended.

Northwest College Career Website under the 'Scholarships" tab

- www.fastweb.com
- www.goingmerry.com
- scholarships.com
- https://bigfuture.sdssds collegeboard.org









FAFSA Application

What is the FAFSA? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application form that determines your eligibility for financial aid from the federal government. Even if you are not eligible for need-based assistance, the FAFSA is still required by colleges.

Who can apply for the FAFSA? The student must have a valid social security number. Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

How to apply

- Create FSA ID accounts the student and the parent need to create their own FSA ID accounts
- Provide parent financial information The FAFSA will require you to provide your family's 2024 tax returns.
- Apply by March 1st!



Maryland Higher Education Commission (MDCAPS)

In order to receive any financial aid assistance from the state of Maryland, you must create an **MDCAPS** account with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)

Types of aid from MHEC:

- Need-Based Grants
 - Guaranteed Access Grant (Up to \$19,000)
 - Educational Assistance Grant (\$3,000)
- Community College Promise Scholarship (Up to \$5,000)
- Legislative Scholarships
 - Delegate scholarships
 - Senatorial scholarships
- Career / Occupation Based Scholarships
- Non-citizen assistance MSFAA Application



Any \$\$ you receive from MHEC, must stay in Maryland!

Upcoming Events

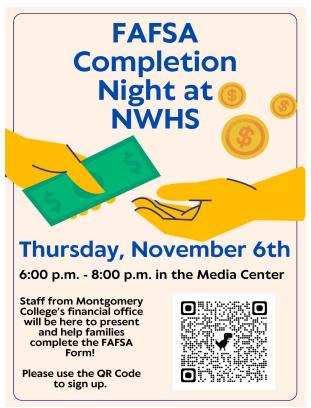
FAFSA Completion Nights (in-person)

Dates:

- November 6th
- January 8th
- February 10th

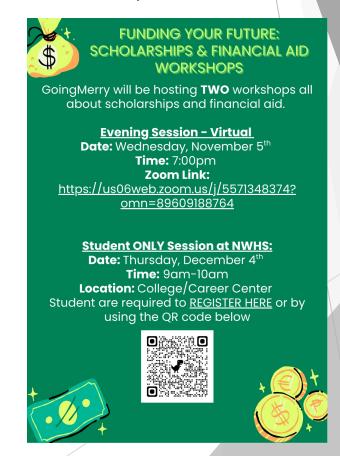
Time: 6pm-8pm

Location: NWHS Media Center

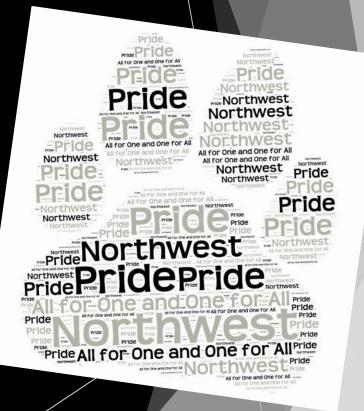


Scholarship/Financial Aid Workshop

GoingMerry will be hosting **TWO** workshops all about scholarships and financial aid.



Questions?



Senior Panoranic

