

Junior Postsecondary Planning

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March 2023



Agenda

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- School Counseling Department
- Graduation Requirements
- Post-Secondary Options
- Junior Post Secondary Planning Timeline
- Standardized Testing details & timelines
- College Applications & Key Terms
- College Essay
- NCAA
- Financial Aid/Scholarships

MHS School Counseling Department

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- **Amy Petroskey (A-La) x3210**
 - apetroskey@maynard.k12.ma.us
- **Nicole Fernald (Lb-Z) x3209**
 - nfernald@maynard.k12.ma.us
- **Dana MacPhee (A-Z) x3105**
 - dmacphee@maynard.k12.ma.us

Looking for important counseling information, resources, and dates? [Check out our website!](#)

Class of 2024 Graduation Requirements

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| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| English | 20 credits |
| Math | 20 credits |
| Science | 15 credits |
| History | 15 credits (5 credits US History) |
| World Language | 10 credits (of same language) |
| PE | 3.75 credits (PE 9 & 10) |
| Fine Arts (includes art, music, communications) | 5 credits |
| Senior Project | 5 credits |

- **110 Credits Total**
- MCAS Science, Math & English

Evaluate your Education Options

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- Decide on your post-secondary plan
 - What type of school would you like to attend?
 - Four year (Bachelor's Degree)
 - Two year (Associate's Degree)
 - Vocational/Technical (Certificate Program)
 - Military
 - Work/Apprenticeship
- The most important factor in choosing a post-secondary plan is fit!
- Detailed information on this topic will be discussed individually with students in individual meetings

Post-Secondary Planning this Spring

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- Counselors want to meet with students and families about this process throughout this April
- In those meetings, we will:
 - review your graduation requirements
 - discuss your post-secondary plan
 - provide individualized support around your plan

MHS Post-Secondary Planning Timeline

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- Spring of Junior Year
 - College Research-admissions criteria & tuition estimates
 - Prep for the SAT and/or ACT and take the test in May, June, July or August
 - **Many schools are not requiring standardized tests - check with specific schools**
 - Create a resume-get ahead of this Senior Project assignment
 - Think about letters of recommendation - 2 teachers
 - Ask teachers now, Teacher recommendation form and Counselor recommendation form
 - Attend info sessions and college tours at schools of interest either virtually or in person when available
 - Get organized! Create a college file/spreadsheet and a college calendar to write down deadlines.

Post-Secondary Planning Timeline Continued

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- Summer before senior year
 - Get involved in a summer internship, enrichment program, volunteer, or work a part-time job
 - Continue to mark your calendar with important dates and deadlines. Be aware of early action/early decision deadlines - some are as early as October
 - Continue to visit college campuses in person or virtually
 - Continue to narrow down your list of colleges (safety, target, and reach)
 - Create a CommonApp account at commonapp.org
 - Review college application requirements and essay prompts
 - The more you can do before the senior year, the easier things will be!

Post-Secondary Planning Timeline Continued

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● Fall of Senior Year

- Senior Meetings (September/October) Work with your counselor individually
- Take the SAT and/or ACT, if applicable
- Attend college representative visits through MHS
- Continue to research schools through college tours, info sessions, and online
- Secure teachers who will be writing recommendation letters (both in person and through MEFA Pathway)
- Finalize college essay
- APPLY!
- Complete the FAFSA and other Financial Aid requirements-Available Oct. 1st, 2023
 - Attend MEFA financial aid webinar
- Begin to search for scholarships you will apply for

Making the College List

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- Academic programs - majors and minors
 - If you are considering a few different majors, make sure that the college you choose offers all of them!
- Size - 2,000 students is considered a small college, but that is more than 5 times bigger than MHS - can be hard to imagine
- Location - how far from home? Keep transportation in mind! (additional \$)
- Setting - rural, suburban, urban
- Residential vs commuter campus
- Activities & student life - intramural sports, clubs, honors societies, etc.
- Disability services

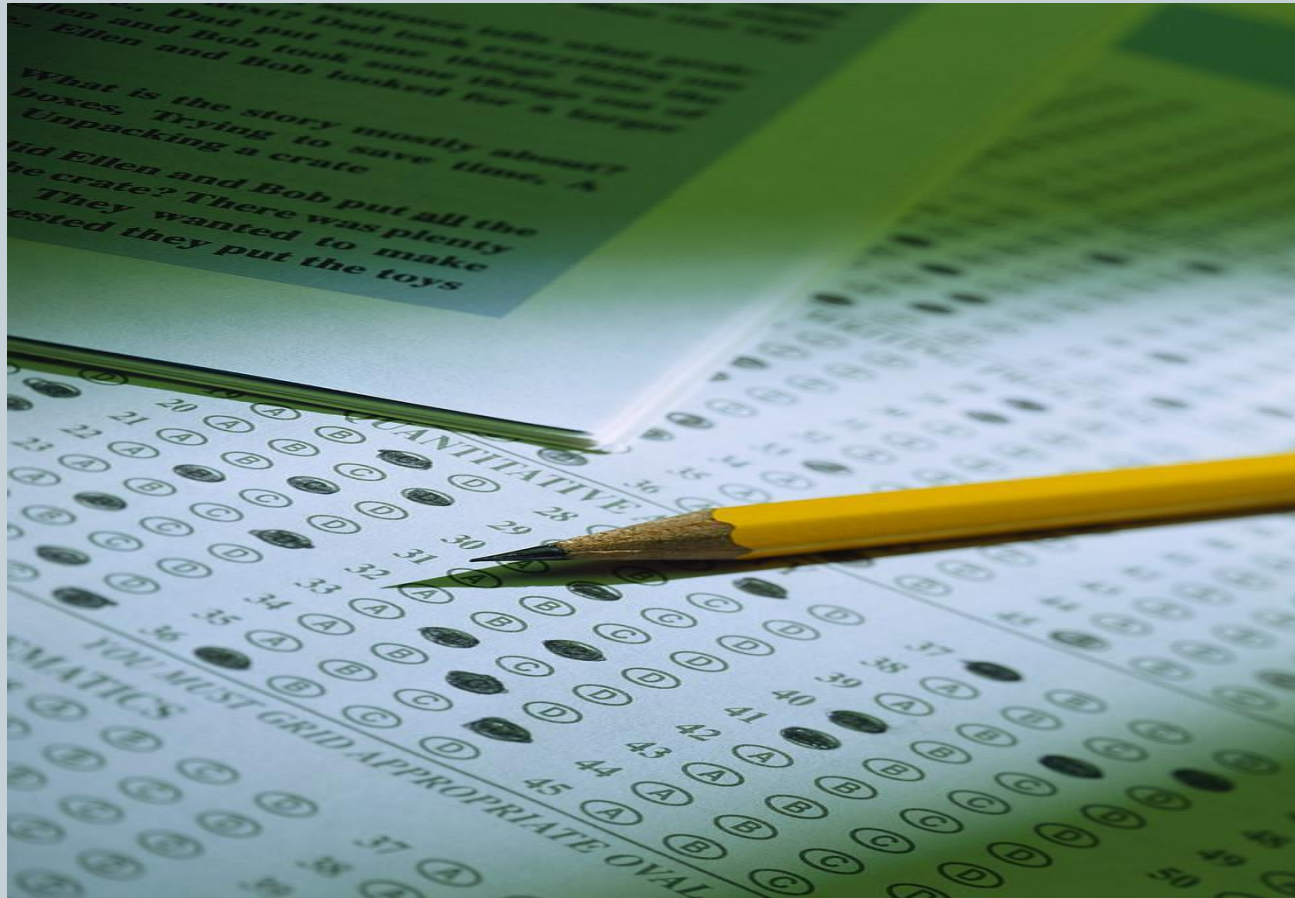
Researching Schools

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- Research schools before applying
 - Create a list to narrow down where you need to research-select Safety, Target, Reach schools-consider academics & financials
 - Visit the schools' websites
 - College Search websites-MEFA Pathway, College Board, etc.
 - Participate in virtual visits, webinars, live chat with admissions; follow on social media
 - Visit in person
 - College fairs- [NEACAC Fair](#) (May 16 + 23) and [NACAC Fair](#) (May 2 + 3)
- How many will you apply to? 6-8, family decision

Standardized Testing Information

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SAT

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- Measures skills in two sections: Evidence Based Reading and Writing, Math
- Each section is worth 800 points
- Recommended taking once in junior year and once again in the fall of senior year.
- *Next test date offered by College Board:*
 - May 6th (deadline to register April 7th)
 - June 3rd (deadline to register May 4th)
 - **Students must register at www.collegeboard.org**
- Colleges will superscore (take your highest score for each section)
- Check colleges for test optional policies
- If student receives free/reduced lunch, they are eligible for a fee waiver (contact your school counselor for details)

ACT

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- Measures students' skills in four areas:
 - English, Math, Reading, and Science
- Schools will accept either the ACT or the SAT equally
- Scale score is 1-36 on each section; Composite Score avg. of 4 tests
- Register and prepare online at [ACTstudent.org](https://actstudent.org)
 - June 10 registration deadline May 5th
 - July 15 registration deadline June 16th
- New ACT:
 - If students take the full test once they can then re-take certain sections
 - Students can re-take up to 3 sections on a test date
 - ACT Scores can be Superscored-All test events will be included in Superscore or traditional full test battery can be sent
- If student receives free or reduced lunch, they are eligible for a fee waiver (contact your school counselor for details)

SAT/ACT PREP

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- Prepare for the tests:
 - SAT <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>,
 - Free & Authorized by College Board
 - Requires students to have a College Board Account and Khan Academy Account
 - Connects accounts to provide personalized practice
 - CollegeBoard website
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>
 - ACT <https://academy.act.org/>
 - Free and Authorized by ACT
 - Daily Practice for SAT and ACT Apps available at your App store

More tests....

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- **AP Exams**

- Taken in May by students enrolled in Advanced Placement Classes
- Some colleges will accept certain scores on an AP exam for college credit

- **TEAS**

- Required at some 2 year schools for entrance into certain STEM programs e.g. Occupational Therapy Asst., Nursing

- **ASVAB**

- A military placement exam, but also an career interest inventory that all students can take to help determine career choice.
- No military service/recruitment requirement
 - Offered at MHS on **Tuesday, April 11** during school hours
 - Free of charge for all students
 - Approx. 3 hours long
 - Interpretation of results will happen at a later date

How do I send my standardized test scores to the schools I am applying to??

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- Students are responsible for sending scores directly through the testing agency (CollegeBoard.org for SAT & actstudent.org for ACT).
- When a student signs up for the SAT:
 - 4 score reports are included in the cost of registration
- When a student signs up for the ACT:
 - 4 score reports are included with registration
- We encourage student to take advantage of the free score reports when a school requires the SAT/ACT
- After the test date, it costs approximately \$12 per score sent to each college

Important Things to Consider

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- Start with who you are now and where you would like to be in the future
 - As you begin your search:
 - Examine yourself-what is important to you?
 - What are your reasons for going to college?
- **You can afford to go to college** Don't assume you cannot afford a college based on sticker price of tuition
 - Net Price Calculator, <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>
 - Commonwealth Commitment & MASS Transfer
 - MA Independent College Transfer Guarantee
 - Many opportunities for scholarships, grants, and financial aid
 - Often, applications are automatically reviewed for potential scholarship and grant awards

Possible College Application Materials

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- All schools will have different requirements, but these are typically the basics...
- **Application**
- **Application Fee** (fee waivers available for Free/Reduced lunch students)
- **Transcript**
- **Standardized Test Scores** (these are sent by the student through the testing agency)
- **Essay** (essay question(s) can be found on the application)
- **Letters of Recommendation**
 - Verify number and type required with each college
 - No more than two teacher letters and one counselor letter
- **Resume** (this helps you complete your application)

The College Essay

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- Your essay is about YOU - not a generic high school senior. Be creative!
- This is your voice in the application-you could look similar to someone else on paper - transcript, activities, etc. - so show them who you are
- Pretend you are meeting with an admissions representative - what do you want them to walk away knowing about you?
- Follow the directions: adhere to word limit!
- Make sure you proofread! Take it to an English teacher, family member, or your counselor for review.

A quick word about college athletics...

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- If playing a Division 1 or Division 2 sport is top on your list:
 - Mandatory that you sign up with the NCAA Eligibility Center at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
 - Recommend completing this process during junior year
 - Students will create an account and provide information about courses, grades, athletic history, etc.
 - You must have your transcript sent to the NCAA
 - Touch base with your coach about your future plans
 - Talk to your counselor to let them know your plans and if you have any questions

A quick word about ROTC...

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- Service Academies/ROTC scholarship applications are in depth and should be started now as a junior
 - For applicable majors/ROTC offered at certain schools
 - Application information is available at each branch of the military's ROTC website
- Full Cost of College + stipend (not room & board)
 - Application usually due Dec. 1st of Senior Year
 - Service Academies cover all college costs +stipend
- You can do ROTC without a scholarship
 - No commitment until they pay for your education
 - Can apply as a 3rd year college student for ROTC scholarships too

Overview of Financial Aid: FAFSA

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- Apply for the FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) anytime after October 1st of senior year
 - Apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- MEFA hosts many financial aid webinars
- MEFA FAFSA Days
 - Held in the fall online and at various area high schools
 - An opportunity to get assistance completing the FAFSA
- Some schools require the CSS Profile
 - Available October 1st- check individual school websites for more information about deadlines
<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Scholarship Information

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- Scholarships will be updated and added to the Class of 2023 Google Classroom regularly
- Local Scholarship Packet- spring of senior year
 - MANY scholarship opportunities for MHS students
- Online websites such as [GoingMerry](#), [MEFA](#), and [College Board](#) are helpful scholarship search sites.
- Be very careful of online scholarship websites - there are companies that will sell info-be a critical consumer
 - ***As a general rule, any site that asks you to pay to apply for scholarships is not legitimate- *some apps do charge a fee****

Meetings with Counselors

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- We would like to meet with you to review your post-secondary plan
- Counselors are available to meet with students and families in person or via Google Meet as the spring semester progresses to support students in making progress in their planning.
 - To make an appointment with Ms. Fernald (Lb-Z): click [here](#) or email her nfernald@maynard.k12.ma.us
 - To make an appointment with Ms. MacPhee (A-Z): email her at dmacphee@maynard.k12.ma.us
 - To make an appointment with Ms. Petroskey (A-La): click [here](#) or email her at apetroskey@maynard.k12.ma.us

Take a breather...

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- This is a big process for a big transition and we are here to help you through everything. Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions you might have!
- Planning ahead and staying organized will help so much in this process.
- This presentation will be available on the MHS School Counseling website and we will email it out

Thank you! & Questions?

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Remember, we are available to help in any way, so please feel free to reach out.

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[School Counseling Website](#)
[Post-Secondary Planning Timeline and Resources](#)