

COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE – FOR RISING JUNIORS MANLIUS PEBBLE HILL SCHOOL

This Summer:

Visit a college campus if traveling or visit a local campus.

- Keep it low key. Plan for wise use of summer: summer courses, summer employment, service learning relaxation and family time

Fall Semester:

Engage with your studies.

- Transcript is single most important piece of your application
- Grades tell colleges how well you do in upper-level courses
- Grades are used to determine grants and honors invitations for colleges
- If learning differences are suspected, contact Kathy Kelly

Sit in with College Reps when they visit MPH, as your schedule allows.

- Learn colleges' mission, strengths, and admission requirements
- Explore academic offerings

In October- MPH requires Juniors to take the PSAT at MPH. Look for a package from the College Counseling office with details and preparation materials.

- Scores are used to qualify student for the National Merit Scholarship and the National Achievement and the National Hispanic Scholars Programs.
- Scores are not reported to colleges
- Enroll in “Student Search” for free information sent by colleges based on score and interests

In December, when you receive your PSAT™ results, use the on-line report to explore ways to improve scores on SAT™ in the Spring

- Maintain your co-curricular involvement.
- Some activities require supplemental material/contact during admission process
- Athletes: communicate with college coaches, enroll with NCAA in July
- Artists, Musicians, Thespians: research portfolio/audition requirements
- Prepare for Financial Aid Process.
- Discover Your Estimated Family Contribution: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov
- Learn the parts of Financial Aid: <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov>
- Explore Scholarship sites: www.fastweb.com
- Speak with your personal financial professional/accountant
- Obtain FAFSA PIN and Social Security # if don't have one

In January, attend MPH's Junior College Night.

- Read Handbook
- Attend Naviance training session. Naviance is the software program MPH uses to manage College Search and Application Process.
- Explore Naviance
- Develop a Standardized Testing Plan

Spring Semester:

Fill out online Junior Student Survey and Game Plan in Naviance.

- Self-assessment
- Career/academic interest assessment
- Help parents activate their Naviance Accounts and Complete Parent Survey
- Explore Naviance with your parents.

In February, register for SAT™ and ACT with Writing™ tests given in March - June.

- Prepare for tests: course, software, tutor, practice, discipline
- Don't sacrifice MPH coursework
- Research testing requirements for your potential colleges
- Visit www.fairtest.org for list of "test-optional" colleges
- MPH is not a test site. Families must register students

In March or April, schedule meeting (s) with College Counselor.

- Develop "working list" of colleges to research, use research tools in Naviance
- Discuss plan for spring and summer
- Visit Naviance regularly as it serves as a crucial communication source from MPH College Counseling: college visits, deadlines, etc. Explore colleges: Use Handbook, Naviance, and College guides for information.
- Plan college visits (**February, April, Summer.**)
- Attend College Fairs.
- NACAC National College Fair (**March/April**)
- Colleges That Change Lives (**May**)
- Performing and Visual Arts College Fairs (**Fall**)

In April, review your four year plan, talk with teachers, make adjustments, and sign up for senior year courses that challenge you appropriately. Consider registering for SAT Subject tests.

- Great variety in testing requirements for college applications
- Most colleges/universities do not require subject tests
- Selective schools (accept $\leq 20\%$) often require 2-3 Subject Tests.
- Some let you substitute ACT with Writing for Subject tests
- Confirm Testing requirements for prospective colleges
- Save your best work in academic courses and the arts for your academic portfolio
- **In April, May, and June:** Sit for many tests. AP's & MPH Final Exams, SAT Reasoning SAT Subject Tests, ACT with Writing

A Taste of Next Summer (between Junior and Senior year):

- Visit College Campuses
- Keep Researching; Keep refining your list
- Continue to evaluate your criteria for college matches
- Eliminate colleges that no longer interest you
- Add colleges as you discover them
- Complete the Common Application, including drafts of essays
- Evaluate philosophical readiness for Early Decision/Early Action

- Finalize Standardized testing Plan, Register for Fall SAT and ACT
- Keep reading the MPH College Counseling Handbook
- Keep using Naviance, keep your information up to date
- Enroll in a summer course or special program
- Expand on Service Learning
- Continue with your co-curricular passions
- Seek summer employment
- Spend time with your family