

**COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE - FOR RISING FRESHMAN
MANLIUS PEBBLE HILL SCHOOL**

- Plan Freshman year courses with attention to a four year progression of classes that meet both MPH's graduation requirements and develops required credentials for college admission. Selective colleges expect four years of English, history, math, science, and foreign language: the "core academics."
- Freshman final year grades (not quarter grades) are part of a student's transcript and college application. During the year, review with your child how he/she's doing in each of his/her subject areas. Encourage him/her to keep up the good work, and help him/her set goals for improvement in weaker subjects.
- Help your child develop good study skills.
- If you suspect learning differences, see Kathy Kelly.
- Help your child become involved in co-curricular and/or athletic activity. Explore now, specialize later. Encourage him/her to stick with commitments.
- Get informed about college costs. Explore your family's options for financing your child's college education and learn how financial aid works. Use an online College Cost Calculator: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov . Info on financing a college education: <http://federalstudentaid.ed.gov>.
- In April next year, seek advice from Math, Science & History teachers about the advisability of taking SAT Subject Tests™ in strong subjects in June. Note well: significant additional preparation is involved.
- In April next year, start looking for summer activities for your child. Summer learning programs, volunteer opportunities, or employment. Summer is a good time to learn about an area in which he/she's interested - being a camp counselor can give a student a taste of teaching. Don't overbook...relaxation and family times are important, too.
- In April next year, review the four year curricular plan, make adjustments, and sign up for appropriately challenging sophomore year courses.
- Encourage your child to read, read, and read some more. Reading develops interests, expands knowledge, and improves vocabulary and reading comprehension skills needed for college and for standardized tests.
- Keep an academic portfolio and co-curricular record for the next four years so the information will be readily available when writing applications to colleges or drafting a resume.