

Junior / Senior Parent Breakfast

Classes of 2012 and 2013

Melrose High School

WELCOME!

- The stress of the college search and application process is real
- Our goal is to make the process easier for students and parents
- We are here to answer your questions and help in any way we can
- We approach each student as an individual with unique abilities and needs

2012 Graduation Requirements

- **24 credits minimum**
- **Required courses**
 - **4 English, 3 Math, 3 Social Studies, 3 Science, 1 Foreign Language, 2 Fine/Applied Arts, 2 Wellness, and 6 Electives**
- **MCAS (English, Math, and Science)**
- **48 Hours of Community Service (or 12 hours for each year enrolled at MHS)**

4 YEAR COLLEGE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Math (through at least Algebra II)
- 3-4 years Social Studies
- 3-4 years Science (at least 2 years lab science)
- 2-4 years of the same foreign language



Individual Sessions with Counselor

- Counselors will meet individually with every senior (usually several times) with or without parents present
- Discussion centers around college list, admission requirements, SAT/ACT, college essay, letters of recommendation, potential major area of study, visiting colleges, etc.
- Students research colleges with counselor using Naviance and other printed resources
- Together, we generate a list of colleges for further exploration and outline how students can do research independently

Student's Responsibilities

- **Make an appointment to speak with counselor about post high school / college plans (juniors beginning in Jan/Feb)**
- **Begin to involve parents in the conversation about post high school plans**
- **Put forth the best academic effort possible**
- **Plan rigorous senior year schedule (juniors)**
- **Plan / Continue extracurricular and community service activities**



Naviance

- Linked with Guidance Office
- Web-based service to help with decisions about colleges and careers
- Classes of 2008-2011 statistics/results available
- Student accounts have been activated
- Call the guidance office if you have questions
- Family Connection access site is <http://connection.naviance.com/melrose>

Post High School Options

- 4 year colleges or universities
- 2 year colleges
- 2 + 2 colleges
- Technical colleges
- Military Academy

Community College

- **The price is right**
- **Often students take the same courses as they would at a 4 year college**
- **Do not require SAT/ACT**
- **Students are able to transfer to 4 year colleges after 1 or 2 years**
- **Some community colleges have agreements with the state colleges**
- **Cannot live on campus**

Options for Students Not Going to College

- **Post Grad Year**
- **Technical Schools**
- **Military**
- **GAP Year or Deferred Enrollment**
- **Employment**
- **Other...**

Considerations for Special Education Students

- **Umass/State Colleges permit submitting IEP/Testing in lieu of SAT/ACT**
- **Colleges that provide a Learning/Support Center or Tutoring in addition to accommodations**
- **Community Colleges have special programs**
- **MHS Guidance only submits IEP/Testing information when requested by the students due to confidentiality**

Standardized Testing

- **SAT vs. ACT – Similarities and Differences**
- **November and December test dates**
- **SAT Subject Tests – when are they required?**
- **Scores MUST be sent to colleges from testing agency**
- **www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org**
- **“Score Choice” explanation**
- **Colleges not requiring standardized test scores at www.fairtest.org/university/optional**

TEST PREP

- There are many companies that provide prep, a partial list is available at www.melroseschools.com, click on guidance link
- Test prep usually (though not always) results in higher scores
- Usually done in the spring leading up to May / June test dates

College Search Resources in Guidance

- **Printed resources and guidebooks**
- **Naviance**
- **Online resources and web sites**
- **Colleges own web sites**

Admission Factors Colleges Consider

- **GPA and Class Rank**
- **SAT/ACT scores**
- **Senior year academic performance**
- **Extracurricular activities**
- **College essay**
- **Recommendations**
- **Interview (maybe)**
- **“Demonstrated Interest”**

Why is junior year important?

- Begin to plan for the future
- GPA from end of junior year is on transcript sent to colleges
- Plan ahead for standardized testing
- Plan ahead for summer
- Portfolio development for art/photography/fashion majors



CAREERS

- **The guidance office uses Naviance with students**
- **Students take a personality profile and a career interest profile**
- **The career descriptions are linked to the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the U.S. Dept. of Labor**
- **Counselors discuss options with students**



Factors Students Should Consider in College Search

- **Location**
- **Admission selectivity (from historical data)**
- **“Fit” or “match” with student interests and personality (college visit critically important)**
- **Academic programs**
- **Size**
- **Public vs. Private**
- **Cost**
- **Financial Aid**

Admission Categories

- REACH – The student's GPA and SAT / ACT scores fall below the historical averages for the college and / or past MHS students
- REALISTIC – The student's GPA and SAT / ACT scores fall within the historical averages for the college and / or past MHS students
- SAFETY – The student's GPA and SAT / ACT scores fall above the historical averages for the college and / or past MHS students



EVERYONE'S REACH

- **Harvard, Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale, Brown, Columbia, Penn, Cornell, MIT, Stanford, Georgetown, Swarthmore, Amherst (not a complete list)**
- **U of Virginia, U of Michigan, Cal Berkeley, North Carolina-Chapel Hill**




JUST ABOUT EVERYONE'S REACH

- Boston College, Williams, Middlebury, Brandeis, Colby, Hamilton, Tufts, Vassar, Connecticut College, Wesleyan, NYU, U of Chicago, Northwestern, Rice, Vanderbilt, Bowdoin, Colgate (not a complete list)
- There are many more qualified applicants than there are spaces. Being an average to above-average candidate is no guarantee



ADMISSION FACTORS COLLEGES CONSIDER

- GPA and Class Rank
 - SAT / ACT scores
 - Junior and Senior year performance
 - Extracurricular activities
 - College Essay
 - Recommendations
 - Interview (maybe)
 - “Demonstrated Interest”
- 

University of Massachusetts System

- **3.0 GPA required and 960 old SAT**
- **U.Mass/Amherst looking for 3.30**
 - **Commonwealth College – 3.80**
 - **School of Nursing – most competitive**
- **U.Mass/Lowell**
- **U.Mass/Dartmouth**
- **U.Mass/Boston**

Massachusetts State College System

- **Bridgewater State**
- **Fitchburg State**
- **Framingham State**
- **Salem State**
- **Westfield State**
- **Worcester State**
- **Massachusetts College of Art**
- **Mass College of Liberal Arts (MCLA)**
- **Massachusetts Maritime Academy**

Application Process at MHS

- \$25 Transcript Fee payable to Melrose Public Schools
- Release of Records form must be signed (also on website at www.melroseschools.com)
- Student applies online and notifies counselor when application is sent at least 2 weeks prior to application deadline
- Guidance office sends transcript, school profile, teacher and counselor recommendations, and school report
- Student requests SAT/ACT scores to be sent directly from testing agency
- ALL deadlines are the responsibility of student

Application Deadlines

- **Early Decision / Early Action**
 - Usually Nov 1 or Nov 15
- **Regular Admission**
 - often Jan 1st
- **Rolling Admission**
 - Anytime - The earlier, the better
- **Application materials must be received by guidance department 2 weeks prior to application deadline**

TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

- EARLY DECISION-Deadline is Nov 1st or 15th and requires a binding commitment from the student if admitted (notification by Dec. 15th)
- EARLY ACTION-Deadline is Nov 1st or 15th usually and is not binding. A student can apply to multiple early action schools (notification by Dec. 15th)



TYPES OF APPLICATIONS (CONT)

- **REGULAR**-Deadline is usually Jan. 1st or later and notification is generally by April 1st
- **ROLLING**-Application can be sent any time but usually the sooner the better. Notification is on a rolling basis, generally 4-6 weeks after receipt of application
- Application materials are sent by the student to colleges **ONLINE** and thereafter MHS sends transcripts and recommendations to college



The Common Application

- One application that can be used for many colleges (www.commonapp.org)
- Many schools also require a supplement, be sure to check the school's web site.
- Not every college accepts it, check to be sure
- Streamlines the process, completed and submitted online to schools

THE COLLEGE VISIT

- Call admission office in advance to make appointment or join a campus tour
- **START NOW** if possible
- Sleep over is ideal if possible
- Try to visit when school is in session



Teacher Recommendations

- **1 – 2, as directed by college**
 - **Student asks teacher at least one month prior to deadline and supplies teacher with appropriate forms**
 - **Supplemental recommendations okay, but no more than 4 total counting guidance counselor recommendation**

ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, GRAPHIC DESIGN OR FASHION PORTFOLIOS

- Any students considering a major in one of these areas will likely be required to submit a portfolio of their work as part of application
- It is critical that if a student knows during junior year they will be or may be majoring in one of these areas that they start building their portfolio NOW

College Essay

- **Start now**
- **Answer question asked by college or by Common App
(www.commonapp.org)**
- **Often requires some soul searching**
- **Have counselor or English teacher review**
- **No more than 500 or two pages double spaced**

Financial Aid

- **Financial Aid Night**
 - Thursday November 10th 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. at MHS
 - Facilitated by MEFA (www.mefa.org)
- **FAFSA** (available January 1st at www.fafsa.gov)
- **CSS Profile** (available now at www.collegeboard.com)
- **Funding Your Education**
 - publication by Federal government
 - Download at www.studentaid.ed.gov
 - Click on “funding” icon

John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Program

- **Tuition only credit for students whose MCAS scores are in the top 25% in district that enroll at Umass or State College**
- **State notifies us of recipients**
- **Winners in Class of 2012 announced at Senior Awards on October 27th**

Application Procedure for Stanley Koplik Certificate of Mastery

- **Tuition assistance at Mass public colleges or universities.**
- **Application available in the guidance office**
- **MCAS Scores determine candidacy**
 - **Advanced on one**
 - **Advanced or Proficient on the other**
- **Second qualifying score required**
 - **SAT II**
 - **AP**
 - **Details at www.osfa.mass.edu**

Scholarships

- Information on scholarships now found almost exclusively online
- Melrose Permanent Scholarship Fund applications available beginning in January
- Private scholarships posted outside guidance office
- Check with the college's financial aid office in the spring after acceptance for scholarships they may offer
- www.fastweb.com

Athletics

- Register with NCAA for Division I and II
- www.eligibilitycenter.org
- 800-638-3731
- Copy 1 and Copy 2 to guidance office
- Specific requirements for Division I and II are outlined in student packet

Coming Attractions

- **College Fairs**

- Log on to www.collegeweeklive.com to participate in free online college fairs
- **Reading Cooperative College Fair**
Tuesday, Oct. 25th 6:30-8:30 p.m. Shriner's Auditorium in Wilmington
- **Financial Aid Night:**
- **November 10th at 7 p.m. in MHS Resource Center**

Contact Information

- **781-979-2208 or 781-979-2210**
- **Email**
 - jbuxton@melrose.mec.edu
 - flograsso@melrose.mec.edu
 - jbolduc@melrose.mec.edu
 - jparrillo@melrose.mec.edu
 - jshackelford@melrose.mec.edu

MHS GUIDANCE WEBPAGE

- WWW.MELROSESCHOOLS.COM
- Click on “guidance department”
- Site is updated regularly
- Forms, presentations, and links to college resources available on site



**THANK YOU FOR
COMING THIS
MORNING!**