

Senior Parent Breakfast

Class of 2011
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



2010 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)



Application Process at MHS

- \$25 Transcript Fee payable to Melrose Public Schools
- Release of Records form must be signed
- 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

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

Naviance

- Linked with Guidance Office
- Web-based service to help with decisions about colleges and careers
- Class of 2009 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



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”



Factors Students Should Consider

- 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



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 (ON THE SPOT)
- 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



On the Spot Admissions

- **Umass – Lowell** -- apply by Nov. 20th online at www.uml.edu/applyonline, complete 500 word essay, and see counselor before Nov. 20, admissions rep visits MHS on December 8th
- **Framingham State College** – Complete hard copy of application including essay (app available at www.framingham.edu)

Return all materials including \$45 app. fee to guidance counselor by January 8th, 2010, admissions rep visits on February 3rd, 2010



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



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



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



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 December 2nd 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. at MHS
 - Attended by MEFA and College Funding Services
- **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

- Created by Mitt Romney's administration
- 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 2011 announced at Senior Awards coming up after breakfast



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
- 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

- Reading College Fair at Shriner's Auditorium in Wilmington
 - October 19th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Financial Aid Night
 - December 2nd at 7 p.m. in MHS Resource Center



Contact Information

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THANK YOU FOR
COMING THIS
MORNING!

