

Melrose High School Guidance Department Recommendations for Seniors:

Fall :

- Make sure that you are in the correct level for each of your scheduled courses. If you have a question, discuss it with your parents, and do not hesitate to ask your teacher and your counselor **as soon as possible!**
- Review the MHS graduation requirements. Check our website: www.melroseschools.com, read through the MHS Program of Studies, or ask your guidance counselor if you have questions.
- Take some time to set academic and personal goals for the year. ***Something to think about: When you look back upon your senior year in June, what would you like to say that you accomplished academically? personally?*** You have a very important decision in your life to make this year- Where will your road lead after your graduate from MHS? Do your best to make this decision with as much knowledge and information as possible, and put yourself in the best position (academically and personally) to do so!
- Continue to maintain your involvement in extracurricular activities, consider new areas of interest if time allows, and continue to foster connections with adults and peers at MHS.
- Make plans to attend the Regional College Fair that we co-sponsor with Reading High School. **This year's fair is Tuesday, October 19th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Shriner's Auditorium in Wilmington.**
- Make an appointment with your guidance counselor as soon as possible to discuss your plans: Be sure to bring with you your updated list of colleges and universities that you plan on applying to, a list of deadlines, a list of teachers whom you have asked for recommendations, and your list of questions about the application process.
- Begin your college essay, if you have not already done so. Make good use of the assistance of your English teachers and your guidance counselor to help you understand the question (s), choose your topic, and edit your drafts.
- Bring your ***Release of Academic Information Form***, to Mrs. O'Connor or Ms. Seelley in the Guidance Office by **October 30th**. Please note there is a \$25.00 transcript fee which must be paid before we can send out any transcripts from guidance. We accept cash or check (made out to Melrose Public Schools).
- Check out the guidance newsletter updates each month on www.melroseschools.com, just click on the Guidance link.
- Begin the scholarship search if you have not already done so. Some resources that might help: the ***Scholarship Binder*** (which contains information on scholarship applications sent directly to the guidance office and is available in the guidance office), or various websites: www.mefa.com, www.collegeboard.com, www.petersons.com, www.fastweb.com. A multitude of books about the scholarship search are also available in local bookstores: Borders, Barnes & Noble, etc.
- Continue to familiarize yourself with the Financial Aid Process: Complete the CSS Profile if necessary (A list of schools that require the CSS Profile is available at www.collegeboard.com). Plan on attending the **MHS Financial Aid Night which is DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.**
- Register for the October, November and/or December SAT Reasoning Test, SAT II Subject Tests and/or ACT test if this is part of your individual plan.

- Arrange campus visits and interviews if part of your individual plan.
- Be aware of application deadlines for the guidance office. Early applicants will have November deadlines; make sure that your counselor is aware of your plans.
- Be aware that many early applications will be sent prior to the release of first-quarter grades. When the report cards are issued, each school will receive a copy of these grades. Be sure to maintain your high academic standards, as schools want to see that you continue to challenge yourself as seniors.

Winter:

- Be aware of Financial Aid Deadlines.
- Attend the MHS *Financial Aid Presentation*. More details will be available in the Guidance Office.
- Check out the FAFSA on line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Completed FAFSA forms may be submitted after January 1, and should be submitted as soon as possible after this date.
- Complete the CSS Profile if you have not already done so.
- Complete any financial aid forms required by individual schools to which you are applying.
- Complete an application for the *Melrose Permanent Scholarship Fund*, which will be available in the third floor office in January.
- Continue to work with your counselor to submit applications that fall into the Regular Decision time-frame. If you are applying online, it is essential that you inform your counselor in a timely manner so that we can send out your transcript and recommendations.
- Make your counselor aware of any correspondence that you receive from a college or university to which you have submitted an application.
- Be aware that the guidance office sends mid-year grades to every school that every senior is applying to. Make sure that your grades are up-to-date and accurate!

Spring:

- Explore the offers that you receive from schools. Consider your choices carefully, and consult with adults and peers whom you trust about your choice. Remember that there are many factors to consider in finding a school that is affordable, a good match, and where you will not only be challenged but feel comfortable.
- Compare your financial aid and/ or scholarship awards, and ask any lingering questions about additional aid.
- Prepare to notify the college or university that you choose by May 1.
- If you are choosing to work upon graduation, review these plans with your parents/guardians and your counselor, and be sure to ask any questions that remain about the available opportunities.