



COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE FOR RISING JUNIORS MANLIUS PEBBLE HILL SCHOOL

Summer Before Junior Year:

- Consider attending NACAC College Fair at OCC in March
- 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.
 - Your transcript is the 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 documented, contact the Director of Academic Support
- Sit in with College Reps when they visit MPH, as your schedule allows.
 - Learn colleges' mission, strengths, and admission requirements
 - Explore academic offerings

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, the National Achievement, and the National Hispanic Scholars Programs.
 - Scores are not reported to colleges
 - You have the option to enroll in "Student Search" for free information sent by colleges based on score and interests.
 - Work with parents to complete FAFSA under the "*prior-prior*" year policy (PPY)

December

- When you receive your PSAT results, use the on-line report to explore ways to improve scores on SAT in the Spring, explore the free online test prep with KHAN Academy
- 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 the 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 and the Scholarship tab in Naviance
 - Speak with your personal financial professional/accountant



Spring Semester:

January

- Attend MPH's Junior College Night.
 - Read the College Admissions Handbook
- Attend Naviance training session for college search information and resources
 - Explore Naviance college search engines
 - Develop a Standardized Testing plan for taking the SAT **and** ACT in the spring
 - Fill out Junior Student Survey and Game Plan in Naviance.
 - Help parents activate their Naviance accounts and complete their Parent Survey
 - Explore Naviance with your parents

February

- Register for SAT with Writing and ACT with Writing tests given March - June.
 - Prepare for tests: test-prep program, software/testing agency websites, KHAN Academy, private tutor, practice tests, reference books
 - Do not 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 at www.collegeboard.org for the SAT and www.actstudent.org for the ACT
- Consider visiting a college campus during Winter Recess

March – April

- Schedule meeting for students and their parents to meet with the 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, college websites and college guides for information.
- Plan college visits during Spring Recess, Summer
- Attend College Fairs
 - NACAC National College Fair (**March**)
 - Colleges That Change Lives (**May**)
 - Performing and Visual Arts College Fairs (**Fall**)
- 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 II Subject tests to be taken in June.
 - There is great variety in testing requirements for college applications
 - Most colleges/universities do not require SAT II subject tests
 - Selective schools (accept $\leq 15\%$) 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



April – June

- Sit for many tests: AP, MPH final exams, ACT with Writing, SAT with Writing, SAT II Subject Tests(if necessary)
- Attend College Counseling Common App Essay and Campus visit workshop in May

Summer before Senior year:

- Visit college campuses
- Keep researching colleges and 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, beginning August 1
- Evaluate philosophical readiness for Early Decision/Early Action
- Finalize standardized testing plan; register for Fall SAT and ACT
- Keep reading the MPH College Admissions Handbook to stay on track in process
- Use Naviance frequently, keeping your information up to date
- Enroll in a summer course or special program
- Expand on service learning and volunteer opportunities
- Continue with your co-curricular passions
- Seek summer employment
- Spend time with your family and friends