



## COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE FOR RISING SOPHOMORES MANLIUS PEBBLE HILL SCHOOL

### General Advice to Students:

- Concentrate on academic preparation.
  - Be "on top" of your academics. Meet with teachers for additional help.
  - If you have a documented learning differences, contact the Director of Academic Support
- Continue to develop basic skills through reading, writing, and improving study habits.
- Sign up for co-curricular activities that interest you.
  - Level of involvement/accomplishment is most important, not the number.
  - Keep a record of your involvement, volunteer work, and employment.
- Save your best work in academic courses and the arts for your academic portfolio.

### Fall Semester:

- **In October**, MPH offers the PSAT to Sophomores. Although typically 85% of the sophomore class takes the test, it is not mandatory. The PSAT is a preliminary test that prepares you for the SAT. Scores are not reported to colleges.
- If you do not want to take the PSAT, simply inform the college counseling office.
- When you receive your PSAT results, use the on-line report to explore ways to improve on future standardized tests.

### Spring Semester:

- **In March**, review the four-year curricular plan, talk with teachers, make adjustments, and sign up for appropriately challenging Junior year courses.
- **In April**, all sophomores will take the pre-ACT ASPIRE test. When you receive your ASPIRE results, use the on-line report to explore ways to improve on future standardized tests.
- **In April**, seek advice from science, math and history teachers about advisability of taking SAT Subject Tests in June. Students with an A- average or better typically consider taking these tests at the end of course in: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics or when a student is finishing a subject area (Algebra & Trigonometry AC.) Please note: significant additional preparation is required.
- There is great variety in testing requirements for college applications.
  - Most colleges/universities do not require the one-hour long subject tests.
  - However, the most selective schools (accept 15% or less) often require 2-3 Subject Tests.
- MPH is not a test site; families register at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).
- Plan for wise use of the summer.
  - Enroll in a summer course or special program of interest to you.
  - Expand on service learning and volunteer opportunities.
  - Continue with co-curricular passions.
  - Seek summer employment.
- **In June**, take the SAT Subject Test if you registered.