



## **COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE FOR RISING JUNIORS MANLIUS PEBBLE HILL SCHOOL**

### **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 highly recommends that 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.

### **November**

- Students that want to get early jump on standardized testing that can be reported to colleges may want to register for and prepare for the December ACT or SAT

### **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



## 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

- Consider Registering for SAT with Writing and ACT with Writing tests given March - June.
  - Prepare for tests: test-prep program, software/testing agency websites, Kaplan (ACT), KHAN Academy(SAT), private tutor, practice tests, reference books
  - Do not sacrifice MPH coursework
  - Research testing requirements for your potential colleges
  - Visit [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org) for list of “test-optional” colleges
  - MPH is not a test site. Families must register students at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for the SAT and [www.actstudent.org](http://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.
- If applying to highly selective colleges that require (only 7 colleges) or recommend, consider registering for SAT II Subject tests to be taken in June.
  - There is great variety in testing requirements for college applications
  - 99% of 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 over summer
- 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