

Manlius Pebble Hill School

COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE FOR RISING JUNIORS MANLIUS PEBBLE HILL SCHOOL

Before Junior Year:

- Do a drive-by or in-person visit to 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, test prep if the timing is right for your student, 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, work with Academic Support.
 - Students who did test prep over the summer may consider sitting for the SAT/ACT which are offered throughout the fall though for many students it makes sense to get more of the junior year classes material covered and start testing in spring of junior year.
- 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 recommends that Juniors to take the PSAT at MPH. Look for an email 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.
- Athletes: communicate with college coaches, (D I? 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 and ACT 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 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- check college website in advance.

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 and summer.
- Attend College Fairs (In person or virtual)
 - 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.
- 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 or SAT.
- 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.