

# Guidance Gab

◆ Morristown High School Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services ◆

www.morristownhighschool.org

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310840**

## LETTER FROM LESLEE J. SCHECKMAN DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE SERVICES

On behalf of the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services, I would like to welcome the Class of 2013. We are looking forward to four great years with you. Our counseling staff is available to assist students with academic, personal/social and career focused counseling. I am confident you will find the counselors and support staff both knowledgeable and helpful. Students are invited to stop by the office to visit with their counselors and/or pick up important materials they might need. Seniors are encouraged to apply for the many generous scholarships offered by the community. Information will be available in the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services, through Naviance and on our web site in the spring.

I hope we will see you at the evening activities we have planned. The team puts hours into developing these programs for our students and parents/guardians. These evening events are packed with the kind of information students will need to help them succeed in high school, with the college application process, post graduation plans and career planning. Dates of all events can be found on Naviance and are announced via the Honeywell system.

The *Guidance Gab* brings you the latest information concerning important topics relating to college and career planning. Members of our Parent Advisory Committee and the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services have teamed up to offer you this very informative resource. We have made every effort to address frequently asked questions that are particularly relevant to our students and parents/guardians. Please keep this handy reference guide in a safe place as it will prove to be helpful. **Please review the timelines for grades 8-12 to assist you in planning for high school and beyond.**

Reminder: the primary way that information is shared by our department with is through our web site (www.morristownhighschool.org) – click on the Guidance link and connect to Naviance. You are encouraged to check these sources on a weekly basis for the most up to date information. If you are not registered on Naviance, please contact our office for assistance.

This year I am pleased to welcome the newest members to our team: Ms. Alison Grill, School Counselor and Mr. Robert Miller, College and Career Counselor. My Miller's office is located in Room 384 (next door to the library).

I want to extend my thanks to our Parent Advisory Committee for all of their efforts with this publication. We could not provide such a comprehensive document without them.

Best regards,

*Leslee J. Scheckman*

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### PARENT GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

The MHS PAC Guidance Committee, which was formed in 1997, works with the MHS Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services to provide a link between parents and the Department. The PAC Guidance Committee Mission Statement is *to best serve our students by acting as a liaison between staff, students, and the community.*

*Guidance Gab* is a newsletter presenting information from the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services of Morristown High School.

#### Parent Guidance Committee Members

- Karen Burke
- Liz Fisch (Guidance GAB layout)
- Nancy Hedinger
- Lisa Hirschmann
- Judy Martinez
- Ellen Merwin
- Caren Olander
- Kim Pistner

### SAVE THE *GUIDANCE GAB*

The *Guidance Gab* is a valuable resource for college planning. It provides direction from start to finish and includes the latest information available on all aspects of this process. The *Guidance Gab* is issued annually. Updates can be found on the MHS website.

Copies of the *Guidance Gab* can be obtained from the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services or via the school website:

[www.morristownhighschool.org](http://www.morristownhighschool.org)  
(click on Guidance)

### COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS - PLANNING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Requirements vary from college to college, so you should check the specific requirements for the schools in which you have an interest. If you are a junior, **now** is the time to check the course requirements of your potential colleges. In fact, it is your last chance to make sure you have scheduled the courses you will need. NOTE: Prospective and current freshmen and sophomores should also be looking ahead in planning their schedules.

In general, college course requirements exceed those required for high school graduation, as seen by the chart below. Plan on taking the most challenging courses you can handle. Junior year is probably the hardest and most important year for a high school student. If your grades have been less than stellar, now is the time to change that. Colleges may take into consideration that a student has been a "late bloomer." Competitive courses and solid grades in junior year can sometimes help colleges "overlook" less impressive grades in the freshman and sophomore years.

**However**, this does not lessen the importance of the senior year. College bound students should make sure their senior year continues to be academically rigorous. What you take then is just as important, if not more so, than your junior year. Again, plan on taking as competitive a load as you can... and keep your grades strong.

Area	MHS Requirement	Typical College Requirement
English	4 years	4 years
Mathematics	3 years	3-4 years
Science (Lab)	3 years	2-4 years
Social Studies/History	3 years	2-4 years
World Language	2 years	2-4 years

Note: Students must take 5 credits in Career, Consumer, Family and Life Skills and 5 credits in Visual Arts/Performing Arts.

*If students or parents have any questions about the appropriateness of a schedule, they should contact their counselor.*

# Reminder!!

It's never too early to start thinking about letters of recommendation! See your counselor for more information.



**WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

MHS has adopted a Weighted GPA, and a Decile Grade Distribution in lieu of Class Rank. The Weighted GPA is calculated as follows:

**A.** Assign the appropriate value for each course grade using the chart below (for each Honors or AP level course, use the number in the AP/Honors value column.) For example, if a student took Concert Band and received a grade of A+, the value assigned for the course is 4.3. If the student took English Honors and received a grade of A+, the value assigned for the course is 5.375.

**B.** Calculate Quality Points for each course: Multiply Weighted Grade Value (determined in Step A) by number of credits assigned per course. In the Concert Band example, the Quality Points calculation is 21.5 (4.3 X 5 credits.) Divide total number of Quality Points (QP) by total number of credits earned to obtain Weighted Grade Point Average (WGPA).

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Value	AP/Honors Value
A+	(98-100)	4.3	5.375
A	(93 – 97)	4.0	5.000
A-	(90 – 92)	3.7	4.625
B+	(88 – 89)	3.3	4.125
B	(83 – 87)	3.0	3.750
B-	(80 – 82)	2.7	3.375
C+	(78 – 79)	2.3	2.875
C	(73 – 77)	2.0	2.500
C-	(70 – 72)	1.7	2.125
D+	(68 – 69)	1.3	1.625
D	(63 – 67)	1.0	1.250
D-	(60 – 62)	0.7	0.875
F	(59 or below)	0.0	0.000

**DECILE GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

MHS does not numerically rank its student population. Students' Weighted GPA and Decile Distribution are used instead of traditional ranking. See the School Profile on the MHS website for additional information or ask for a copy of the profile in the Guidance Office. The Decile Distribution for the class of 2010 is shown below.

Decile	# of Students	Range of Weighted GPA	Decile	# of Students	Range of Weighted GPA
1 <sup>st</sup> Decile	37	4.8460 – 4.2156	6 <sup>th</sup> Decile	37	3.2417 – 3.0396
2 <sup>nd</sup> Decile	37	4.2040 – 3.9188	7 <sup>th</sup> Decile	37	3.0344 – 2.7958
3 <sup>rd</sup> Decile	37	3.9031 – 3.7094	8 <sup>th</sup> Decile	37	2.7856 – 2.5113
4 <sup>th</sup> Decile	37	3.6875 – 3.5146	9 <sup>th</sup> Decile	37	2.5080 – 2.1181
5 <sup>th</sup> Decile	37	3.5094 – 3.2438	10 <sup>th</sup> Decile	32	2.1027 – 0.9593

**HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT (HSPA)**



All 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the HSPA in early spring 2010. Testing will cover reading, writing, and math. Students must score proficient or advanced proficient on the tests to graduate. Make-ups will be held for students who miss any parts of the test. Students who do not pass one or more sections of the test will have additional opportunities in their senior year to show proficiency. Review sessions will be scheduled for juniors to familiarize them with the format and content areas of the test. If a student scores partially proficient or below, he/she will be placed in an appropriate Math and/or English class to help achieve proficiency.

## The Saul Swanger Chapter of the National Honor Society

To be eligible for the Saul Swanger Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS), students must fulfill requirements in the four pillars of the National Honor Society: scholarship, character, leadership and service.

- A 3.7 un-weighted grade point average (GPA). This represents a 92 average. The GPA will be calculated at the end of the first semester of junior year for junior applicants and at the end of the first quarter of senior year for senior applicants.\*
- A minimum of 45 hours of community service. These hours are cumulative from July 1 after graduation from grade 8 to March of the junior year, or in the case of senior applicants, to October of the senior year. Work done for family members cannot be included as part of this service. Service hours cannot be met by working on summer projects only. Students should be consistently involved in community service throughout high school. To document the community service hours, a letter from each organization must be submitted on letterhead stationery signed by the student's supervisor.
- Demonstrated leadership in the classroom and in school activities. NHS candidates and members are expected to be role models for their academic peers. In addition, applicants must actively participate in a minimum of one school-based activity (club, sport, musical program, etc.) each semester of school enrollment. The emphasis is on quality of active leadership, not on a list of multiple club affiliations.
- Demonstrated good character. This means upholding the principles of morality and ethics, showing positive support of school rules and policies, as well as demonstrating respect for others, honesty in academic work and good sportsmanship.

Juniors who qualify by virtue of their GPA are invited to apply and are given the application materials after the first semester of the junior year. Seniors who qualify after the first quarter of the senior year will be given the same application materials. Transfer students who have the requisite GPA must be enrolled at MHS for a minimum of one semester. The application materials consist of: an application sheet, a record of school participation which must be verified by faculty advisors, a record of community service work which must be verified by the adult supervisor, a personal reflection sheet which focuses upon student response to questions regarding the four pillars of the NHS, and faculty and advisor recommendation sheets which address the candidate's demonstration of character, leadership and service. Students will be given a set date to return the completed application to the NHS advisor.

After the applications are returned, the Faculty Council, which consists of five faculty members, will review each application in its entirety. Selection will be determined by a majority vote of the Council. Candidates will be notified by mail of the Council's decision. The Induction Ceremony for the juniors is held in Spring; the seniors' ceremony is held in late December or early January.

\*In response to parent questions about the possibility of a child's earning a C and still being eligible for NHS, the answer is yes. However, that C will need to be balanced by high A grades in order to meet the GPA requirement.

## Your Own Study Skills

All of us take in information through our senses. Knowing and using this fact enhances the efficiency and quality of each person's study habits. Some of us remember pictures and shapes more than words that we hear, while others remember melodies from commercial jingles more than subjects from a photo. The key is to use this to your advantage. If you easily remember pictures, maps and visual cues, make your own pictures and graphs of the information you need to learn. For example, if you are studying three accomplishments of a particular author such as Charles Dickens, draw a map or "semantic web" to organize the large and small pieces of information you need to learn. Construct this map of Dickens' works on poster paper or organize pieces of information on separate index cards. If you visualize much with colors, use various colors to identify level of detail, such as one color representing titles of works and a separate color identifying supporting details of works. Use a third color to record smaller supporting details.

If you are strong in auditory skills, record pieces of information. Record your research paper and listen to it more than once. If you're musically inclined, write a song with related lyrics and use the memory of pitches to

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*Continued from page 4*

remind you of historical facts. Create lines of poetry to match related material. Use acronyms and rhymes to memorize difficult facts. If you are athletic, choreograph dance movements to accompany the lyrics.

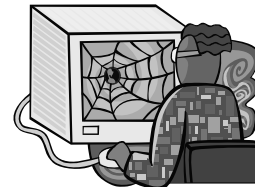
If you have interpersonal skills and learn by discussing facts with people, pretend you are the teacher and present your paper to a friend or family member. Ask friends and family members to ask you questions and explain facts to them from your point of view and from others' points of view.

Remember: Organization and understanding of the information, whether by ear or by eye, go hand in hand. The brain comprehends and retains material which is organized. Also, it is easier to remember facts when you can relate them to prior experience. Charles Dickens' characters who travel by horse and communicate with feather and ink can sound distant from our own life experiences, but his words ("it was the worst of times, it was the best of times") relate to all of us. Many teachers are very creative in comparing students' experiences and/or current events to unfamiliar information in course text books. Studying is an excellent opportunity to be creative!

Finally, manage your study time to fit your strengths and reality. If you have fifty pages of unfamiliar material to learn and ten days until the scheduled testing date, approximate five pages of learning per night. The brain performs well when it has processing time and prefers regular increments of this time for newly learned information. Even when you are sleeping or practicing a sport, your brain is processing information. In addition, repetition only enhances this learning process.

## Naviance: A Great Tool For College Planning

*Questions about Naviance?  
Contact your child's counselor!*



Morristown High School has been utilizing TCCI Family Connection for its primary method of communication and as a tool in the college process. TCCI stands for "The College Counselor Internet". TCCI enables our office to offer a comprehensive website that both parent/guardian and student can use to help in making decisions about colleges and careers. MHS uses TCCI to track and analyze data about the college and career plans of our students.

Family Connection comes with a list of Web-based resources for students and parents on subjects such as:

- On-line college search, linked with your school's application history
  - View Scholarships and financial aid information, particularly local scholarships
  - College athletics
  - Dynamic college search and comparison tools
  - Résumé of student accomplishments
  - Scattergrams --Compare GPA, SAT, ACT scores and other statistics to actual historical data from MHS for students who have applied and been admitted in the past using scattergrams of past applications from your school
  - Integrate personality and learning style inventories to assess a student's needs
- Keep track of the colleges students are considering and create an "active application" list.

**All students and parents/guardians need to be registered and using Naviance.**

### **How to Access TCCI-Naviance:**

Your child has been provided with a personal access code and instructions for accessing the TCCI Family Connection. If he/she does not have that information, have your child contact the counselor. Information was also provided to parents/guardians so they can set up their own accounts. If you lost this information please contact the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services. **The Web address for the TCCI Family Connection for our school is: <http://connection.naviance.com/morristownhs>.**

Note: To begin the set-up in the Family Connection, you must have an e-mail address. You can obtain one through websites such as, [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) or [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com) at home or at the library.

## Gap Year – What Is It?



Some students have been choosing a year off after high school and before starting college— for travel, work, or community service. Many of these students line up a college before their gap year as many colleges allow deferred admission. A gap year is not for everyone, but many students who take one return more confident and self-aware! If this is something you are considering, your child's counselor can help review the pros and cons. Please note, each college has its own rules about deferring admission—please check carefully.

## County College and Technical Training Opportunities

County colleges offer a variety of academic and technical programs with flexibility in course scheduling, application preparation and program fee payment schedules. Two-year colleges offer associate degree programs, which include about 60 to 65 credits total and are varied in content. These degree programs have approximately 30 class credits in a particular area of focus ranging from the humanities and sciences to computer systems and hospitality. Thirty additional class credits in general education courses complete the associate's degree and are usually dispersed in a semester schedule among major focus courses.

Programs at County College of Morris ([www.ccm.edu](http://www.ccm.edu)) include but are not limited to: aviation technology, biotechnology, computer aided drafting technology, computer information systems, horticulture, fire science, graphic design, veterinary technology, radiography, and electronics. Upon completing an associates degree program, students can then transfer the credits to a four-year college program and complete a bachelors degree. At least 40 colleges have formal written articulation agreements accepting 2-year college credits. Students who meet with county college articulation counselors are advised exactly which courses are transferable to the four-year college they are applying to.

In addition, students who do not wish to complete the associates degree program or who want to start earning money sooner can opt to enroll in a certificate program. These programs require about 12 to 15 credits in a particular area of training. They can then use the earned training certificate to obtain employment, keeping the option to continue with courses to complete a related associate degree. These continued courses could be completed in the future or at the same time when students are working full time hours. Certificate programs include but are not limited to culinary arts, microcomputer information systems, Internet web development, and electronic commerce.

High school students who have successfully completed a vocational technical school program can also transfer credits from Morris County School of Technology ([www.msvts.org](http://www.msvts.org)) to an associate degree curriculum at County College of Morris in animal technology, auto service, business, computer assisted drafting, culinary arts, information technology, and electrical trades. All programs require commitment and hard work, but do not require SAT or ACT scores. English communication and math course level placement is identified through school basic skill tests (or SAT/ACT scores if they meet the criteria). In addition, college preparatory courses and study assistance are available at most academic levels.

For students planning to transfer from a 2 year college to a 4 year college, it is advisable to contact the college or refer to [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org).

*Special Note: NJ STARS (signed into law June 2004) is a program that offers high school graduates ranking in the top 15% of their class full paid tuition to attend their local 2-year community college. Note that students in families with income in excess of \$250,000 a year are not eligible. For current information, visit <http://www.njstars.net>.*

## MHS Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services Resources

Remember to consult prepared resources in the Guidance Office which highlight not only Internet web sites to search for colleges and financial aid but also have periodic updates on the following:

- Listing of local test preparation centers (with contact phone numbers) that offer SAT/ACT prep classes and tutors
- October PSAT registration information
- New scholarships (MHS Seniors should check daily during fall and winter)
- New college catalogs and college directories
- Financial Aid guide booklets
- Brag sheets and activity sheets for college application recommendation letters
- FAFSA and CSS Profile forms for seniors applying for financial aid
- ACT and SAT sample practice booklets and registration books
- College preparation and search guides
- Military program pamphlets
- College admission representative visitation dates (these can be found on Naviance)

**Information is also available on the MHS School Counseling and Guidance Services website:  
[www.morristownhighschool.org](http://www.morristownhighschool.org) (click on Guidance)**

### Guidance Gab Committee College Reference "Picks" (in no particular order)

*The Fiske Guide to Colleges* by Edward Fiske

*Baron's Profiles of American Colleges Northeast* (other geographic regions available)

*Princeton Review- The Best 351 Colleges*

*U.S. News & World Report America's Best Colleges*

*Newsweek - Kaplan: How to Get Into College*

*The Insider's Guide to the Colleges* (Students on campus tell you what you really want to know) – Yale Daily News Staff

*The Truth About Getting In: A Top College Advisor Tells You Everything You Need to Know* by Katherine Cohen

*Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools You Should Know about Even If You're Not a Straight-A Student* by Loren Pope

*Looking Beyond the Ivy League Finding the College That's Right For You* by Loren Pope

*Greenes' Guides to Educational Planning: The Hidden Ivies: Thirty Colleges of Excellence* by Howard Greene

*Greenes' Guide to Educational Planning: The Public Ivies* by Howard Greene

*Cool Colleges: For the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming and Just Plain Different* by Donald Asher

*Multicultural Student's Guide to Colleges* - Harper-Collins

*Professional Degree Programs in the Visual & Performing Arts* - Peterson's

*Peterson's Competitive Colleges* - Peterson's

*Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*

*The Fiske Guide to Getting into the Right College* by Edward Fiske & Bruce Hammond

*K & W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities* by Princeton Review

<http://connection.naviance.com/morristownhs>

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

<b>College Application Timeline</b>	<b>Action to Take</b>
Freshman Year	IEP and 504 students– if accommodations are needed, apply now. Attend MHS Freshman night.
Sophomore Year	Take PSAT for practice. See your counselor for more information. Attend MHS Sophomore night.
Junior Year	Take PSAT in the fall, and SAT and ACT tests in the spring. If applicable, take AP exams in May.
October/November (Junior Year)	Attend college admission representative visits to MHS and mini-college fairs.
Junior Year (Winter)	Attend MHS Junior Night.
Junior Year	Research colleges on Naviance and begin to college visits.
Junior Year *	Take SAT Subject tests, if applicable. (*This test can also be taken earlier if prerequisite course has been taken.)
Junior Year—spring	Attend Junior conference with counselor and parent/guardian. Begin college essay process.
June (Junior Year)	Ask teachers to write letters of recommendation.
(May/June/July) Junior Year	Decide on which schools you will apply to.
Summer (between Junior and Senior Year) and Fall (Senior Year)	Visit remaining colleges.
August (Senior Year)	Register for SAT, SAT Subject tests, and/or ACT for fall (if you will be taking the tests again).
August (Senior Year)	Finish college essay. Bring it with you when school begins for teacher/counselor review.
August/September (Senior Year)	Athletes applying to a Division I or II school, register with NCAA.
August/September (Senior Year)	Register on the Common Application, set up your college application checklist, and begin to fill out the college applications. Begin working on applications for colleges that don't accept the Common Application.
September (Senior Year)	Complete and hand in Brag Sheets and Activity Sheets to your counselor.
September (Senior Year)	Give teacher recommendation forms and stamped, addressed envelopes to teachers.
October (Senior Year)	Attend MHS Senior Night.
October/November (Senior Year)	Attend college admission representative visits to MHS and mini-college fairs.
October (Senior Year)	Complete Early Decision/Early Action college applications.
November/December (Senior Year)	Complete all applications. Follow the Guidance timeline setup.
April (Senior Year)	Decide which school you will attend. Attend open house for admitted students to help with the decision. Send in deposit to the school that you will attend. Congrats!
May 1st (Senior Year)	Deadline for deposits
May (Senior Year)	Take AP tests if applicable.

## College Application Checklist

*Below is an overview of the college application process.  
Each step in the process is fully explained on pages 11-22.*

1. **Get organized!** Setup a filing system including a calendar that you will use to meet deadlines.
2. **SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, and ACT-** determine which tests to take and when. See your counselor.
  - ◆ Register for the SAT [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and/or the ACT [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) in Spring (Junior Year) and Fall (Senior Year).
  - ◆ Register for the SAT Subject Tests [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) test(s) in Spring (Junior Year) or whenever you have finished the prerequisite course(s).
  - ◆ Mark your calendar with test dates. *Remember! Not all tests are given each month.*
  - ◆ It is your responsibility to report test scores to colleges to which you are applying.
  - ◆ When registering for your tests, record **MHS CEEB code 310840** to ensure that scores are sent to MHS.
3. **AP Testing**
  - ◆ AP test registration will take place at school in March.
  - ◆ AP tests are given in May.
  - ◆ It is your responsibility to report test scores to colleges to which you are applying.
4. **Research colleges. Start NOW!!!!!!**
  - ◆ Talk with friends, relatives, teachers, etc.
  - ◆ Attend alumni question & answer sessions in November & June
  - ◆ Utilize Naviance at home or in the school library.
  - ◆ Utilize the reference section of the school library, local library or Office.
  - ◆ Contact colleges for information. (Most colleges have easy-to-use request forms on-line.) You can link to most colleges from Naviance, as well as [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com), [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).
5. **College Visitations** – Spring, Summer and Fall
  - ◆ Bring your camera and a list of questions. *Take notes!* Sign-up for visits.
  - ◆ Attend MHS mini-college fairs and the Morris County College Fair. Sign up to meet college reps that visit MHS.
6. **Collect College Applications** and review them - Summer and Fall
  - ◆ Start filling out applications for the schools that you are definitely applying to. Be sure to see if your colleges accept the Common Application, the Universal Application ([www.Universalcollegeapp.com](http://www.Universalcollegeapp.com)), or the Historically Black Colleges Common Application ([www.eduinonline.com](http://www.eduinonline.com)). *Hint:* fill out a paper copy of the Common Application during the summer before Senior Year. Most of the information completed will be used on all the applications that you fill out (especially CEEB code 310840, hours associated with your extracurricular activities, social security number).
7. **Attend Senior Night** at MHS– Fall (Senior Year) This meeting provides the last details needed for the college application process! All counselors attend. It is a great opportunity for you and your parents/guardians to ask questions before applications are due.

*(Continued on page 10)*

College Application Checklist (Continued from page 9)

8. **Résumés/Activity Sheets/Brag Sheets** – start NOW!!! The sooner you get these in, the earlier you can meet to review them with your counselor and recommendations can be written.
9. **Essays – don't delay** – get started early; complete your essay over the summer so it can be reviewed as soon as school starts.
10. **Recommendations** – September
  - ◆ Get to your contacts early to insure timely completion (teachers, employers, coaches, personal contacts).
  - ◆ Check with teachers at the end of junior year to find out their schedule for writing recommendations and what they need from you!
  - ◆ Expect teachers to need at least 2 weeks to write their letters depending on their schedules. It is best to ask how much time he or she needs.
  - ◆ Write thank you notes to the teachers who wrote recommendations for you!
11. **Follow the Process!** Be sure to allow 2 weeks for the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services to send out transcripts.
12. **Completed Applications Due Dates** - Want to have a good winter break? Try to get the bulk of your applications completed before Thanksgiving or use that time to complete applications.
  - ◆ It is to your advantage to get your completed application packages to schools early, especially those with **Rolling Admissions**. It may even work to your advantage for acceptance. (Some rolling admission schools cut off applications after a certain number have been received.)
  - ◆ **Early Decision: Binding Admissions** - applications are usually due in October/ November. You can only apply to one college Early Decision.
  - ◆ *If you get in to your early decision school, you must withdraw other applications.*
  - ◆ **Early Action: Non-binding Admissions** - applications are usually due in November/ December.
  - ◆ *Be sure to check the application due dates for each school to which you are applying. Some schools may have two Early Decision dates!*
13. **Determine the colleges you will apply to**
  - ◆ Contact the Admission Office to set up an interview with an Admission or Alumni representative if applicable. Try to arrange an overnight stay and the chance to sit in on classes.
  - ◆ Colleges prefer students to contact them and take control of the process. It's a great way to impress them!
  - ◆ **Maintain a high profile.** Admission offices keep a record of all your correspondence. Write thank you notes to anyone who has interviewed you!
14. **Athletes** – Aug/Sept (Senior Year)
  - ◆ If you are applying to a Division I or II school, be sure to register with NCAA [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) the summer before senior year.
  - ◆ Students applying to divisions III, start contacting the coaches of the colleges.
15. **Maintain a solid Senior Year course load** and keep your grades strong. Colleges look at your senior year!
16. **When you don't have an answer, JUST ASK!!!!**

## 1. GET ORGANIZED!

Set up a filing system including a calendar that you will use to meet deadlines. Set up an email just for your college application process. Save college websites as bookmarks or “favorites” in your web browser. Set up special folders on your PC for each college and for your essays, profiles, etc. Create backups of all college files on your PC! Have your social security number and **CEEB code (310840)** handy for completing applications. You may want to print a completed Common Application to assist in completing applications that do not use the Common Application.

Keep a chart for each application that you will submit. Check off (and mark the date) when you have submitted the application, sent test scores to college, submitted the application package to Guidance, requested teacher recommendations be sent, and received confirmation by colleges that your “completed” application has been received. Below is a sample College Application Checklist. (Source: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com))

Application Checklist	College 1 Code XXX	College 2 Code XY	College 3 Code XXZ
Application Type	Common	On-line	Common
Early Decision?	N	N	Y
Early Action?	N	N	N
Deadline	1/1	1/15	11/15 (Early Decision I) 1/15 (Early Decision II)
SAT required?	Y	N	Y
SAT Subject Tests required?	N	N	Y
SAT sent?	Y	Y	Y
SAT Subject Tests sent?	Y	Y	Y
ACT sent?	Y	Y	Y
AP sent?	Y	Y	Y
Safety/Match/Reach	Match	Safety	Reach
Letter of Recommendation given to teacher?	Y	Y	Y
Interview required?	Optional	N	Y
Interview completed?	N	N	Y
Applied on-line?	Y	Y	Y
Supplemental submitted?	Y	Not required	Y
Transcript Request Submitted to Guidance?	12/1	12/1	11/1
Package sent from Guidance?	12/10	12/10	11/6
Confirmation received from college?	N	N	Y

## 2. SAT REASONING TEST, SAT SUBJECT TESTS AND ACT TESTING

### Taking the SATs...The ACTs...When?

Most colleges require students to provide SAT tests (critical reading, math and writing) as part of the admission process. The ACT tests, which have for many years been the norm in other areas of the U.S., are now becoming as common as the SATs on the East Coast and may be taken either as an additional test or an alternative to the SATs. Many colleges also require SAT Subject tests—note that if you take the ACTs instead of the SATs, many schools will accept them in place of both the SAT and the SAT Subject tests. Math is the most typical SAT Subject test where specific tests are required, although more schools are requiring foreign language as an additional test. Engineering schools will often require physics or chemistry as the additional SAT Subject test. Students can take SAT and SAT Subject tests more than once, and most schools will use the highest scores as the basis for evaluation.

Which test should you take? While most colleges accept scores from either test, the tests themselves are significantly different. The biggest difference between the two tests is that ACTs are more *content oriented* than SATs. The SATs are more likely to have questions that call upon *logical reasoning and visualization*, whereas the ACTs tend to have more *straightforward academically rigorous* questions. There is no right or wrong answer when deciding which test to take. One solution is to take both tests and see which one provides the best score. Some comparisons are provided on page 15. Check with your counselor to see which test might be best for you.

Tests are typically taken in the second half of the junior year and the first half of the senior year. It often makes sense to take the SAT Subject tests on the June administration date. Science, mathematics, U.S. History or foreign languages are all logical options at the end of your junior year. However, your class schedule may influence when you take an SAT Subject test. For example, if you plan on taking a chemistry SAT Subject test and take chemistry in your sophomore year, you should probably schedule the test at that time. While there are numerous testing dates, a student can only take either the SAT or up to three SAT Subject tests at a single date. Students should plan on a couple of test dates to take the SAT and up to two dates for the SAT Subject tests. Because requirements vary from college to college, it is important to determine what test you may have to take and plan a schedule that makes sense. In

addition, if you are planning on applying Early Admission, you need to take your tests before this deadline. Different schools have different deadlines, so check out what your college choice requires.

*Not all tests are available monthly. Be sure to check the test dates for the tests that you plan on taking. (MHS is NOT a test site for the ACT.) SAT Subject tests are only offered in certain months.*

ESL students should consult with their counselor to determine the appropriate tests to take.

## SAT TEST DATES

Test Dates	Test	Registration Deadlines *	
		U.S. Regular	U.S. Late (fee applies)*
January 23, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	December 23, 2009	December 30, 2009
March 13, 2009	SAT only	February 4, 2010	Feb. 18, 2010
May 1, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	March 25, 2010	Apr. 8, 2010
June 5, 2010	SAT & Subject Tests	April 29, 2010	May 13, 2010

\* Late phone registration also available for a limited period after this date.

**Beginning with the March '09 SAT administration, you can select which test date results you want sent to colleges. Ask your counselor for more information.**



## ACT Test Calendar

### 2010

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>(Late Fee Required)</u>
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010	January 6—January 15, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 6—March 19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 8—24, 2010

*Madison High School offers the ACT in June (good time for juniors), and Bridgewater offers the test five times a year starting in October. For additional information and to register for the ACT, go to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). Make sure to apply early for the ACT since testing spaces fill up quickly.*



## Optional Essay for ACTs

The ACT added an essay to the writing test section. However, this new essay section is optional to the student based on his/her strengths in writing and college application requirements. Colleges will have the option to use these test results for application evaluation and/or for college English class placement.

Students should weigh the pros and cons of taking the essay section of the ACT before signing up for the test. Essays most frequently help to better illustrate a student's achievement in written expression, a crucial communication skill for college assignments and employment responsibilities. However, students who feel that their writing skills would not reflect their ability to succeed in college favorably may wish to take the English multiple choice test alone. Please seek English teacher and counselor advice. See the [www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org) website for details. Many colleges expect students to sign up for the writing test with the ACT. **Check with colleges to determine if the essay is required.**





## When to Take the SAT Subject Tests

The SAT Subject tests are required for application and/or course placement in many competitive colleges. Note: Some colleges do not require the SAT Subject tests. The Subject tests are offered in literature, US history, world history, math (2 separate level tests), biology, chemistry, physics and foreign languages. Registration and detailed information about these tests are located at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Prep classes and individual instruction are available at learning centers including County College of Morris, Educational Services Center, Huntington Learning Center, Kaplan Review, Morris School District Community School and Princeton Review ([www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)), in addition to paper and disk practice exercises at local book stores. Please see your counselor for a list of test prep options.

The SAT Subject test requirements have changed since the addition of the essay to the new SAT in March of 2005. The first change is that the SAT Subject test in writing is no longer offered. In addition, many competitive colleges no longer require a third SAT Subject Test to be taken; the SAT writing portion is sufficient for English grammar and writing, unless you are majoring in a humanities subject such as English Literature or History. You must check every college application to be sure you are taking the correct SAT Subject tests.

Many of the SAT Subject tests such as biology and chemistry are designed to be taken after one year of high school study. However, it is generally recommended that you take the advanced placement course level in your subject (AP Biology or AP Chemistry) before taking the SAT Subject test. This timing increases the chances of getting the best possible score that you can achieve.

Organization and planning is a significant part of taking the SAT tests. Check the [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) web site for the testing schedule. Three SAT Subject tests can be taken on a given test date, but the SAT must be taken on a separate test date from the SAT Subject tests. Coordinate the testing schedule with the semesters you will be completing Advanced Placement courses and with your college application deadlines.

Test Name	Jan. 23, 2010	May 1, 2010	June 5, 2010
Literature	x	x	x
United States (U.S.) History	x	x	x
World History			x
Mathematics Level 1	x	x	x
Mathematics Level 2	x	x	x
Biology E/M (Ecological/ Molecular)	x	x	x
Chemistry	x	x	x
Physics	x	x	x
Languages: R= <i>Reading Only</i> , L= <i>Reading and Listening</i> *			
French	R	R	R
German			R
Modern Hebrew			R
Latin			R
Spanish	R	R	R

\*Reading tests in French, Italian, Latin, and Spanish also given in October and December. Reading and listening tests in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish are given in November. Check for dates for fall 2010 on [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

**SAT**

- ◆ No science section
- ◆ Non multiple-choice questions included
- ◆ Guess penalty
- ◆ Questions generally go from easy to hard

<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>
Writing	60min
Critical Reading	70min
Math	70min

Each section scored from 200-800 points

**WRITING SAT** consists of a short essay in which one must develop a point of a view on an issue, and support that view using reasoning and evidence based on students' experiences, readings, or observations. The essay measures the ability to organize and express ideas clearly, develop and support the main idea, and use appropriate word choice and sentence structure.

**CRITICAL READING SAT** consists of Sentence Completions and Critical Reading. In Critical Reading, there are 4 passages from different subject areas. One has to grasp author's overall argument quickly and draw relationships between details of passage and main idea.

**MATH SAT** contains Algebra 1 and 2, Geometry, Functions, Probability and Logical Reasoning, Statistics, and Data Analysis. It tests ability to manipulate information, not just memorize it. Questions are a mix of regular math multiple-choice, regular math problems with fill-in answers (grid-ins), and student produced responses.

**ACT**

- ◆ Science reasoning section
- ◆ Math includes trigonometry
- ◆ Vocabulary less important
- ◆ Entirely multiple-choice
- ◆ No guessing penalty

<u>Section</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Questions</u>
English	45min	75
Math	60min	60
Reading	35min	40
Science	35min	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 hrs 55 min</b>	<b>215</b>

Scored from 1-36 points

**ACT ENGLISH** section offers a series of sentences and paragraphs, and asks for identification and correction of any grammatical/punctuation errors, garbles or redundant prose, or stylistic flubs. Don't be alarmed—questions do not test arcane grammar rules, but rather basic grammar skills, logic and common sense.

**ACT READING** section offers four reading passages followed by questions mostly asking for location of facts and verification of information.

**ACT MATH** tests knowledge of pre-algebra, algebra, and coordinate and plane geometries. Unlike SAT, there is also trigonometry, the quadratic formula, and graphs/equations of circles, ellipses and parabolas.

**ACT SCIENCE** tests ability to read and interpret graphs, tables, and illustrations, interpret results, design experiments, and understanding, analysis and comparison of hypotheses and alternative points of view.

All questions are multiple-choice. They are straightforward, requiring knowledge of a particular concept or formula—so this information needs to be memorized.

Register for the SAT online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

Register for the ACT test online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

You will be able to print out your admission ticket after you register for the test.

**Test Optional Colleges**  
[www.fairtest.org/optinit.htm](http://www.fairtest.org/optinit.htm)

This website includes colleges and universities that deemphasize the use of standardized tests by making admission decisions about applicants who recently graduated from U.S. high schools without using the SAT or ACT. Some schools exempt students who meet grade-point average or class rank criteria while others require SAT or ACT scores but use them only for placement purposes or to conduct research studies. Please check with the school's admission office to learn more about specific admission requirements.

Note: Some schools that don't require standardized tests do require interviews and graded writing samples. Encourage teachers to give back graded essays and make a file for them so that you have them when needed.



**Reporting Test Scores**

You can have scores automatically reported to colleges when registering for testing. After you have received the results, you may choose to have scores sent to schools, but additional fees will be incurred. Requests to send SAT scores can be made on-line at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Requests to send ACT scores can be made on-line at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

**Important!**

**Students are responsible for reporting their test scores to colleges.**

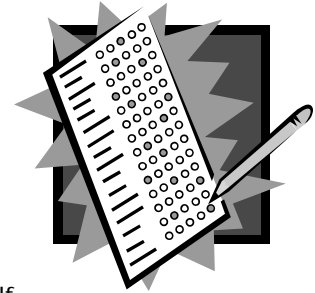
**MHS does NOT send test scores. Please see your counselor if you have any questions about this.**

### 3. ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college level classes offered to high school students. These courses allow students and teachers to focus on AP-level work. Students are eligible to take AP exams, offered once a year. Exams will take place in May.

#### Advantages of taking AP classes

- Gain an understanding of what will be expected in a college class.
- Improve writing skills and sharpen problem-solving techniques.
- Develop study habits necessary for tackling rigorous coursework.
- Stand out in the college admission process.
- Demonstrate maturity and readiness for college.
- Emphasize commitment to academic excellence.
- Study subjects in greater depth and detail.
- Assume the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing, and understanding for yourself.



Exams allow students to possibly gain college credit or waive entry-level courses. The exams will be administered in class. Most of the exams take two to three hours to complete. Students are encouraged to take the exams.

#### Grade Reports

Each AP Exam grade is a weighted combination of the student's score on the multiple-choice section and on the free response section. The final grade is reported on a 5-point scale:

- 5 = extremely well qualified
- 4 = well qualified
- 3 = qualified
- 2 = possibly qualified
- 1 = no recommendation

Most grade reports are sent by mid-July to the student's home, high school, and colleges (if designated on the answer sheet.)

#### Enrollment

Students enroll for AP exams through the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services in March. There is a fee to take these exams (fee reductions are available if qualified). Official notification will be given to students as to dates and other registration information. There will be no refunds for students who register and then do not take the exam.

#### Reporting Results

If you have taken AP tests and scored 3, 4, or 5, be sure to report your scores to the college that you will be attending. Scores in this range can earn you college credit and/or may qualify you to take higher-level college courses. Please note that colleges do not use AP exam scores for admission purposes. For information on reporting AP exam scores, visit [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/exgrd\\_rep.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/exgrd_rep.html) or contact the Guidance Office. Requests to send AP scores can be made by contacting AP Services at 609-771-7243. Colleges that have received your AP Grade Report will generally notify you of any placement, credit, and exemption you have earned during the summer. You can also contact the college's admission office to find out the status of your AP credits.

### 4. RESEARCH COLLEGES

Based on your PSAT (junior year) or SAT's/ACT's (if you have taken them early), GPA, and decile rank, begin putting together a list of possible college choices. This list should include stretch, possibility, and foundation schools. This list might include as many as 25 schools. Let your counselor help you narrow your list of schools. If you have a dream school, add it to the list.

Using Naviance, "visit" all the schools on your initial list. Look at pictures of the campus, check out their academic offerings and look at typical qualifications of their students. You can access a school's website by using the name (or initials) of the school, i.e. [www.duke.edu](http://www.duke.edu).

Naviance, [Princetonreview.com](http://Princetonreview.com) and [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) have great websites for checking out schools. You can input your specific interests, GPA, SAT and ACT scores, preference in location, etc. and they will provide a list of possible schools. They also offer "virtual tours" of some schools. It is an inexpensive means of checking schools in other states before you plan a visit.

Based on your research, pick at least a handful of schools to visit in person. Check for tour times, general information sessions, and possible local area Open Houses hosted by area alumni. Some schools require personal interviews, especially if you are interested in continuing as an athlete or have other special interests such as art, music, or drama. If so, try to connect with an appropriate member of the college's staff during your visit.

*Continued on page 17*

## 4. RESEARCH COLLEGES (CONTINUED)



### What Are Colleges Looking For?

Do some "soul-searching" to figure out which of your colleges would provide the best "fit" for you. Your final choice should offer you the best educational and social experiences. Consider:

- ◆ **Location:** Urban, suburban, or rural campus. How far from home is the school?
- ◆ **Size:** Do you prefer big, medium or small student body? What is the average class size?
- ◆ **Mix of students:** Do you prefer coed? Are there students from all over the country with different backgrounds and experiences? What is the ratio of foreign students?
- ◆ **Academics:** Is there a wide variety of course selections? Is your program of study offered?
- ◆ **Extracurricular Activities:** Are there all types and ranges of activities i.e. sports, intramural sports, clubs, etc.? Does the school offer periodic guest speakers and entertainment?
- ◆ **Facilities:** Is there access to labs, computer centers, and cultural arts facilities?

After gathering all your information, contact the specific schools to which you want to apply for admittance. Applications and information can be requested online or by telephone. Six to twelve names are a good number of colleges to have on your list at this point.

Double check the requirements of your final list of schools to make sure that you have taken all of the required tests. If not, schedule the required tests for October or November of your senior year. ***Scheduling for these tests is done in August and September.*** Click on-line at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for specific test information.

Begin filling out your applications. Note that many schools accept the Common Application online. This will reduce the amount of work required and also allows you to individualize the applications for each school. Be sure to check if supplemental forms need to be completed. Most schools have their applications available by July/August; they can be downloaded over the Internet.

Getting into college is becoming more and more competitive. As the cost of college rises, so does the size of each graduating class (both in Morristown and across the nation), adding to the competitiveness of college admission. The most asked question from parents and students alike is "*What are colleges looking for?*" There is no single answer but a combination of many things. The people judging applications are ordinary people and how they view applications may vary from day to day. Overall, they are looking for the kind of student who will make the incoming freshman class the best ever.

So, what are they looking for? Why does one student get into a school when another student, who seems just as qualified, gets denied? There is no single thing that guarantees admission. A student might have "everything" that a school wants but so might a thousand other students. Keep in mind that *the college decision should not be taken personally*. People, not computers, make the college decision.

With that in mind, there *are* certain things that colleges are looking for in their freshman class. The following criteria may affect a decision. Remember, it is difficult to say which item is the most important. Often the answer to that question is, "*It depends.*"

**GPA/Class Decile** How do you stack up compared to your peers? Remember, as you go through high school, all of your grades count towards your class rank. Work at all of them. Colleges know how competitive each high school is based on the "School Profile" which the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services sends out with each application.

**Transcript** Students should be encouraged to take as challenging a class load as they can. Most college admission people will say that they look for a challenging load and level of courses. Of course, it helps if you earn a respectable grade in these courses. An "A" in a lower level class will mean more than an "F" in an honors class.

**SATs/ACTs** More important at some schools than at others, but this is one comparison which puts students from different high schools on an equal basis. Keep in mind that they are just one part of the admission process. Perfect SAT scores do not guarantee admission to a college. A student with lower scores may get accepted to a college over a student with perfect scores based on other qualifications. **If standardized tests are a weakness for you, consider a college that does not require them. See [www.fairtest.org/optinit.htm](http://www.fairtest.org/optinit.htm) for a list of these schools.**

**The Essay** The essay can often be a "tip factor" for college acceptance. This, along with extracurricular activities, can provide true insight into a student. *Do not take the essay lightly.* Take the time to write something interesting. Do not leave it until the last minute. Between filling out applications and dealing with classes, sports teams and other activities, the fall of your senior year can be quite busy. Incoming seniors should take advantage of the summer months to at least write a preliminary draft of the essay. Show it to your parents, teachers, and counselor for their opinions. Write it and rewrite it until it is the best you can do. Write about something that is meaningful to you, not just what you think colleges want to hear. The subject is often not as important as *what you say and how you say it*. One MHS student wrote about the trials of being a middle child. It was a funny and poignant glimpse into what makes this student tick, giving the admission people a unique view of the student.

## What Are Colleges Looking For? (continued)

**Activities.** Colleges are looking for leadership qualities, as well as the well-rounded student. Active participation in several clubs or sports teams, *along with leadership* in some of them (i.e., captain of team, officer of club, editor of school paper) is far more impressive than a long list of activities with no leadership.

**Volunteering and Community Service.** A consistent commitment to a volunteer organization can make you stand out.

**The Interview and the Visit.** Not all schools offer interviews. Some schools only offer them in the fall, before they get busy dealing with the application process. Find out if the school(s) in which you are interested offer interviews, either on campus or by local alumni. If they do, take advantage of it. The actual visit can be very important. If it comes down to a choice between you and another student who did not visit the school, the fact that you took the time to visit shows your interest and might swing the decision in your favor, particularly if the school is geographically close enough for you to make a visit.

**Interest Quotient** It may come down to something that you have that a school is looking for. Perhaps you are a top track star or have a good singing voice. Take advantage of what you have that may be of interest to a school. Talk to college coaches to find out if they are interested in your abilities. Arrange visits with the coaches and ask them about their programs. Depending on your interests and abilities, your high school coach or faculty advisor may be able to help you.

The key thing for everyone to remember is that there are many, many factors which go into deciding which student gets into a school and which student does not. Sometimes it is unclear why certain students are accepted over others. Just do the best you can. Read the article below on "Probable/Safety Schools." Remember that there are so many wonderful schools in this country, and you could potentially be happy at most of them.



## College Honors Programs

Many colleges and universities, particularly the larger ones, offer an *honors program* available to a limited group of students who meet select qualifications. Generally, students are notified if they are eligible for the program as a senior in high school, once they are admitted to the college. Their eligibility is based on criteria supplied on the application for admittance (standardized test scores, GPA, rank). If a student is interested, he/she is requested to submit additional information and goes through an evaluation process specific to the honors program. Most colleges also allow students to apply for the honors program once attending the college, as freshmen or sophomores; the evaluation criteria would then include how a student is doing thus far in his/her college courses.

A benefit of the honors program is the availability of honors courses, which offer small class size and more rigorous levels of study. Honors students receive special attention and guidance from faculty; reside in honors student housing; and are offered internships, workshops, seminars, research projects, and other opportunities unique to their group. Programs are available across majors. Students receive awards of distinction if they graduate successfully from the program.

An honors program may improve the attractiveness of a **Probable/Safety School**. It is one way to make a large school seem smaller and to make a less-competitive school more challenging.

## Probable/Target Schools

**Probable/Safety schools are those where you are almost guaranteed admission. They are also referred to as "likely" or "foundation" colleges. Pick your safeties with care. There are significant differences among "easy-to-get-into" schools. Do your homework. Give them the same careful consideration as the others on your list. Only apply to Probable/Safety schools that you would be happy to attend!**

The key to choosing a probable/safety school is to figure out what you want most out of a college. Find a school that meets this need. Choose a school that you really would like to attend as your Probable/Safety school. Use the same criteria as your "reach" and "match" schools.

Probable/Safeties are just that—a sure thing. Meeting all admission criteria on paper is no guarantee of admission. A school becomes a "probable/safety" when the profile of that school indicates little chance of rejection. For example, a school where you meet more than the admission criteria is a Probable/Safety school. You may not expect to go there, but in case you do, make sure the school has the subjects that you want to study. Once you have your list of possibilities, do more research, visit the campuses, and apply to at least one Probable/Safety school.

If you can find Probable/Safety or Match schools that you would like to attend that have Rolling Admissions or Early Action, it is wise to apply to at least one of these schools. Knowing that you have an acceptance early in the process makes it easier to wait for the rest of the responses!



## 5. COLLEGE VISITATIONS

College Visitations—Spring, Summer of Junior year, Fall of Senior Year (*Tip: Visit schools when students are on campus if possible.*)

- ◆ Contact colleges for tour schedule; make appointment for tour. (Note: Some schools allow you to make appointments for tours online.)
- ◆ Contact admissions and see if you can make an appointment with an admission counselor. Some schools have a specific counselor assigned to our geographical region—if that is so, make an appointment with that person. You can follow up with that person with any questions you may have. **DEMONSTRATE YOUR INTEREST!**
- ◆ Bring your camera, ask questions, and take notes.
- ◆ Get business cards of specific individuals who assist you at the tour and card of the admission rep who will be reviewing applications from MHS.
- ◆ Grab a copy of the student newspaper and read it to get a feel for the school.
- ◆ Eat in the cafeteria.
- ◆ Wander around the campus after the tour, watch student activities, sports
- ◆ Talk to a current student, ask what he/she likes or dislikes about the school.
- ◆ Visit the library, search for your favorite book.
- ◆ Check out the surrounding community or town, ask yourself if you could be comfortable there.
- ◆ Check out a dorm.
- ◆ Finally, ask yourself if you can imagine yourself attending this school for four years.
- ◆ Once home, make notes to yourself on the specific college. **SAVE YOUR THOUGHTS FOR FUTURE COMPARISON!**

## 6. COLLECT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

You can apply by requesting a hard copy of the application through a school's specific website or through [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Also, you can apply on-line through the Common Application website, [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). Many colleges accept the Common Application and most prefer that students apply on-line. Check if the colleges to which you are applying have a **supplement** to the Common Application that must also be completed.

Start filling out the applications for the schools to which you are definitely applying. Be sure to see if your colleges accept the Common Application. *Hint:* Fill out a paper copy of the Common Application during the summer before Senior Year. Most of the information completed will be used on all the applications that you fill out (especially CEEB codes, hours associated with your extracurricular activities, social security number). **MAKE SURE YOU SAVE ALL YOUR WORK WHEN YOU ARE COMPLETING AN ONLINE APPLICATION. PROOFREAD YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE SUBMITTING!**

## PUBLIC COLLEGE OPTIONS

In-state or out-of-state public colleges are an option all college bound students should consider. Although in-state students pay less than students from out-of-state, state schools from any state often offer economically attractive options. Most states have a range of state college options. Typically, within a state, one or two of the state schools will be the most academically challenging while other state schools will target students below that level.

Keep in mind that most state colleges impose limits on the percentage of students that can come from out-of-state, which generally means that the standards for out-of-state students are higher than those for in-state students. Despite this provision, states such as New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina have a significant number of state colleges from which to choose. There are out-of-state and in-state public college options for students with a wide range of abilities.

## 7. ATTEND SENIOR NIGHT

**Senior Night is held every fall and is a highly recommended for parents/guardians of seniors applying to colleges and for the students themselves.**

This important evening is presented by the MHS Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services and includes the "how to" procedures for the MHS college application process.

College materials will be available. Counselors will "walk through" forms that students will submit with their college applications. Each student will receive his or her transcript.

*Students and parents/guardians will leave the evening with the information that they need to begin submitting college applications!*

## 8. RÉSUMÉS/ACTIVITY SHEETS/BRAG SHEETS

Start NOW!! It is never too early to start keeping lists of all your activities and honors. See your counselor for an activities form. The sooner you gather pertinent information, the earlier you can meet to review the data with your Counselor and provide information for recommendation letters. Brag Sheet information is also used in the completion of your college applications. Some schools like to have a "student résumé/profile" which is a one-page "picture" of your data, abilities, and interests.

Keep focused on talents, i.e. sports, music, writing, volunteer, and specific qualities that make you who you are. The colleges want a complete picture of you, which includes your extracurricular activities and volunteer hours. Figure out what makes you special from other candidates and build on it.

Juniors should submit their brag sheets and activity sheets to their counselors by the end of the school year. Seniors who have not yet submitted the sheets should do so the first week of school.



## 9. THE COLLEGE ESSAY

Start to plan your college application essay early and enjoy the process! College application essays are one of your best opportunities to present yourself to a college admission committee for the first time. It is your chance to describe your unique talents, strengths, values and character, which cannot be deemed from SAT/ACT scores or even high school transcripts.

It may help to think of the essay writing process as a series of steps. First, list your strengths, even those that seem unrelated to college or unrelated to the working world. Examples include scientific problem solving, creative writing, artistic taste, reading comprehension, loyalty, maturity, dependability, responsibility, social skills, communication skills, ability to set a person at ease, authenticity... and you can add to the list from here. Your parents and guardians are excellent sources to help you get started because they have seen you grow, develop and conquer challenges in various circumstances at home, that no one else has observed. Teachers and counselors are also important sources in their ability to see your writing samples, mathematical problem skills and learning styles. Your counselor is a valuable resource because of his/her experience in helping students identify their attributes quickly in their everyday problem solving work. College essay topics vary in many ways, but remember that most admission committees try to better identify your exceptional qualities and your potential to "match their college." In other words, what do you have to offer that will ultimately result in a mutually beneficial relationship between you and the college to which you are applying?

The second step is to approach your first essay in a similar manner to how you would write an essay in English or History class. Construct an outline to organize your response to your essay topic. This helps to ensure that your response accurately answers the question or states the information that is being asked. Essay topics vary in specific requests, but all aim to know your capabilities. For example, the character trait that enables one to persist in times of struggle or turmoil can be stated directly in response to a question asking for character strengths. In addition it can be woven into a response to an essay topic which concerns your contribution to a current events theme, school organizational goal or team setback.

The third step is to "fill in" your outline with specific examples from your life's experience, which support your statements. Remember that supportive examples help validate or provide proof for your statements. They also aid in giving the reader visual assistance in understanding the information you are presenting in your essay. Understanding your point is a crucial part of knowing you as an individual.

The fourth step is to check that you have organized your essay clearly. Proofread your introduction. Check that it clearly tells the reader what he/she will expect to know after reading your essay. Test that the body of your essay is consistent with your introduction and that it explains and supports what was outlined in your introduction. Be sure to follow the application instructions regarding length, single/double spaced, etc. and be sure to address the question. Lastly, check that you have a conclusion, which helps the reader to pull points together and summarize what he/she has read for meaning and understanding.

Finally, proofread for grammar, sentence structure and spelling. Ask your parents, teachers and counselor to proofread the essay for technical errors. Remember to save your essay on disk. (A school library computer can be used for word processing if you cannot do it at home.) This writing sample is one more step to your becoming a better communicator. It provides a significant way to connect with your readers in college admission. It provides a structure for bringing their attention to your potential contributions to their institution and it offers the flexibility to tell them the best about you!

**REMEMBER:** *Don't wait until the last minute to do an essay. Start at least a month before you mail out the application to allow plenty of time to complete a thoughtful and well-constructed personal statement about YOU!*

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS—SEPTEMBER

Talk to your contacts (teachers, employers, coaches, personal adult contacts, etc.) **at the end of Junior Year**. Ask permission to use their name as a reference and ask if they would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for you. Write a note thanking them for agreeing to write the recommendation. Teachers write specifically about your performance in the classroom. Your brag sheet should only be given to your counselor. Some teachers have specific schedules for writing recommendations and will tell you exactly what they want from you. Some colleges have specific directions for letters of recommendation, i.e. on school letterhead or college form.

- ⇒ Allow ample time prior to the postmark deadline for completion of your recommendation (minimum of two weeks to write letter).
- ⇒ Provide the contact with a stamped/addressed envelope to send the recommendation directly to the Admission Office of each of your colleges.
- ⇒ Most colleges require recommendations from academic teachers. English and Math teachers are good choices for recommendations because they know your writing ability and math aptitude. You can also get one from a coach, advisor, employer, etc.
- ⇒ Ask that they give specific examples of why you would be an asset to this particular school.
- ⇒ Tell them what you hope to study and why.
- ⇒ Follow up on the letters being sent to the schools requested.
- ⇒ Write a thank you note to the person writing the recommendation.

## 11. FOLLOW THE PROCESS!

- ⇒ Fill out the Transcript Request Form in the Office of School Counseling and Guidance Services for each application you are going to submit.
- ⇒ Provide pre-addressed, stamped envelopes. Instructions are found on the Transcript Request Form.
- ⇒ ***Be sure to allow two weeks for the office to send out transcripts.***
- ⇒ Follow up on your applications with a phone call to the College Admission Offices to be certain that your applications are complete, if you do not receive a postcard or email from the school within a reasonable time
- ⇒ Check Naviance to track when your transcript was sent.
- ⇒ If the college has not received your transcript, request that another copy be mailed to the school.

## 12. COMPLETED APPLICATION DUE DATES

Want to have a good winter break? Try to get the bulk of your applications completed before Thanksgiving or use that time to complete applications.

It is to your advantage to get your completed application packages to schools early, especially those with *Rolling Admissions*. It may even work to your advantage for acceptance (some rolling admission schools cut off applications after a certain number have been received.)

*Be sure to check the application due dates for each college that you are applying to. Some schools may have two Early Decision dates!*

- **Early Decision/Binding Admissions**—Applications are usually due in Oct/Nov.
- **Early Action/Non-Binding Admissions**—Applications are usually due in Nov/Dec.

### Types of College Admission Decisions:

Early decision, early action, rolling admissions, regular decision—which plan is the right one for you?

**Early Decision** means that you will apply early to the college of your choice (usually by November 1). You will get an admission decision from that college well in advance of the normal admissions spring (April) decision date, usually hearing from your college by mid-December. Such decisions are binding. You can only apply to one college for early decision, although you can apply to other colleges under regular admission at the same time. Upon acceptance, you are committed to attending that institution and must withdraw other applications.

**Early Action** is similar to early decision in that you will hear earlier if you have been accepted, usually by January or February. However, early action decisions are not binding decisions. You are free to say yes or no to that college.

**Rolling Admission** means that a decision is made by the college once all the parts of your application have been submitted. The schools that have rolling admission tend to be large public schools. If you fit their admission "formula," you will be accepted and notified immediately. Rolling admission decisions are not binding. The sooner you get your application into such schools, the sooner you will be notified. You can apply to a school with rolling admission at the same time you apply to schools with regular admissions.

## 12. COMPLETED APPLICATION DUE DATES (CONTINUED)

### Should you apply early decision?

That decision is up to you. However, there are some things you must consider. **You need to be very sure that this is the college you want to attend.** Make sure that it has everything you want in a college. Is your major offered, do you like the living arrangements; do you fit the campus profile? One reason not to apply early is if you will need financial aid. Under regular decision, you weigh and compare the financial aid packages from all the schools that have accepted you. You will have a certain amount of bargaining power that is lost to you under early decision.

So do your homework before you decide what to do. Visit the campus of your choice. Try to stay overnight in a dorm, if possible. Talk to students on campus. If you are absolutely sure of the school you want to attend, apply early decision. However, if there is any doubt in your mind, wait and apply early action or regular decision.

## 13. DETERMINE THE SCHOOLS TO WHICH YOU WILL APPLY

- ◆ Review past notes from school visits.
- ◆ Sort schools by Stretch, Possible, Target (Foundation).
- ◆ Weed out the definite “I can’t see myself there” schools.
- ◆ Contact the selected schools’ Admission Offices, plan another visit.
- ◆ Walk the campus.
- ◆ Sit in on a class, if offered.
- ◆ Take advantage of an overnight stay in a dorm, if offered.
- ◆ Talk to the students enrolled there, ask specific questions (i.e. how do you feel you are being prepared for graduation, how is the dorm life, are there activities to do outside of class, is the campus safe, what do you do on weekends?)
- ◆ Set up interviews with an Admission or alumni representative. Colleges like to see students who take control of their search and decision. Make eye contact and shake hands with Admissions personnel. Be polite. Remember that the Admission Office keeps a record of all contact by prospective students.
- ◆ Check to see if the school has an April Admitted Students’ Open House which usually includes an overnight stay, choice of a few classes to attend, etc. This should help you decide on your final choice.

**Remember:** *You are buying a product—your education—and have every right to ask specific questions so that you can make an informed selection.*

## 14. ATHLETICS IN COLLEGE—CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

If you are thinking of competing athletically at the collegiate level, certain requirements must be met. A high school athlete planning on participating in Division I or II athletics as a college freshman must be registered and certified by the NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse. He/she must:

1. Graduate from high school.
2. Successfully complete a core curriculum of at least 16 academic courses, including Algebra and Geometry.
3. Have a grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
4. Have combined SAT score that meets an index scale based on the student’s GPA.

As a general rule, a student athlete may contact a college coach after the end of junior year in high school. However, the rules can vary depending on the sport. Ms. Kathy Perri, MHS Athletic Director is available for advice. Other excellent sources for information on athletics in college are your high school coach and your counselor. Registration and detailed information is available on NCAA Websites at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) or [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).

**After graduation** from high school, if you are planning to continue your sport in college as a Varsity athlete, you need to have your final transcript and standardized test scores sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse to determine your eligibility to participate at the college level. It is your responsibility to complete the necessary forms for the NCAA Clearinghouse and make sure that a copy of your SATs and final transcript are submitted for their review. You will not be allowed to participate in a Division 1 or Division 2 sport until the Clearinghouse has approved you. Eligibility is determined by a combination of your grades in core academic courses (English, Math, etc.) and your SAT scores. **For additional and the most current information, visit [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/common/index.htm](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/common/index.htm) or contact the Athletic Department or the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services.**

## Before You Leave for College...

- **Schedule a pre-college physical for June:** Colleges will send a medical form that will need to be completed by your physician. Note: many colleges/states require a meningitis vaccine before starting college – make sure to check.
- **Watch the U.S. Mail and Email for forms to complete:** Forms include housing roommate questionnaire, orientation schedules, etc. Some colleges offer pre-orientation programs for freshman: Backpacking, Community Service, and other programs. These programs are popular – sign up immediately if interested. Most pre-orientation programs require students to arrive at school a week in advance of “move-in” day.
- **Freshman website:** Many schools have a special website set-up for freshman. Check the site for summer activities and chat room opportunities.
- **Personal Finances:** Determine if you will open a local bank account near school or will use your home account. Some banks/credit unions will waive ATM fees for students. Note: be wary of credit cards and the interest they accrue. Some schools have their own “debit cards” where money can be deposited and the card can be used to purchase snacks, books, laundry expenses, etc.
- **Roommates:** Contact your roommate to determine who will bring large items such as refrigerator, TV, rug, etc.
- **Personal Computers:** If your college requires you to purchase a PC, make sure to order it early.

## Tips for MHS Freshmen and Sophomores

### *If you are a FRESHMAN...*

We are happy to have you here at Morristown High School. MHS offers exciting courses, numerous interscholastic sports and dozens of clubs and activities and they are there for you to participate in and enjoy. Many MHS activities, beyond the fall sports, have already started. Listen to the daily announcements and check out the flyers posted throughout the school to find out about these activities. More than 85 percent of our students participate in one or more activity or sport and students are encouraged to get involved. It is a great way to get involved in the high school and to make friends not only with other incoming freshmen, but also with upperclassmen.

As you progress through high school, it is important to keep track of the various activities you participate in, both through school organizations and community organizations. As a junior, your counselor will ask you for a “*brag sheet*” which is meant to summarize the things you have been involved in through the first three years of high school. These activities, accomplishments, leadership positions, etc. will help the counselor develop a college recommendation for you. Keeping track of what you do as you go – perhaps in a small notebook or a computer file – is a good idea.

Keep working hard and improving your academic performance. Remember that colleges look at your high school transcript for all four years. Stay on schedule with all of your homework. Your freshman year counts towards your weighted grade point average, which colleges consider in the application process.

### *If you are a SOPHOMORE...*

With your first year under your belt, you understand the wealth of academic and extra-curricular offerings available at MHS. If you have not been involved in these activities (music, radio/TV, clubs, publications, etc.), this year is a good time to start. You should continue to keep track of the activities in which you are involved, both in school and out, since these are the basis for the “*brag sheet*” you will fill out at the end of your junior year.

Keep working hard and improving your academic performance.

Looking ahead, it is recommended that you take the PSAT in October. As a sophomore, this test is just for practice and can give a student a feel for what a standardized test like the SAT is like. You may also want to consider taking the SAT subject tests for the subject areas in which you’ve taken courses this year. See your counselor to determine if this is appropriate.

This summer is a good time to visit college campuses to narrow down what you want in a school. Take a formal college tour, sit in on an information session, or just walk around campus. The colleges you visit do not have to be the colleges of your dreams. This is the start of a process—you are a long way from having to make any major decisions.

\* \* \*

***The students who follow these tips and suggestions are the students who will avoid or reduce their stress and anxiety. They will have more and better choices at the end of their high school journey.***

## APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

One of the most important decisions that parents and students face is selecting a college to attend. Another pressing concern is how to pay for the college education. Regardless of the college or career school that is chosen, the family will probably need help paying for tuition, fees, books and living expenses. As a family, you may be wondering, "How are we going to pay for these things?" The amount of financial aid that a student ultimately receives depends upon the student's financial need, the amount of aid and scholarships that the student will receive and the availability of funds at the college or career school. Let's examine the steps in applying for financial aid.

**(Q) When do I apply for federal aid?**

**(A)** Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the senior year.

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** must be completed before any federal, state or campus-based aid can be awarded. Students who do not have internet access can obtain a copy of the "**paper submitted version**" of FAFSA from the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services **after December 1 in the senior year and submit before April 15<sup>th</sup>**.

The paper version of the FAFSA, as instructed, must be submitted by mail to the "Federal Processor" **after January 1**. If exact personal financial information is not available when completing the FAFSA, families should use estimates according to FAFSA information. Delays in submitting the FAFSA may affect receiving a financial aid award.

The preferred way to complete the FAFSA is to apply electronically from your home computer on the web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If applying electronically, make sure to get a **PIN# (Personal Identification Number)**. **Give this PIN to no one. It takes a few days to receive the PIN, so make sure to register in advance of your filing date.**

*The PIN allows the student or parents, if student is a dependent, to sign the FAFSA electronically. In this manner, the student aid process can be completed totally online. The electronic signature holds the same legal status as a written signature; so do not give the PIN code number to anyone.*

**(Q) What is needed to fill out the FAFSA?**

**(A)** **First, the applicant for FAFSA requires a valid Social Security Number (SSN)** to apply for federal student aid. The SSN is used to verify identification information and access records.

If a student does not have a SSN, the student/parents should **immediately** apply for one at their local Social Security Office. You can find out more about applying for a SSN at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). For Morristown, a local Social Security Office is located on the second floor at 2200 Route 10 W, Parsippany, NJ 07054 at telephone number 800-772-1213.

**(Q) What financial information does the FAFSA request?**

**(A)** The FAFSA asks for the family's financial information if the student is a dependent. To provide this financial information, the parents' income tax return is needed. If the student/applicant also filed a tax return, the applicant's tax return is also needed.

**(Q) How will we and the schools find out the results?**

**(A)** On the FAFSA, the student is able to list up to six schools that he/she is interested in attending and those schools will automatically receive the results. Each school that participates in FAFSA program has a federal code number.

It is also important to mention that New Jersey awards money to the Distinguished Scholars Program to academically talented students. Scholarship awards are not dependent on financial need. One should know, however, that most grants provided by the State of New Jersey are only awarded to students who attend a college in New Jersey. Therefore, students should list New Jersey colleges first when indicating where the "Needs Analysis" should be sent.

## APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID - CONTINUED

### (Q) What happens after my application is processed?

(A) When your FAFSA is processed, a formula, established by law, is applied to the information you provided. The formula result is called the **Expected Family Contribution**, or **EFC**. The EFC is a measure of your family's income and assets. The EFC indicates how much money you and your family are expected to contribute toward your cost to attend for the coming academic year. EFC is a preliminary estimate based on the information you provided on your application. It is subject to change based upon your school's verification of information you provided. The EFC is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

An electronic copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) is also made available to the schools you've listed in the FAFSA. Many schools have their own method to determine your family contribution and financial aid. You will receive an official EFC Student Aid Report based on the processing results of your FAFSA. Your SAR will contain your EFC which is the Expected Family Contribution.

The parents/student is informed of the analysis through the Student Aid Report (SAR). When the SAR is received, it must be reviewed carefully to make sure it is correct and complete.

The Federal Processor sends this information to the federal and state government and up to six institutions listed on the application.

### Great, I've been accepted! Now, what do we do?

Shortly after an acceptance letter is received from a college, a Financial Aid Package is mailed. This package will list the initial cost of tuition, fees, and on campus room and board at the institution and how they will be reduced by any grants, loans or scholarships received by the student. The final cost of attendance also should be clearly stated. When comparing financial aid papers from different colleges, it is important to note not only how financial costs compare but, also, how much the student and parent will have to borrow in the form of loans to pay the difference.

### TIP (S)

It is important to keep informed of the new changes as they relate to financial aid. Please check the website [WWW.fafsa.ed.gov](http://WWW.fafsa.ed.gov) for current information.

Save all documents, forms and information when completing this FAFSA because they will be very useful when completing next year's, and future FAFSA applications.

**MHS Financial Aid Night is held in November/December.**

### CSS/ Financial Aid Profile

CSS/Financial Aid Profile is the financial aid application service of the College Board. Many of the member colleges, universities, and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on the Profile to help them to award new federal students aid funds. Students must check colleges to determine if they require the CSS Profile along with the FAFSA form.

The registrations are accepted beginning October 1. By completing the profile, you provide the college with a complete picture of your family's financial circumstances. The profile also allows you to include explanations about special circumstances on the same application.

All students are charged a fee for the service. This covers the cost of customizing your profile application. You will be charged an additional fee for each college or program to which you want information sent. This covers the cost of processing and reporting your information.

For more information, please visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). If you have any questions, e-mail [help@cssprofile.org](mailto:help@cssprofile.org) or call them at 306-829-9793. A copy of the CSS/Financial Aid Profile-Registration Guide may be obtained in the Department of School Counseling and Guidance Services.

### Below is a list of web-sites that may help you obtain financial aid for college

[www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.students.gov](http://www.students.gov)

[www.meritmoney.com](http://www.meritmoney.com)

[www.teri.org](http://www.teri.org)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) - (Warning: do not use

[www.fafsa.com](http://www.fafsa.com) as this is not the government site, but rather a commercial site)

[www.collegeparents.org](http://www.collegeparents.org)

[www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

[www1.nelliemae.com](http://www1.nelliemae.com)

<http://www.ed.gov/students/prep/college/index.html>

[www.collegesavings.org](http://www.collegesavings.org)

You can also do a Google search for scholarships and financial aid.

## Class of 2009 College Acceptances

Below are the Colleges and Universities that the MHS Class of 2009 were accepted to! Talk to your counselor if you would like to contact a MHS graduate at one of the schools listed.

Adelphi University	Elizabethtown College	Louisiana State University
Alabama State University	Elon University	Loyola College in Maryland
Albright College	Emerson College	Loyola University New Orleans
Allegheny College	Fairfield University	Macalester College
American University	Fairleigh Dickinson University	Manhattan College
Amherst College	Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison	Marist College
Appalachian State University	Fairmont State University	Maryland Institute College of Art
Arcadia University	Fashion Institute of Technology	Marymount Manhattan College
Arizona State University	Florida International University	Marywood University
Auburn University	Fordham University	Massachusetts College of Art
Babson College	Franklin and Marshall College	McGill University
Bard College	Full Sail University	Mercer University
Barnard College	Georgetown University	Mercy College
Benedict College	Georgia Institute of Technology	Miami International University of Art & Design
Bethune-Cookman College	Georgia State University	Miami University, Oxford
Binghamton University	Gettysburg College	Michigan State University
Bloomfield College	Goucher College	Michigan Technological University
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Greensboro College	Miles College
Boston College	Grinnell College	Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Boston University	Guilford College	Mitchell College
Brandeis University	Gwynedd-Mercy College	Monmouth University
Brown University	Hamilton College - NY	Montclair State University
Bryant University	Hampton University	Moravian College
Caldwell College	High Point University	Morgan State University
California College of the Arts	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Mount Holyoke College
Carnegie Mellon University	Hofstra University	Muhlenberg College
City University of New York	Howard University	Neumann College
Clark University	Indiana University at Bloomington	New Jersey City University
Clemson University	Iona College	New Jersey Institute of Technology
Coastal Carolina University	Iowa State University	New York University
Colgate University	Ithaca College	Newbury College
College of Charleston	James Madison University	North Carolina State University
College of Saint Elizabeth	Johns Hopkins University	Northeastern University
College of the Holy Cross	Johnson & Wales University	Northern Michigan University
College of William and Mary	Juniata College	Northwestern University
Columbia College	Kean University	Occidental College
Concordia College	Kennesaw State University	Onondaga Community College
Connecticut College	Kenyon College	Pace University, New York City
Coppin State University	King's College	Pace University, Pleasantville- Briarcliff
Cornell University	Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	Paine College
County College of Morris	Laboratory Institute of Merchandising	Pennsylvania College of Technology
Delaware State University	Lafayette College	Pennsylvania State University, Abington
Delaware Valley College	Lane College	Pennsylvania State University, Altoona
Dickinson College	Le Moyne College	
Drew University	Lehigh University	
Drexel University	Lehman College of the CUNY	
Duke University	Livingstone College	
East Carolina University		
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania		

(Continued on page 27)

## Class of 2009 College Acceptances— *continued from page 26*

Pennsylvania State University, Berks-Lehigh Valley	Stanford University	University of Miami
Pennsylvania State University, Hazleton	State University of New York at Albany	University of Michigan
Pennsylvania State University, University Park	State University of New York at New Paltz	University of Missouri Columbia
Philadelphia University	Stevens Institute of Technology	University of New Hampshire
Pitzer College	Stonehill College	University of New Haven
Plattsburgh State University	Stony Brook University	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Polytechnic Institute of NYU	Suffolk University	University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Post University	SUNY College at Potsdam	University of North Florida
Pratt Institute	Susquehanna University	University of Pennsylvania
Princeton University	Sussex County Community College	University of Pittsburgh
Providence College	Syracuse University	University of Rhode Island
Purchase College	Temple University	University of Richmond
Quinnipiac University	The Catholic University of America	University of Rochester
Ramapo College of New Jersey	The College of New Jersey	University of San Diego
Randolph College	The College of Wooster	University of South Carolina
Randolph-Macon College	The Evergreen State College	University of Southern California
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	The George Washington University	University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts
Rice University	The Ohio State University	University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey	The University of Alabama	University of Strathclyde
Rider University	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	University of the District of Columbia
Rochester Institute of Technology	The University of Northwestern Ohio	University of Vermont
Rowan University	The University of Scranton	University of Virginia
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey at New Brunswick	The University of Tampa	University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey at Newark	Towson University	Ursinus College
Sacred Heart University	Trinity University in Washington, DC	Vanderbilt University
Sage College of Albany	Tufts University	Villanova University
Saint Augustine's College-NC	Tulane University	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Saint Joseph's University	Union College	Virginia State University
Saint Leo University	Union County College	Virginia Union University
Saint Peter's College	University at Buffalo The State University of New York	Wake Forest University
Salisbury University	University College Dublin	Washington College
Salve Regina University	University of Advancing Technology	Washington University in St. Louis
Sarah Lawrence College	University of California at Santa Barbara	Webster University
Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Central Florida	Wellesley College
School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of Colorado at Boulder	Wells College
School of the Museum of Fine Arts	University of Connecticut	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
School of Visual Arts	University of Delaware	West Virginia University
Scripps College	University of Edinburgh	Wheelock College
Seton Hall University	University of Glasgow	Widener University
Siena College	University of Hartford	Wilkes University
Skidmore College	University of Hawaii at Manoa	William Paterson University of New Jersey
Smith College	University of Maine	Yale University
Southern Methodist University	University of Maryland, Baltimore County	York College of Pennsylvania
Spelman College	University of Maryland, College Park	York College of the CUNY
St. John's University - Queens Campus	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	