

Senior Year Guidance Newsletter – August 2017

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Welcome

We hope you are having a great summer and are looking forward to the next school year. Your last year of high school is approaching fast. It is an exciting year but it is also stressful. You have to continue to work on your post secondary plans. You need to do the things necessary to have as many options available to you when it comes time to make your final decision. Our goal in guidance is to have every senior have a transitional plan in place for the end of his or her senior year. To support you in attaining your goals and aspirations, we have developed a program we feel will assist in your endeavors. It is important to work hard academically throughout the rest of your high school career. A strong senior year shows you have the skills and desire needed for your next step whatever that may be. This newsletter helps outline important dates and programs we will be working with you on.

Summer Scramble for Schedules will be August 23, 24, 25 (Wed., Thurs., Fri.) from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Students may come to Guidance and sign in to see a counselor during this time to add and drop courses and make schedule changes and adjustments before school starts. These are not appointments but a first-come, first-serve method that works well.

Naviance

College applications will be processed through your Naviance account. The counselors will review the procedure with you. This will help simplify the process and give you an updated accounting of when materials are sent.

SAT I and SAT Subject Tests Registration and Dates

Test Date	Regular Registration	Late Registration
August 26, 2017	July 28, 2017	August 15, 2017
October 7, 2017	September 8, 2017	September 27, 2017
November 4, 2017	October 5, 2017	October 25, 2017
December 2, 2017	November 2, 2017	November 21, 2017

Registering for SAT

Students should register online at www.collegeboard.com. Students must have their test results sent directly to the colleges from the SAT Program. When the student takes their last SAT I or Subject Tests, the results have to be sent to all colleges the student is applying to directly from the SAT Program. They will send all your SAT results from that test and past tests at that time.

Senior Meetings with Counselors

Within the first four weeks of school, counselors will meet with all seniors to review their progress on post secondary plans. Counselors will review all deadlines, materials and information related to the post secondary process. We want all application materials into schools and colleges by **December 1**. Even though many of the application deadlines are later, the student's application is enhanced if it is in early. If you are applying for early decision, the deadlines are early. Be sure to carefully check all application materials.

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Required Student Registration with Family ID

MVRHS will now be using *FamilyID* to gather MEDICAL and DEMOGRAPHIC information. Registration process should be completed by AUGUST 30. In future years, your child's information will carry over and parents will only need to review, update and confirm.

What to do to register your child using *FamilyID*:

1. Go to www.familyid.com
2. If your child is an athlete, you may already have an account. Sign into that account.
3. If not, you will need to create a new account.
 - a. Your email address will be your log in
 - b. Create your own password
 - c. Identify your school (Martha's Vineyard Regional High School)
4. There will be three clickable links
 - a. MVRHS Demographics (REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS): All parents must complete this important information. This includes emergency contact info, field trip permissions and general contact information
 - b. MVRHS Medical Form (REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS): All parents must complete this to provide information to the school nurse
 - c. MVRHS Sports Registration: The parent of any student participating in a sport must complete Sports Registration to play.

Portal Plus

Parents/guardians and students will use their already created access codes for Portal Plus. Portal Plus is an internet based service providing access to student schedules and assignments, attendance, and discipline reports. This will enhance our communication and cooperation to better meet the needs of the students.

School Website

The website www.mvrhs.org has valuable information on all areas having to do with your schooling. Our program of studies, calendar, student handbook, school profile, and links to Family ID and the Portal are on the website. For the guidance related subjects, just click on guidance on our homepage. We recommend you visit this site to see the many available resources.

Senior Parents and Student College Application Night Tuesday, September 26 PAC 6:30-8:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center the guidance department will be sponsoring a College Application Night. The counselors will review the college application procedure for seniors and their parents. It will be an informative night of questions and answers to help you move forward in the college application process.

Financial Aid Night for Senior Parents Monday, October 23 MVRHS PAC 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The guidance department will be sponsoring a Financial Aid Night on Monday, October 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the MVRHS Performing Arts Center. A financial aid specialist from MEFA will review the financial aid process and distribute materials necessary to receive financial aid from private sources, public sources, and colleges. He will review the forms that need to be filled out in this process. Also, discussed that night will be the local scholarship program and the process of applying for substantial monies awarded to our seniors and graduates from our own community.

Financial Aid Forms

Numerous private colleges use the College Scholarship Service (CSS) financial aid application called **PROFILE**. Application instructions are online at www.collegeboard.com/profile or in guidance. *These deadlines are early; check your application materials as soon as possible.* All schools and colleges require students to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at www.fafsa.edu.gov.

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Local Scholarship Night for Senior Parents/Students Wednesday, January 31 6:30-8:00 p.m. Cafeteria

The Guidance Dept. will give instructions and answer questions about the Local Scholarship application process.

Local Scholarship Deadline Thursday, March 15

All application materials for the local scholarship program are available in Guidance the first week of January and are due **Thursday, March 15**. *This is a strict deadline, please get materials in totally completed before this date.* Guidance staff members are available to help guide you through this process and answer any questions.

Closing Remarks

This is a big year for our seniors. It is important that we meet all deadlines in the post secondary education process. With the counselors, students and parents working together, each senior should have choices at the end of this process. Have a great rest of the summer. We look forward to helping you throughout the year.