

CCO.MKA

Four-Year College Planning Calendar

We hope that you will make the most of your time at the Upper School by taking advantage of all that MKA and the greater community have to offer. As you navigate the next few years, consult this calendar for guidance on how to set appropriate goals while maintaining a healthy balance and perspective.

Freshman Year

STUDENTS

- Make academic responsibilities your top priority.
- Take advantage of opportunities to explore and develop your interests. Don't be afraid to try something new. Fill your time with a few meaningful activities in which you can really see your potential growth.
- During the winter months, consider how you will spend the summer before your junior year. Plan to stay busy whether you choose to work, volunteer, attend an academic program, or pursue your athletic/artistic/other extracurricular interests.
- Utilize all of the resources available to you at MKA. Learning to advocate for yourself now will help you become a more successful high school *and* college student.
- In February, join us and a college admissions representative for an evening presentation about making the most of the high school years.
- If you are interested in playing college athletics, attend our College Athletic Information Evening (offered alternate years).

PARENTS

- Help your child make a smooth transition to high school. Encourage them to connect with the community by getting involved in Upper School student life.
- Consider attending our College Financial Aid Night in the fall to which all MKA Upper School parents are invited.
- Brainstorm with your child about their summer plans. Assist with researching opportunities for employment, volunteer work, academic programs, and pursuit of athletic/artistic/other extracurricular interests.
- In February, join us and a college admissions representative for an evening presentation about making the most of the high school years.
- If your child hopes to pursue college athletics, gain insight into what it takes to play at the next level at our College Athletic Information Evening (offered alternate years).

Helpful Resources

Student Life at MKA Upper School: mka.org/student-life/upperschool

Global Experience Opportunities at MKA: mka.org/student-life/global-experience

Community Engagement Opportunities at MKA: mka.org/student-life/community-engagement

MKA Publications: mka.org/student-life/publications

Diversity and Inclusion Work at MKA: mka.org/student-life/diversity-inclusion

Summer Programs for High School Students: teenlife.com/blogs/summer-programs-high-school-students

Sophomore Year

STUDENTS

- Continue to work hard and give your best effort in the classroom.
- Sit for the PSAT and practice ACT at MKA in the fall.
- Attend our Standardized Testing Information Evening to learn about: best practices for calendaring test dates, test prep, and SAT vs. ACT.
- As you explore your interests, begin to focus on those you find most meaningful. Increase the depth of your involvement and seek out opportunities to take on greater responsibility.
- During the winter months, consider how you will spend the summer before your junior year. Plan to stay busy whether you choose to work, volunteer, attend an academic program, or pursue your athletic/artistic/other extracurricular interests.
- If you are interested in playing college athletics, attend our College Athletic Information Evening (offered alternate years) and, if appropriate, meet with the CCO Athletic Liaison.
- Join us and a panel of college admissions representatives in the winter for an evening presentation and a mock admissions committee exercise.
- Reflect on your academic performance to date. When thinking about your schedule for junior year, carefully consider your teachers' recommendations and select courses that will appropriately challenge you in the classroom.

PARENTS

- Help your child get off to a good start in sophomore year. Encourage them to continue to work hard in the classroom and to pursue their interests within the MKA community and beyond.
- Consider attending our College Financial Aid Night in the fall to which all MKA Upper School parents are invited.
- Attend our Standardized Testing Information Evening to learn about: best practices for calendaring test dates, test prep, and SAT vs. ACT.
- Brainstorm with your child about their summer plans. Assist with researching opportunities for employment, volunteer work, academic programs, and pursuit of athletic/artistic/other extracurricular interests.
- If your child hopes to pursue college athletics, gain insight into what it takes to play at the next level at our College Athletic Information Evening (offered alternate years).
- Join us and a panel of college admissions representatives in the winter for an evening presentation and a mock admissions committee exercise.



Helpful Resources for College Admission Testing

The College Board website - Register for SAT, view scores, and send scores: collegeboard.org

The ACT website - Register for ACT, view scores, and send scores: actstudent.org

The Compass Guide to College Admission Testing - Information on the ACT, SAT, PSAT, AP's, and more: compassprep.com

Methodize - Free MKA-sponsored online test prep resource for seniors, juniors, and second-semester sophomores: methodize.methodlearning.com/login

Khan Academy - Free online test prep for SAT exams: khanacademy.org

ACT Academy - Free online learning tool and test practice program: act.org/academy

Junior Year

STUDENTS

- Continue to work hard in the classroom; give your teachers plenty of great things to share with colleges in their letters of recommendation.
- Select a manageable extracurricular program and give your best effort to a few activities rather than do many half-heartedly.

FALL/WINTER

- Sit for the PSAT and practice ACT at MKA; review your results to determine which test is a better fit.
- Thoughtfully complete the CCO Student Survey (required before initial meeting with your counselor).
- Attend the CCO's College Kick-off event and follow-up workshop in January.
- Activate your Naviance account per instructions provided by our office in December.
- Map out your standardized testing calendar for spring and summer, and register well ahead of deadlines. The SAT is offered in March, May, June and August; the ACT is offered in February, April, June and July.

SPRING/SUMMER

- Meet with your counselor to discuss your senior year courses and teacher recommendation letters, and to plan for summer with regard to your college process.
- Frequently consult the CCO Spring Checklist and accomplish tasks in a timely fashion.
- Take advantage of virtual/in-person opportunities to research and visit colleges; begin to develop a preliminary college list.
- If athletics or the arts are potentially part of your college process, meet with Mr. Raper, CCO Athletic Liaison, or your art teacher, if appropriate.
- Attend the CCO/PAMKA Mock Interview Workshop in May.
- As indicated on the CCO Summer Checklist, work on your Common Application, including the essay.

PARENTS

- Encourage your son or daughter to continue to work hard in the classroom and to stay engaged with their extracurricular activities.
- Consider attending our College Financial Aid Night in the fall to which all MKA Upper School parents are invited. Take advantage of the Net Price Calculator on each college's website.

FALL/WINTER

- Review PSAT and practice ACT results together with your child and help determine which test is a better fit.
- Attend our Junior Parent Coffees in December and February to learn more about the college search process.
- Thoughtfully complete the CCO Parent Survey (required before your child's initial counselor meeting).
- Attend the CCO's College Kick-off event and follow-up workshop in January.
- Activate your Naviance account per instructions provided by our office in December.

- Map out a standardized testing calendar for spring and summer in consultation with your child and their college counselor.

SPRING/SUMMER

- Encourage your child to take advantage of virtual/in-person opportunities to research and visit colleges and begin to develop their preliminary college list.
- Help your son or daughter plan for summer. Consider available options including employment, course work, volunteer service, and some R & R.
- Meet with your child's college counselor in the spring to discuss their progress with the college search.
- Support your child as they work on important college process tasks, including the Common Application and essay, as indicated on the CCO Summer Checklist.

You can find the Common
Application online at
www.commonapp.org

Senior Year

STUDENTS

- Be sure to manage your time wisely as you juggle the demands of academics, extracurriculars and the college process.
- Consult the CCO Senior Fall Checklist and complete items in a timely fashion. Remember that college admission deadlines are non-negotiable.
- Make trips to a few colleges, but not at the expense of your grades. Meet with college admission representatives when they visit MKA in the fall.
- If you are pursuing college-level athletics, check in frequently with Mr. Raper and register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, if necessary.
- If you plan to audition or submit an arts supplement, continue to meet with your art teacher.
- Complete SAT and/or ACT testing in the summer/fall. December is a back-up date, if necessary.
- Be aware of all application requirements and deadlines, and submit materials in a timely fashion.
- Where necessary, arrange to have your test scores sent to colleges directly from the testing agency well in advance of application deadlines.
- Be sensitive to your classmates as college admission decisions arrive. Your “likely” school may be someone else's first choice.
- Immediately inform your college counselor of all admission decisions and, if appropriate, discuss strategies for responding to deferrals and/or waitlist opportunities.
- Thoughtfully consider your college options, attend admitted student events, and make your final college choice. Submit a deposit to one school by May 1st to confirm your intention to enroll.

PARENTS

- Support your son or daughter as they manage their responsibilities in the busy fall of senior year.
- Help your child keep track of SAT/ACT testing calendars, college visits, applications, and important dates and deadlines.
- In September, attend our Senior Parent Coffee for information pertaining to the application process.
- Attend our College Financial Aid Night in the fall. File the FAFSA, and if required, the CSS Profile, in order to apply for financial aid. Take advantage of the Net Price Calculator on each college's website.
- In consultation with their counselor, assist your child in creating a balanced final college list.
- Remind your child to inform their counselor of all admission decisions immediately and, if appropriate, to discuss strategies for responding to deferrals and/or waitlist opportunities.
- Encourage your child to thoughtfully consider all college options and submit a deposit by May 1st to only one college.

Financial Aid deadlines are just as important as admission deadlines! You can obtain information on the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov and the CSS Profile at profileonline.collegeboard.org

