



School Counseling Newsletter

Mahwah High School

Senior Edition
August 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS AND LINKS:

- **8/1 - Common App is LIVE for Seniors!**
- **8/8: Deadline to register for SAT on 8/23**
- **8/12: College Application Boot Camp #1 - 9:30am-12pm (almost full!)**
- **8/19: Deadline to Register for ACT on Sept. 6th**
- **8/21: College Application Boot Camp #2 - 9:30am-12pm**
- **8/29: Deadline to register for SAT on 9/13**

Welcome to Senior Year!

Dear Seniors and Families,

On behalf of all of us in the School Counseling Office, let me officially welcome you to Senior Year! Now that August is here, we want to start sending some helpful information for the school year ahead.

I am your new Director of School Counseling, and I am so excited to join the Mahwah family. I have been a Counselor and Director in New York for the past 18 years, but a lifelong resident of Bergen County. I look forward to working with you all this year!

Even though you still have much of your summer left to enjoy, taking advantage of this time is key. The more you can prepare in the summer, the less stressful the college and postsecondary planning process will be this year. We made this newsletter to be proactive in helping our Seniors stay on track - so don't hesitate to reach out if we can help. We will be sending more information later in August regarding schedules and the start of the school year.

We hope to see you at one of our Boot Camps in August!

Jim O'Hara
Director of School Counseling, K-12
johara@mahwah.k12.nj.us



Summer To-Do List for SENIORS:

Start the year off on the right foot!

**CLASS
OF
2026**

- ☐ **College Application Boot Camps** - Register now! These sessions will be held on August 12th and 21st from 9:30am to 12pm. Please only sign up for one - each session is capped at 30 students. Mr. O'Hara and the Counselors will help students on their *College Essay, Common App, and College Lists*.
- ☐ **Common App Account** - Create your account and start completing each section under the main Common App tab, then move on to Add Colleges. The bulk of your Common App should be completed before you return to school in September.
- ☐ **Login to SCOIR!** This is the platform that we will use throughout Senior Year to organize your college list and send documents. If you need help with your SCOIR account feel free to contact Ms. Wright (dwright@mahwah.k12.nj.us) or Mr. O'Hara.
- ☐ **Teacher Recommendations** - If you haven't already, be sure that you have requested two teacher letters of recommendation through [SCOIR](#).
- ☐ **Junior Questionnaire** - Please complete in [SCOIR](#) - The more information you can provide your Counselor, the better. *A thorough Junior Questionnaire will directly impact the depth and quality of your Counselor Letter of Recommendation.*
- ☐ **SAT/ACT** - Plan to complete standardized tests if needed - see registration deadlines and links on previous page. Feel free to reach out to your Counselor with any questions. Also, check out the prep courses offered through our partners at [Revolution Prep](#).
- ☐ **List of Colleges** - A balanced, well-developed college list is the key to a successful college process. Using SCOIR will also help you realistically understand where you stand academically. All colleges on your list should be a good fit personally and academically.
- ☐ **College Essay** - Your goal should be to have a solid, near-final draft of your college essay by the start of the school year. This will allow you to focus on any supplemental essays that colleges also require. Read some real essay examples from [Connecticut College](#) and [Johns Hopkins](#) for inspiration.

Finally, take a deep breath and remember what an exciting time this is in your life. While there is a lot to manage, this is also an opportunity to reflect on who you are and who you hope to be in the future. We are here to help every step of the way.

Resources:



- [District Calendar](#)
- [School Counseling Webpage](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)

Note: Please keep an eye out for an email later in August regarding SCHEDULES