

SCHOOL COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

December 2025



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Dear Students and Families,

We hope you all had an enjoyable Thanksgiving Break and welcome to December! This seems to be one of the few months in school year where we can truly be present - because once the calendar turns to January we inevitably start looking ahead and planning for the next school year.

So enjoy the moment and on behalf of our Department, we wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season! We hope the information enclosed is helpful for families of all grade levels. Please reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

Jim O'Hara

Director of School Counseling, K-12



College & Career Corner

Seniors!

At this point, over 80% of our Class of 2026 has applied to college with many students already receiving responses. We would like that number to get as close to 100% as possible by January. For those of you who have yet to apply - you still have time, but you don't have time to waste! We are here to help, so just reach out and we will do the same.

Reminders:

- **Finish up remaining applications - many Regular Decision deadlines are in January**
- **Check your emails and college portals for any missing or requested documents**
- **Update your Counselor! Come in, see your Counselor, and share with us any responses that you have received from colleges**
- **Financial Aid - make sure you pay close attention to financial aid deadlines and requirements. The FAFSA has been open since the Fall, and some colleges may require the CSS Profile or other institutional forms. Check each college's Financial Aid Office website for deadlines.**
- **Keep your grades up! Show colleges that you are maintaining or improving your performance as a Senior.**

Juniors!

You're up next! Junior Conferences will begin in January/February with your Counselor. Start thinking about your interests, goals, and planning to visit colleges. We will announce our Spring College Bus Trip soon!

Planning your testing calendar for the SAT or ACT is also important. We will discuss this at our Parent Academy on December 11th - fee free to join too!

Student Information

- **SCOIR** will be introduced to all 9th Graders this month in Freshman Advisory! The School Counselors will be visiting all classes and helping them navigate our college and career platform. 9th graders will learn how to login and use different exploratory tools within SCOIR.
- **PSAT Scores** have been released! All 10th and 11th graders can view their PSAT scores through SCOIR. You can also see more detailed information through your College Board account. Anyone having any trouble can reach out to their Counselor.
- **HOBY** - Attention Sophomores! The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation offers a leadership summit for interested 10th graders each year in June. All 10th graders were emailed an application that is due this month. See your Counselor with any questions.
- **NJ Governor's School** - applications for Juniors are open and due this month. See page 6 of this newsletter for a [link](#) to more information.
- **CIEE** - the Council on International Educational Exchange visited Mahwah HS last month. This is an outside organization that offers study abroad opportunities to high school students. See page 7 for more information.
- **Revolution Prep** - our partners are offering families a \$600 gift card toward future prep services - see page 8 & 9!

Parent Resources

Just a reminder that all of our presentations and newsletters are housed on the School Counseling Webpage under the section "Newsletters and Presentations". Just click [here](#).

Our next Parent Academy is next Thursday December 11th at 6pm - parents in all grades welcome. See information on page 6 of this newsletter.





Important Dates and Events

- **Saturday Dec. 6th** –
 - SAT at MHS
 - Practice SAT online with Revolution Prep
- **Saturday Dec. 13th** – ACT date (not offered at MHS)
- **Thursday Dec. 11th - Parent Academy**
 - “Crash Course in College Admissions Testing” Presentation – Link [HERE](#)
- **December 23rd** – Single Session Day
- **December 24th - January 2nd** – Holiday Recess, Schools Closed

Mark Your Calendars:

- **January 8th, 2026**- Junior Parent Night – College & Postsecondary Planning Evening



CRASH COURSE IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

MAHWAH HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT ACADEMY

- ✓ Information about SAT, ACT, and AP Testing
- ✓ Test Optional Colleges
- ✓ How to decide which tests to take and when
- ✓ Helping students balance school and testing - a healthy approach

**THURSDAY
DEC. 11TH 2025
6PM**

ZOOM LINK:



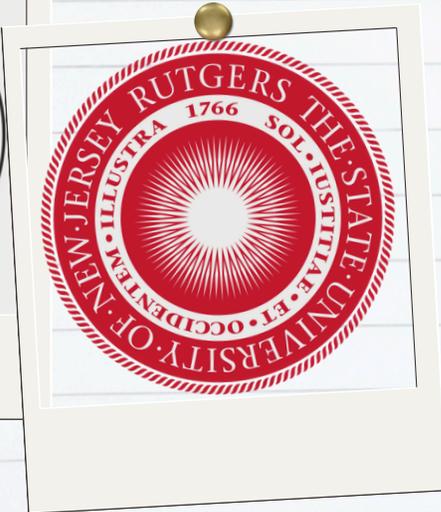
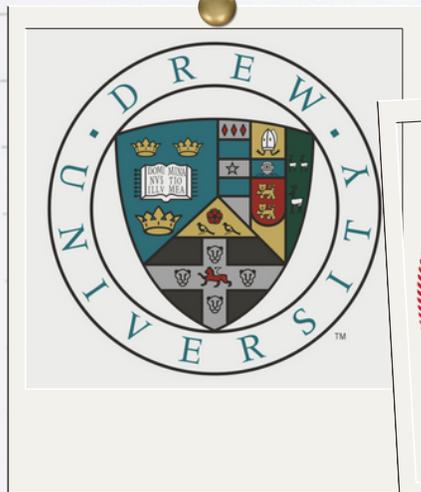
**HOSTED BY:
JIM O'HARA
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL
COUNSELING K-12**

No.

Date . . . No.

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

*The Governor's School in the
Sciences at Drew University and the
Governor's School of Engineering &
Technology at Rutgers, The State
University of New Jersey.*



[Link to more Information](#)

**DON'T
MISS OUT!**

NOW Rolling Admissions
Apply at my.ciee.org

DEC. 1 Deadline to enter
our early bird free
flight raffle!

Early decision
scholarship deadline

JAN. 21 Final Scholarship
Deadline

FEB Scholarship Awards
Announcement

Mahwah HS & Revolution Prep

a Partnership



Build confidence, work on pacing and endurance, and pinpoint areas for improvement in a realistic test environment—all before your official exam day.

>>> The best way to prepare is to practice.

Register for an upcoming practice exam.

				
	Mahwah High School			
	Upcoming Events:			
SAT	Saturday, December 6	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Online	Free

**>>> Boost your score
before the official exam.**

Signup for a free 30-minute review with your Academic Advisor to get a personalized plan based on your practice exam results:

www.revolutionprep.com/sue-hmelovsky

Sue Hmelovsky

(973) 616-6158

sue.hmelovsky@revolutionprep.com

>>> Register today!

by scanning this QR code



or visit:

www.revolutionprep.com/partners/3087/



Give the gift of results

Claim a **free holiday gift card up to \$600** to use toward **tutoring, test prep, and executive function** programs!

Start the new year strong with the gift that lasts a lifetime!



6TH-8TH GRADERS

- Build executive function and study routines
- Strengthen math and reading foundations
- Ease anxiety about the high school transition

9TH-10TH GRADERS

- Improve GPA through smarter study systems
- Develop strong study skills
- Lay the groundwork for college readiness

11TH GRADERS

- Targeted SAT/ACT prep for maximum gains
- Strengthen test-day confidence and strategy
- Focus on high-impact GPA improvement

12TH GRADERS

- Final GPA and essay support
- Stress-relief strategies for a smooth finish strategy
- Build college-level independence and readiness

Claim your holiday gift card now!

Visit: hubs.li/Q03R9VJ60

Or scan this QR code



Offer expires December 19th, 2025. [Terms and conditions apply.](#)

New to Revolution Prep?

Contact a Revolution Prep Academic Advisor to discover the program that's right for your student and apply your gift card.

877.738.7737 | revolutionprep.com

Claim your Gift Card to Revolution Prep by clicking HERE by December 19th!