

SCHOOL COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



Campgaw Mountain

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Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to 2026! It is hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of the first semester. Second marking period concludes on Friday January 30th and families will be notified when report cards are posted to the Realtime portal.

Next month, we will begin the course selection process for the 2026-27 school year. School Counselors will be meeting with students in February to review their options and families will be notified when our updated Program of Studies is posted to the website.

Finally, please see the end of our Newsletter for important information regarding the [Mahwah Public Schools Bond Referendum Vote on Tuesday March 10th](#) and upcoming Town Hall Meetings.

Thank you,

Jim O'Hara, Director of School Counseling K-12



ADMISSIONS
OFFICE

COLLEGE & CAREER CORNER

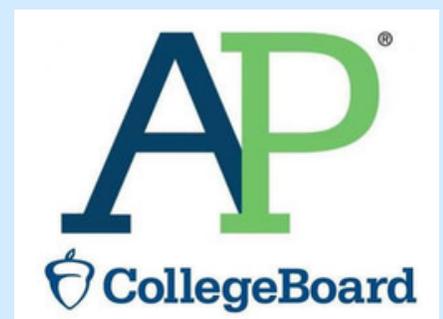
Seniors!

- Please continue to update your School Counselor and SCOIR with any college responses (accept, reject, defer)
- MIDYEAR GRADES will be ready after the close of the Marking Period - we will send you a Google Form to complete for those colleges which require us to send Midyear Grades
- Time is ticking! If you have yet to apply or need assistance, please reach out to your Counselor ASAP and we will do the same. Our goal is for all students to have a plan in place.

AP Exams 2026

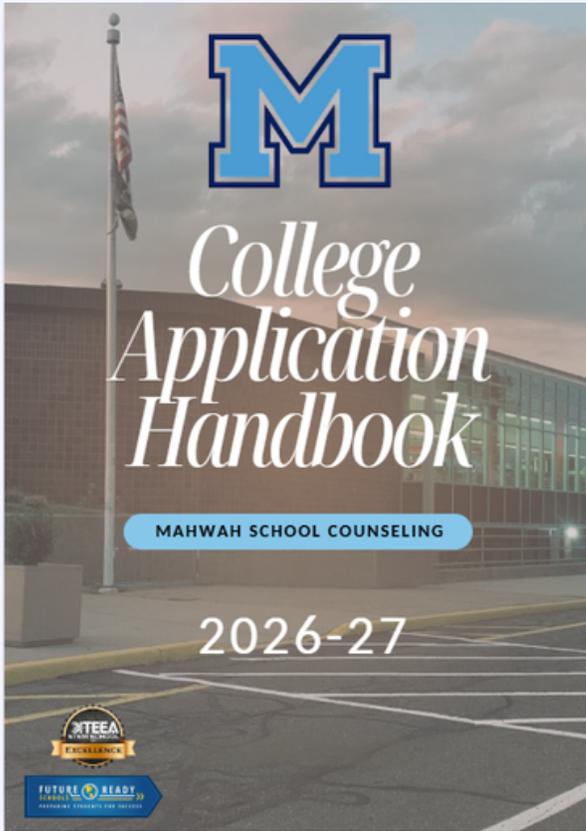
All students enrolled in an AP course at Mahwah High School must sit for the AP Exam in May. These exams are the culmination of the year long Advanced Placement course and when enrolled, students agree to take the corresponding exams. See information below:

- **Payment Due in PAYSCHOOLS** - College Board sets the fee of \$99 per exam. Please login to Payschools and look under fees for the total amount owed for your child. Payment is due Feb. 27th.
- **Schedule of Exams** - The schedule of exams can be found on the College Board website [here](#). Further information about locations will be shared with students later this Spring.



JUNIOR CONFERENCES

Juniors!



- Our Junior Parent Night was held Thursday, January 8th
- Junior Conferences will begin in February - School Counselors will be reaching out to families about scheduling these individual conferences for each student
- Our updated COLLEGE APPLICATION HANDBOOK will be provided to all families in their Junior Conference

PARENT INFORMATION

Thank you to all the families who have joined us for our Parent Presentations in person at Mahwah HS and Parent Academy presentations on Zoom so far this school year.

Recent Presentations:

- Crash Course on College Admissions Testing - December 11th, 2025
- Junior Parent Night - January 8th, 2025

Upcoming Presentations:

- Career Pathways Parent Academy - Thursday January 22nd at 7pm - [ZOOM LINK](#)

Reminder - all newsletters & presentations are posted on our website at the link below. Please check back throughout the year for updates.

[SCHOOL COUNSELING WEBPAGE](#)





Important Dates and Events

January:

- Monday January 19th - Martin Luther King Day - Schools Closed
- Thursday January 22nd - Parent Academy: Career Pathways at 7pm on Zoom
- Monday January 26th - Staff Development Day - Schools Closed for Students
- Thursday January 29th - Electives Fair for Students during lunch in the Media Learning Commons

Looking Ahead:

- February 12th - 10th Grade Parent Night
- February 14th - official ACT test date
- February 28th - practice ACT online with Revolution Prep

FLIGHT PATH FOR OUR FUTURE



**MAHWAH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BOND REFERENDUM

VOTE TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Bond Referendum

TOWN HALLS

IN-PERSON

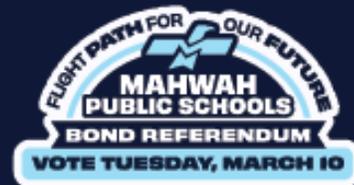
**Wednesday, February 4th
6:30 PM - MHS Auditorium**

VIRTUAL

**Wednesday, February 11th
5:30 PM - ZOOM Link**

www.mahwah.k12.nj.us/future

MAHWAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND REFERENDUM VOTE TUESDAY, MARCH 10



THE FUTURE OF OUR FACILITIES AND OUR COMMUNITY

QUESTION 1 Critical Infrastructure & Efficiency Upgrades to All Buildings to Maintain Core Operations, Security and Efficiency

- **Upgrade** leaky roofing and inefficient HVAC systems that are more than 20 years old
- **Convert** locker room/storage area into designated space to build a life skills program for 18-to-21 year old students with special needs
- **Replace** select windows and doors that are original to the building to enhance security
- **Complete** exterior brickwork to preserve our beloved buildings
- **Replace** aging, end-of-life boilers

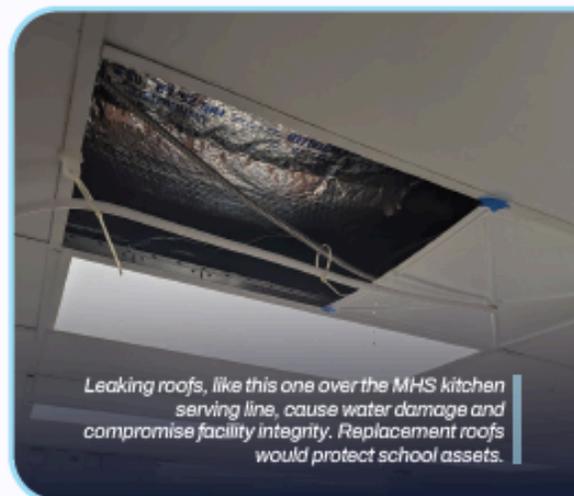
QUESTION 2* Create Consistency Among Elementary Schools, Improve the T-Bird & Community Experience

- **Build** new, designated gym at Betsy Ross and George Washington Elementary Schools to ease crowding, create more safe and functional space and create space for community organizations
- **Upgrade** grass fields at the High School and Ramapo Ridge with turf and lighting to create reliable field space for students and community recreation programs
- **Replace** media center, currently housed in a trailer, and add a music room at Betsy Ross
- **Build** a new, second gym with bleachers on both sides at the High School to replace small, 1950s layout that is not comparable to neighboring districts and to improve scheduling and access for students and community recreation programs
- **Renovate** the High School auditorium, entrance and lobby - including the original 1950s seating

**Question 2 can only pass if Question 1 is also approved.*

\$138.4M IN IMPROVEMENTS
\$28.1M IN STATE AID**

****AVAILABLE THROUGH
A VOTER-APPROVED REFERENDUM**



Leaking roofs, like this one over the MHS kitchen serving line, cause water damage and compromise facility integrity. Replacement roofs would protect school assets.



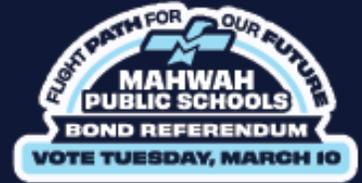
Betsy Ross' multi-purpose room is stretched thin to hold morning drop off, lunch, P.E., and more. New construction would create a dedicated gym and learning spaces to better serve students.



More Details: Visit www.mahwah.k12.nj.us/future
Questions? Email future@mahwah.k12.nj.us


[@MahwahSchools](https://www.instagram.com/MahwahSchools)

MAHWAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND REFERENDUM VOTE TUESDAY, MARCH 10



THE BOARD AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION CHOSE THIS FUNDING STRATEGY TO:

- **Fund** major capital improvements
- **Secure \$28.1 million in state aid**, reducing tax impact
- **Enhance** and ensure safe and secure facilities
- **Improve** and enhance learning environments to foster student success
- **Provide** access to Mahwah's facilities for community members of all ages

IMPORTANT VOTER DEADLINES

Feb. 17 Voter Registration

March 3 Vote By Mail Applications (by mail)

March 9 Vote By Mail Applications
(hand-delivered by 3PM)

March 10 VOTE (in-person or by mail)

LEARN MORE & ASK QUESTIONS

An opportunity for community members to get answers directly from district administrators and professional consultants

In-Person Community Information Forum:

**Feb. 4 | 6:30PM | Mahwah High School Auditorium
50 Ridge Rd.**

Virtual Community Information Forum:

Feb. 11 | 5:30PM | Zoom

BY THE NUMBERS

IF VOTERS APPROVE QUESTION 1

\$75.8M in improvements

— **\$25.1M state aid**

= **\$26 per month**

IF VOTERS APPROVE QUESTION 2*

\$62.6M in improvements

— **\$3M state aid**

= **additional \$31 per month**

**Question 2 can only pass if Question 1 is also approved.*

The estimated tax increase is based on the Mahwah Township average assessed home of \$481,238. Remember assessed value is different than market value!



More Details: Visit www.mahwah.k12.nj.us/future
Questions? Email future@mahwah.k12.nj.us



@MahwahSchools

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.

				
	<i>Mahwah High School</i>			
ACT	Saturday, February 28, 2026	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Online	Free
SAT	Saturday, April 11, 2026	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



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www.revolutionprep.com/partners/3087/

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flight raffle!

Early decision
scholarship deadline

JAN. 21 Final Scholarship
Deadline

FEB Scholarship Awards
Announcement