

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

GENERAL INFO

We hope the start of the New Year has been a positive one! We have a lot to report from the Guidance & Counseling Department as we prepare for the start of the new semester. We are eager to begin the scheduling process for all of our students in grades 9-11. In the coming weeks, you will receive a mailed invitation for your child's in-person course selection meeting. While these meetings are brief in duration, they are very important and integral to the academic planning of each student. We ask that you review the various course options as outlined in the [2026-27 WHS Course Catalog](#) which is also posted to the high school's Guidance Dept. page and school's home page. Please look through the elective options. Counselors will share what core courses your current teachers have recommended for you for 2026-27 and then review what electives you wish to take. Due to the need to meet with every student in a very short time span, these course selection meetings cannot be re-scheduled. While a parent's attendance is welcome, it is not necessary. Upon having the scheduling conference, the counselors will send home a course selection sheet to verify your approval of the courses chosen. Feel free to contact the counselors with questions. **NEW this year...** No changes to your course selections may be made after April 10th. This is so that the administration can effectively plan and staff the courses that will run next year. This means that it is especially important to review the course catalog and have a sense of what you are interested in taking.

AP EXAMS - Have a look at the [2026 AP Exam Schedule](#) - N.B. - The dates are not flexible. Afternoon AP exams typically end at 4:00 pm. Any students who have an exam conflict should notify Mr. DiPaolo ASAP.

CAREER WEEK - This year, our school district is hosting a district-wide Career Week with various events focusing on career awareness for our students. Some of the events include: Career Fair, career research projects, a Professional Skills Workshop, Resume Workshop, Dress Like Your Career Day, career goals workshops and a biography series with staff discussing their career paths. Career Week will be March 16th through March 20th. More info to follow.

SENIORS: We are in the process of hearing back on all of the admission decisions from our current seniors who applied Early Action, Early Decision and Rolling Admission. We are closing in on 1600 college applications to 295 different colleges. The counselors visited senior English classrooms this week to discuss the scholarship search process last week. We advise students to utilize the various scholarship search engines (see list [HERE](#)), including our Naviance program and Guidance website. Seniors are encouraged to visit our Guidance & Counseling scholarship website [HERE](#) to access local scholarships electronically and to see the various scholarship search links we recommend. We had seniors fill out a scholarship profile which will help our school's scholarship committee in determining which students can be put up for certain awards. We urge you to encourage your children to constantly check in Guidance, on our website and on Naviance for scholarship updates. Also, visit www.fastweb.com or other recommended sites for help searching for other scholarship opportunities. FAFSA reports are beginning to get released to parents and students from colleges. Parents should fill out the FAFSA form ASAP. This will qualify students for student loans, grants and financial aid. It is wise to call the college's financial aid offices to assist you in this process.

JUNIORS: Juniors have recently taken part in their post-high school planning conferences and were given info on the SAT and ACT registration process. Detailed worksheets regarding SAT and ACT registration were sent out in the Fall with all of the necessary information to register for the various exams. These worksheets are also posted to our web site [HERE](#) under Testing Materials. We strongly advise students taking these tests to consider a test preparation program. Additionally, PSAT score reports were given out and are available online through each student's College Board account.

As discussed in our conferences with students, Juniors should be researching colleges online, using the vast virtual visit options that exist and planning in-person visits. Many would agree that visiting campuses in person is by far, the most integral part of finding great college options for students.

WHS will be hosting a Digital SAT during the school day on March 20th for our Juniors ONLY. Registration for this exam has closed. To become familiar with the SAT, [HERE](#) is a link to practice tests, Khan Academy and digital practice.

Upcoming Virtual College Fairs:

NACAC Virtual College Fair - Sunday, February 1, 2026 - 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm - Register [HERE](#)

NACAC Virtual College Fair - Sunday, March 15, 2026 - 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm - Register [HERE](#)

NACAC Virtual College Fair - Sunday, April 19, 2026 - 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm - Register [HERE](#)

***** In Person Southern Westchester College Fair - April 29, 2026 - 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Westchester County Center, White Plains *** More Info [HERE](#)**

***** In Person Northern Westchester College Fair - April 30, 2026 - 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Northern Westchester BOCES, Yorktown Heights *****

More events will be posted as they become available....

SOPHOMORES: Sophomores will soon begin meeting the counseling staff in small groups for their 10th Grade Career Workshops. Students will do in-depth research on careers that relate to their strengths and interests while also exploring colleges that match the same.

FRESHMEN: See above under general information. No grade specific announcement at this time.

It's never too early to start considering enrichment opportunities for the summer time - Colleges look very highly on student free time that is well spent. Part time jobs, internships, educational vacations, conferences, coursework, community service, job shadowing and enrichment programs are all excellent examples of how students can spend their summer and breaks with positive and fulfilling experiences.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact your counselor.

The counselors are here to assist you with whatever you need. We are available to our students on a drop in basis, by appointment or by email. And we are available to parents by phone, email or scheduled meetings during the school day. Below are the guidelines to accessing your Counselor...

* Our office is open and students are welcome to come down and drop by or to make appointments and see us.

* Students can make appointments with their Counselor via email or by stopping in to schedule a time with our clerical staff.

* We can also schedule phone conversations and correspond via email.

* We will make every effort to respond to parents in a timely manner but please know that our priority during the school day is your children and their needs so it is possible we may not return your call or email until the following school day.

Please contact your Counselor if you are having any issues, questions or difficulty.

If you would like to email/call your Counselor, our contact info is below...

Guidance Phone # - (914) 769-8440

Mrs. Lauren Cody - Email: lcody@mtplcsd.org - Phone Prompt 4

Mr. Nicholas DiPaolo - Email: ndipaolo@mtplcsd.org - Phone Prompt 2

Mrs. Colette Magnan - Email: cmagnan@mtplcsd.org - Phone Prompt 5

Mr. Tim O'Dwyer - Email: todwyer@mtplcsd.org - Phone Prompt 3