

SCHOOL COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



Darlington County Park

INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

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Dear Students and Families,

Now that we have turned the calendar to February, we also transition to the second semester of the school year. The weather might still be frigid but it is time to look ahead, with our Course Selection process taking center stage this month.

Please see information enclosed and on our [webpage](#) for information regarding our course selection process for next year. **The student portal is now open for elective selection and will close on February 25th at 3pm.** Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's School Counselor with any questions related to scheduling.

Also, 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



COURSE SELECTION FOR 2026-27

Below are some important dates to keep in mind regarding our Course Selection process which begins this month.

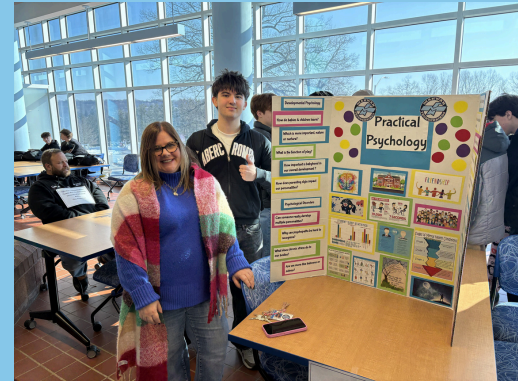
- Feb. 9th, 10th, 11th - Student Grade Level Assemblies
- Feb. 11th - Realtime Portal Opens for Elective Selection
- Feb. 18th to 20th - School Counselors visit PE classes to review course options with students individually
- Feb. 23rd - Honors/AP Applications Due
- Feb. 25th - Portal Closes for students - 3pm

Please see the link below for all documents related to scheduling. Our Program of Studies includes all classes we offer along with course descriptions. We also have our Grade Level Worksheets to help students plan their coursework.

SCHOOL COUNSELING SCHEDULING INFORMATION LINK



ELECTIVES FAIR



Our annual Elective Fair was held on Jan. 29th during Lunch in our Media Learning Commons. Students were able to meet teachers and learn about our elective offerings across all subject areas.

COLLEGE & CAREER CORNER

Seniors!

- Please continue to update your School Counselor and SCOIR with any college responses (accept, reject, defer)
- 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.
- MIDYEAR GRADES - We are in the process of sending Midyear Grades. Please check if your colleges require Midyear Grades. All Seniors were emailed the [Google Form](#) to request Midyear Grades be sent to your colleges

Juniors!

- We visited all 11th Grade Social Studies classes in January to review college and postsecondary planning
- Junior Conferences have begun! Your School Counselor will reach out to schedule in the coming weeks
- Please see our updated [COLLEGE APPLICATION HANDBOOK](#) which you will receive at your Junior Conference
- Register for the College Fair below!

COLLEGE FAIR

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18, 2026

6PM AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

[SIGN UP HERE!](#)

All interested students are strongly encouraged to register at the QR code below! This is a great opportunity to meet an extensive group of colleges and learn more about your future opportunities!



FAMILY INFORMATION

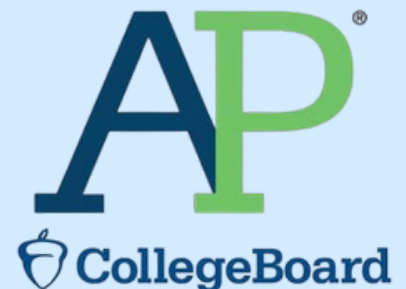
**10th Grade Parent Night
Thursday February 12th
7pm HS Auditorium**

Please join the School Counseling Department for an informative parent presentation. We will discuss academic opportunities, extracurricular activities, course selection information, as well as college and career planning information. Please RSVP at this [link](#).

REMINDER: 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.



Happy National School Counseling Week!

Last week we celebrated our wonderful School Counselors. Thank you for all that you do on behalf of students and families!



Mrs. Megan Beatty



Mr. Brian Gregson



Mr. Rayhan Jalil



Mrs. Stacy Mandel



Mrs. Joan Stewart, Student Assistance Counselor





Important Dates and Events

February:

- February 10th - 8th Grade Parent Night at 7pm - HS Auditorium
- February 11th - Virtual Referendum Town Hall - 5:30pm on Zoom
- February 12th - 10th Grade Parent Night at 7pm - HS Auditorium
- February 14th - official ACT test date
- Monday February 16th & Tuesday February 17th - Winter Recess/President's Day - Schools Closed
- February 28th - practice ACT online with Revolution Prep - [LINK](#)

REGISTER
FOR THE
COLLEGE FAIR
AT
STRIVEFAIR.COM



Wednesday, March 18, 2026
6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Ramapo College of New Jersey

**FILL OUT A SHORT REGISTRATION FORM
TO GET YOUR BARCODE**
**SHOW YOUR BARCODE TO COLLEGES TO
SHARE YOUR INFORMATION**

STRIVE  SCAN

FLIGHT PATH FOR OUR FUTURE



**MAHWAH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BOND REFERENDUM

VOTE TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Bond Referendum

TOWN HALLS

IN-PERSON

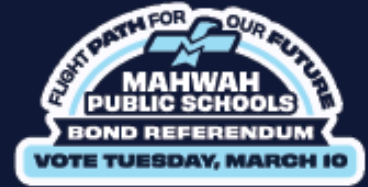
**Wednesday, February 4th
6:30 PM - MHS Auditorium**

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

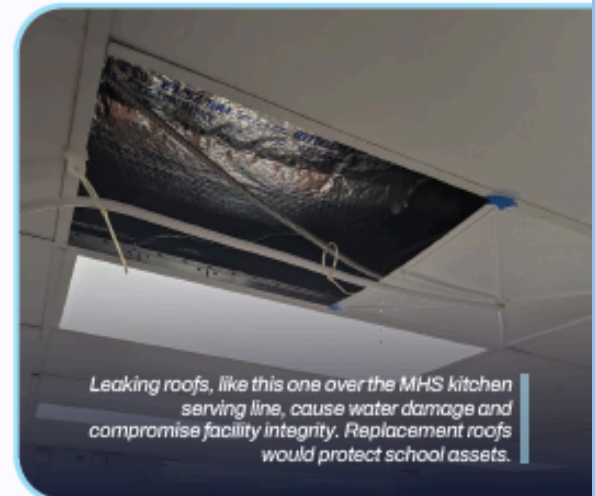
QUESTION 2* Create Consistency Among Elementary Schools, Improve the T-Bird & Community Experience

- **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.



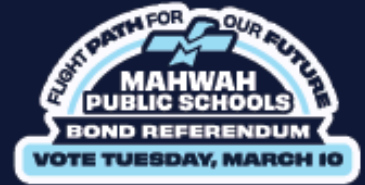
Betsy Ross' multi-purpose room is stretched thin to hold morning drop off, lunch, P.E., and more. New construction would create a dedicated gym and learning spaces to better serve students.



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



or visit:

www.revolutionprep.com/partners/3087/