Senior Parent/Guardian Night

Class of 2027
Marblehead High School

School Counselors

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Loretta Benman — *School Counseling Assistant*

Post Secondary Planning

Counselors are here to help for all post high school plans including:

- College
- Military
- Trade Schools
- PG programs
- Employment

Agenda

- Organizing the Process
- College Visits
- Transcript Request Process
- Letters of Recommendation
- Testing - SAT, ACT
- Application Types
- Application Process
- Admission Decisions
- Scholarships/Financial Aid



Senior Seminars

Seminars: Health/P.E. and English Blocks

- **1st Seminar**: Reviewing the college process
- **2nd Seminar**: Common Application, Naviance, FERPA

Transcripts: Distributed during the 2nd seminar

School Counselors are available during Magic Blocks in October

- Post-secondary planning
- Common Application help
- Assistance with the Self-Reported Academic Record (STARS)

Day Zero - October 21st

Students will sign up for one:

1. College essay support at MHS
2. Visiting a college or vocational school
3. Resume writing support at MHS

Seniors will sign up through a Google Form sent out by Mr. Richards

Upcoming Events

- **Two Senior Seminars**

- **Senior Parent / Guardian Night**
  - Tuesday, September 15th, 6pm at MHS

- **NEACAC College Fair** - held at Salem State University
  - NEACAC College Fair
  - Wednesday, September 23rd from 9am- 12pm

- **Financial Aid Night -** Presented by MEFA's Kevin Fudge
  - Wednesday, October 21st at 6pm
  - MHS Auditorium

- **College Visits at MHS**

- **Scholarship Assembly** - In the spring for seniors



Upcoming Events Continued

Virtual College Fairs (via NACAC)
Sunday | September 20th 1 - 6pm
Sunday | October 18th | 1 - 6pm
Sunday | November 8th | 1 - 6pm
https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs/attend



Building Bridges HBCU Event
October 14th - 16th | 9am - 2pm
Reggie Lewis Athletic Center
https://www.buildingbridgeseducation.com/building-bridges-hbcu-program

Building Bridges On-site Admissions Interviews
Friday | October 16th | 9am - 12pm Reggie Lewis Athletic Center
https://www.buildingbridgeseducation.com/building-bridges-hbcu-program

Fill out this Google Form if you want to attend HBCU events:
https://forms.gle/P31q2W3y7B1jyrJ16

Organizing the Process

- **Student Responsibility**
  - College requirements: Auditions, portfolios, interviews, testing, etc.
  - Deadlines: Application and Financial Aid
  - System: Find one that works for you

- **Range of Schools**
  - Recommendation: 8 - 12 schools (Safeties, Targets, and Reaches)
    - Use Naviance Scattergram

- **Researching Schools**
  - Some helpful resources: Naviance, CollegeBoard, Niche, or Princeton Review

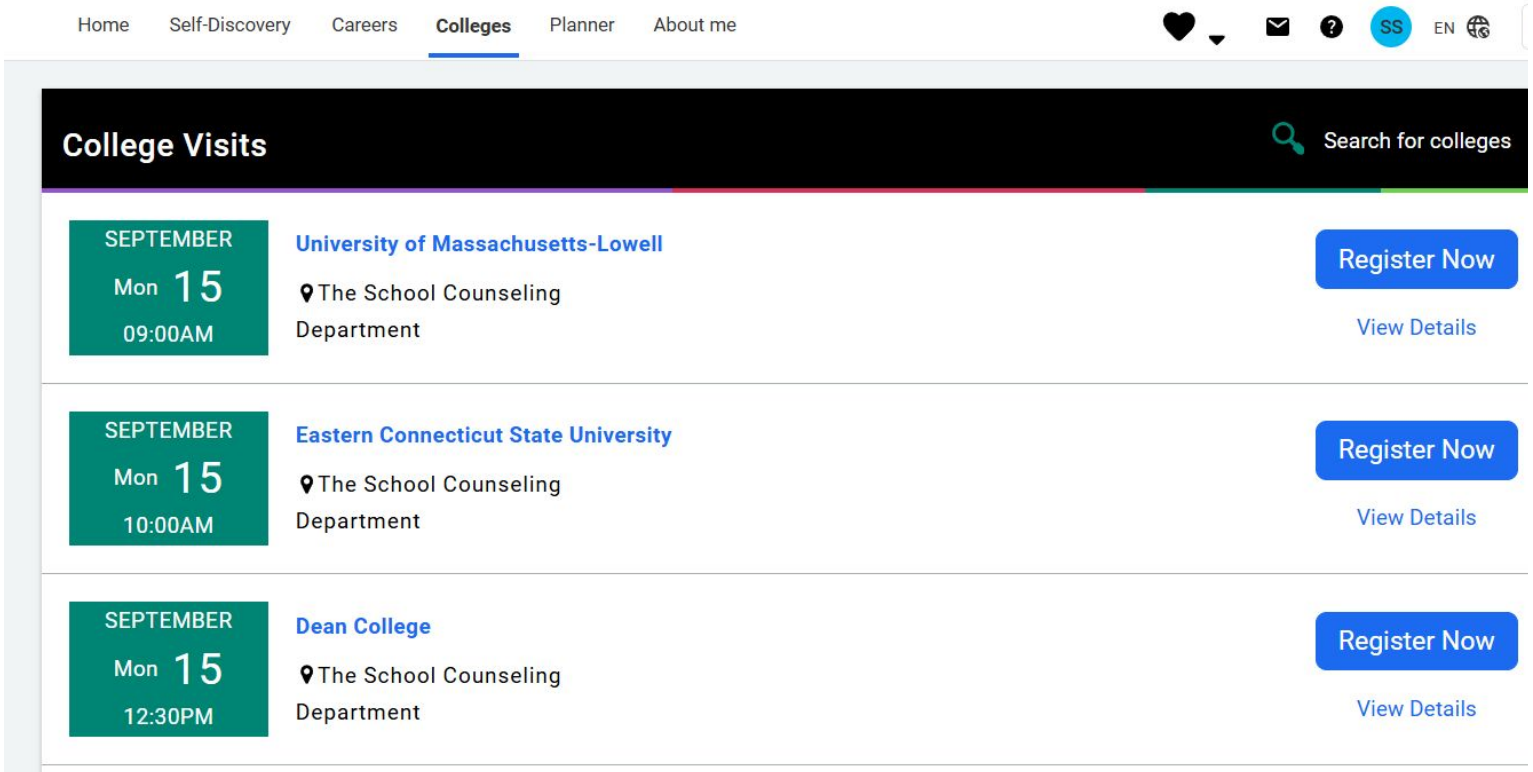
- **College Visits/Interviews**
  - Check Naviance for MHS College Visits
  - Register online for college tours and information sessions
  - Demonstrated interest: important
  - Interviews: Check availability

MHS College Visits

- **MHS College Visits**: Over 100 admissions reps from colleges and universities
  - **To Sign Up**: Log into Naviance at student.naviance.com/marblehead
  - **If student wants a reminder**: Add the college to "Colleges I'm Thinking About" list on Naviance
- **College Visit Pass**:
  - At least 24 hours before the event
    - Obtain gold pass from School Counseling Office (Ms. Benman)
    - Have it signed by the teacher of the missed class
    - Can miss the same class up to two times
    - Cannot miss any assessments
- **Day of College Visit**:
  - Report to class first and get a SmartPass to School Counseling for the visit
  - Return to class on a SmartPass after the visit
- **FLEX/MAGIC Blocks**: Register on My Flex Learning at least 24 hours in advance

Signing Up for College Rep Visits to MHS

Log in to **Naviance** → Click the Colleges tab up top → Click College Visits → Click Register Now



Transcript Request Process

The MHS Transcript Request Form:
Located on the School Counseling section of the MHS website: MHS School Counseling

Download Form: Editable PDF; save it to your desktop or files

Complete the Form:
Please add every college you are applying to

- **Full College Name**: Use official names, not initials, indicate campus
- **Application Method**: Indicate if applying via Common App or Non-Common App
- **Application Deadline**: Note the actual college deadline (not ASAP or when you plan to send your application)
- **Application Type**: Specify (e.g., ED, EA, RD, Rolling)
- ***Do not put the same college twice***

Submitting the Transcript Request Form

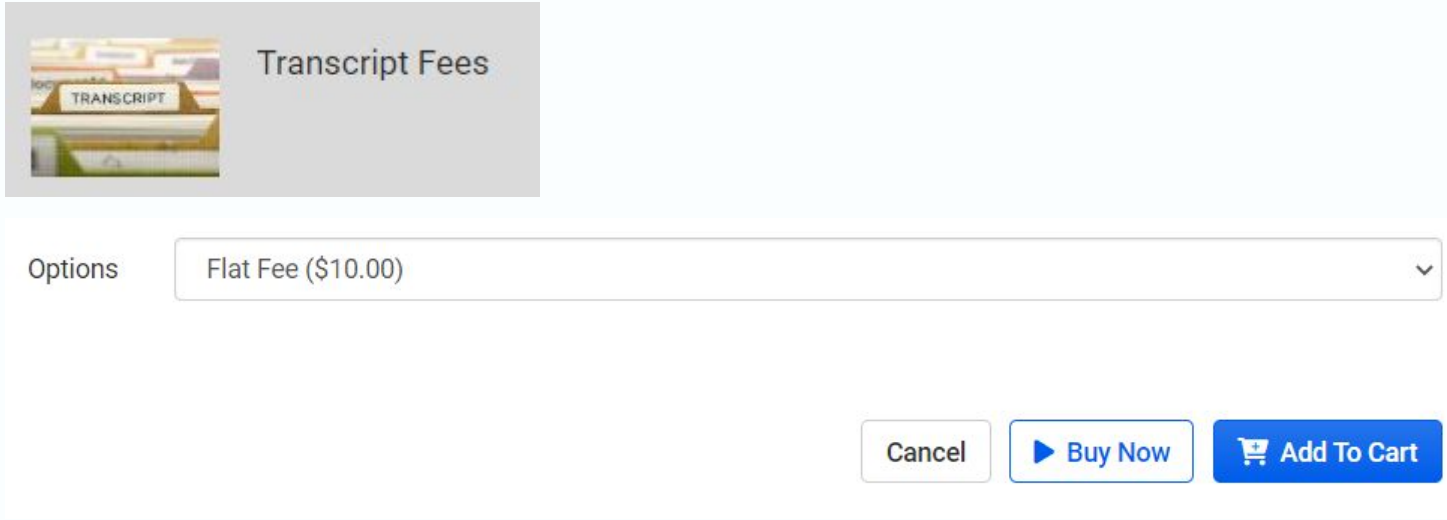
Once your form is completed:

- **Submit Transcript Request Form**: Email to mhs_transcripts@marbleheadschools.org
- **Email Subject**: Your First and Last Name
- **One Time Processing Fee**: $10, paid via My School Bucks
- **Multiple Transcript Request Forms**: You can submit more than one form
- **Do not send transcript request forms to your school counselor**
- **Naviance Update**: Colleges will appear in “Colleges I’m Applying to” once processed
- **The transcript form** includes submission of transcript, school profile, MHS letters of recommendation (teacher and school counselor), and secondary school report

School Counseling Office requires transcript forms to be submitted at least 3 weeks prior to the admissions deadline

Paying for Transcripts - My School Bucks

- Log into My School Bucks → School Store → Select Transcript Fees (One Time Transcript Processing Fee- $10)



Transcript Request Form Due Dates

College Admissions Deadline	School Counseling Office Deadline
October 15, 2026	September 24, 2026
November 1, 2026	October 9, 2026
November 15, 2026	October 23, 2026
December 1, 2026	November 10, 2026
December 15, 2026	November 20, 2026
*January 1, 2027	*December 4, 2026
January 15, 2027	December 18, 2026
February 1, 2027	January 11, 2027
February 15, 2027	January 22, 2027
March 1, 2027	February 8, 2027

If your college is Rolling Admissions, please allow three (3) weeks for processing

Teacher Recommendation

Once student knows 1st application deadline - **Student contacts teacher**

Follow up with the teacher to find out if they need anything

Do **NOT** invite the teacher to be a recommender through the Common App

Send a thank you note to the teacher writing your recommendation



Recommendations are confidential

Outside Recommendations

- Student's responsibility to coordinate outside recommendations
- School counseling department **only** sends MHS teacher recommendations
- Only invite outside recommenders via Common App (not MHS teachers)

Be mindful of the number of recommendations - always check the college website for requirements & follow the requirements

Recommendations are confidential

Standardized Testing

- **Tests**: SAT/ACT less critical for many colleges
- **Test Optional**: Many schools don't require test scores
- **Check Requirements**: Refer to college websites for testing policies
- **Resource**: Visit www.fairtest.org for test options
- **Supplemental Information**: Check if colleges need additional materials (e.g., graded essay)
- **Test Blind**: 70+ colleges do not consider test scores, even if submitted
- **Test Flexible:** Colleges/Universities allow students to choose which type of test they want to submit with their application (i.e. SAT, ACT, or AP Scores)

SAT Testing

- **Register at www.sat.org/register**
  - Marblehead School Code: 221-325
- **Upcoming dates**
  - **October 3rd** (Registration - September 18, Late registration deadline Sept 22)
  - **November 7th** (Registration- deadline October 23rd)
  - **December 5th** (Registration- deadline November 20th)
- **Info**
  - Most Colleges “superscore” - take the top score for each section
    - Required to submit by testing administration
  - 4 free submissions of test scores - Must be sent blind
  - Pay once: Send any number of scores
  - Check Deadlines: Confirm last test date allowed by each college
  - Self-Reporting: Some colleges allow this—verify with each college

ACT Testing

- **Register at www.actstudent.org**
  - Marblehead School Code: 221-325

- **Upcoming dates**
  - **October 17th** (Late Registration deadline September 29th)
  - **December 12th** (Registration deadline November 6th)

- **Info**
  - **ACT vs. SAT**: All colleges accept either test
  - **Superscore**: Some colleges combine top ACT section scores—check with each college
  - **4 Free Submissions**: Must be sent without seeing the scores
  - **Separate Payment**: Pay for each test administration

Sending Scores

- **Send Scores Directly to Colleges**: Use College Board or ACT
- **Check SAT/ACT Concordance Chart**: Determine which scores to send
- **Consult With Your School Counselor**: For questions on which scores to send
- **Send Scores Early**: 2 to 3 weeks before college deadlines
- **Self-Report Scores on Common App**: Only if testing is complete; report upcoming test dates if necessary
- **Test-Optional Schools**: Do not self-report scores on Common App if holding scores

How to apply to college?

1. Common Application
2. Coalition Application
3. College/University Application

Resource: Direct Admissions Program through Common App
https://www.commonapp.org/blog/common-app-launches-2024-2025-direct-admissions-program-116-colleges-and-universities

- **Direct Admissions Process**: Participating colleges set specific requirements (e.g., minimum GPA) and offer opportunities like essay waivers for qualified first-generation, low- and middle-income students identified by Common App.
- **Application Benefits & Review**: Students receive non-binding admissions offers via Common App, with no application fee required. Colleges verify application accuracy and ensure alignment with stated criteria, including program-specific exceptions.
- Criteria and eligibility vary by college

Application Types

- **Early Decision**
  Limited to applying to one school ED and EDII
  Binding Agreement - Required to attend if accepted
- **Early Action**
  Can apply to as many schools through EA
  Non-Binding agreement
  Early application review and early notification
- **Restrictive Early Action**
  Non-binding
  College specific, very few schools have this option
  Students may only apply to one college REA
  Can't apply ED elsewhere, check college requirements
  Can usually apply EA to public schools

Each college has their own application type. Please refer to the college admissions website

Application Types

- **Regular Decision**
  Apply by standard application deadline
  Allows more time to prepare application
  Usually notified by mid-April

- **Rolling Admissions**
  Applications reviewed as they come in
  Decision issued as soon as application is processed
  Submit sooner rather than later

Each college has their own application type. Please refer to the college admissions website

Admission Decisions

- Accepted
- Denied
- Deferred
  - Moved to the regular decision pool
  - Can send updated grades
  - Colleges may request additional information
- Waitlisted
  - Students must sign up/accept their waitlist spot
  - Waitlist criteria varies by college
  - Must deposit at another college

College Application Process

- **Student/Parent/Guardian Responsibility**
  - **Complete FERPA/WAIVER**: For Common Application
  - **Link Accounts**: Common Application and Naviance
  - **Online Transcript Request Form**: Due 3 weeks before the application deadline
    - **Application Processing Fee**: $10 via My School Bucks
  - **Complete Application**: Pay fee when submitting electronically or by mail
  - **Submit Additional Documents**: Essays, resume, portfolio, etc.
  - **Submit Accommodations Info**: 504/IEP/testing information, if needed
  - **Invite/Organize Outside Recommendations**
  - **Send Test Scores**: Via College Board or ACT
    - **Score Processing Time**: 2-4 weeks for schools to receive
    - **Use** Concordance Charts: To align SAT and ACT scores
  - **Contact Financial Aid Offices**: For FAFSA/CSS Profile deadlines
  - **Athletes**: Check NCAA requirements and register online through NCAA Clearinghouse

School Counselor Responsibilities

School Counselors will submit:

- Initial Transcript
- Quarter 1 Grades (automatically submitted for ED & EA applicants)
- Mid-year Report
- Final Transcript
- Counselor Recommendations / Secondary School Report
- MHS teacher recommendations and evaluations

Scholarships

- **School Counseling Website**: Scholarships website updated March 2027
  - https://mhs.marbleheadschools.org/students-families/school-counseling/scholarship-information
- **College Board**: Scholarship search engine with filters
  - https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
- **Going Merry**: Another scholarship resource
  - https://www.goingmerry.com/
- **Marblehead High School Scholarship Website**: Available starting in March
- **Scholarship Assembly**: Scheduled for March
- **Scholarship Ceremony**: Will take place in the spring
- **FAFSA**: May be required for some of the scholarships

Financial Aid

- **FAFSA**: Free Application for Federal Student Aid
  - https://studentaid.gov/
  - Available October 1st
  - Based on 2025 tax returns (FAFSA 2026-2027)
- **CSS Profile**: Submit through https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/
  - Available October 1st
  - Typically required by private schools
- **Check individual school deadlines and required forms**
- **Financial Aid Night**: Wednesday, October 21st at 6:00pm - Kevin Fudge

Thank You & Good Night

Slideshow will be available on School Counseling website