



# Counseling/Guidance News

MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL

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*From the desk of . . . Corie Gaylord, Director of Student Academic and Counseling Services:*

The past school year has truly been unique to say the least. We have faced many challenges together and proven how resilient we can be. The counseling staff has been working diligently over the summer to make the start to the 2020-21 school year seamless and to determine how they can best support your children. It remains the focus of the counseling/guidance department to assist students in maintaining a balance between academics and social and emotional development in order to help them prepare for life beyond the high school.

The College Series presenta-

tions offered throughout the school year provide information about college applications, financial aid, standardized testing, etc. which can help make the college admission process much less stressful (see p. 2). This year all presentations will be virtual. Much of this information will also be presented to students virtually. Throughout the year counselors will be meeting with all students to assist them in establishing personal goals and developing future plans. We are continuing with Evolution Labs/Suite 360 at MHS along with the parent component of the program. This program supports the district's social and emotional learning goals and will communicate to students about other important topics and issues, such as stress management, academic integrity, and managing emotions. A letter will be going out soon with information on how parents can sign on. Wishing you all a great year!

*Corie Gaylord*

### Course Attendance:

Even in a remote learning environment, the importance of students attending classes and the importance of parents/guardians support in ensuring that students are present cannot be stressed enough. Please remember to supply documentation to the school for an excused absence (please see the Student Handbook for more details on the attendance policy).

At regular intervals the Counseling Dept. will be notifying parents to check Genesis to see if an attendance letter has been generated for their child(ren) regarding class absences. **Please pay careful attention to these letters as excessive absences are often reflected in academic performance and can potentially lead to loss of credit.**

ance (<https://connection.naviance.com/fc/signin.php?hsid=monthsni>). If you do not, please reach out to your counselor.

All freshmen will be asked to complete a "Learning Styles Inventory" to better understand how they learn as they transition into high school.

Sophomores will be asked to complete a "Do What You Are" survey that will highlight

their career interests. We are also planning a Career Fair in December where students can explore a variety of career options connected to their interests.

Juniors and Seniors will be utilizing Naviance for their post-secondary planning (Seniors and senior parents please see page 2 under "Tips for Seniors"). It is also the site to find when colleges are visiting MHS and through which recommendation letters are processed.

## Counseling/Guidance Newsletter

- E-COMMUNICATION WILL BE SENT THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR TO KEEP OUR MHS FAMILIES INFORMED
- EACH QUARTER, IT WILL BE IN THE FORM OF A NEWSLETTER
- REMINDERS OF IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS WILL BE SENT OUT VIA E-BLASTS
- MHS COUNSELING/GUIDANCE WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.MTSD.K12.NJ.US/MHSCOUNSELING](http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/mhscounseling)
- DISTRICT COUNSELING/GUIDANCE WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.MTSD.K12.NJ.US/DOMAIN/1340](http://www.mtsd.k12.nj.us/domain/1340)

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Naviance is an important tool for students and parents. It helps students learn more about themselves in order to direct them in their college and career choices as well as assists tremendously in the college process. All students, freshmen through seniors, should already have log-in information to access Navi-

# Counseling/Guidance News



## Senior Notes



### College Visits to MHS:

Every year there are at least 125 college admissions representatives who visit MHS to meet with students and answer their questions. To see a list of colleges and when they will be visiting, access Family Connection in Naviance. **All visits will be virtual this year. Students must register to attend.**

Other visit opportunities:  
[Fall 2020 Diversity Fly-In Visits](#)

### Reminders:

- Student schedules will be available on August 28th at 5pm in Genesis if you have submitted all required forms. (Note: they may still be subject to change due to courses taken over the summer). Counselors are working diligently to make any necessary updates. And be ready for September 8th.
- If students have issues with their schedule (for example, if they have empty blocks of time), they should email their counselors.

### Tips for College-bound Seniors:

- It is time to ask for letters of recommendation. Give it careful thought. The person should know you well and be able to highlight your strengths.
- This would be a great time for parents to complete the "Parents Point of View" in Naviance and for students to complete their "Student Brag Sheet!" This will assist counselors in the recommendation letter process.
- Narrow down your list of colleges. Take notes on each school of interest. Check Naviance for college visits to MHS.
- Know the deadlines for admission, financial aid, etc.. If you are applying early decision/action, some deadlines are as early as November 1.
- Research financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- Begin your college application essays.

## Upcoming Events—mark your calendars!

### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

**August 28:** Schedules will be viewable at 5pm, if all required forms have been completed.

**August 31:** Family Orientations—virtual. Freshmen/Sophomores 6-7:30pm; Juniors/Seniors 7:30-9pm. More info to follow soon.

Our Guidance Department *College Series* begins with a program for parents of **seniors** on the college application process. Date TBD

**October 6th:** Back to School Night — virtual

### OCTOBER

Freshmen and New Student Orientation will be held prior to the return to in-person learning. Date TBD.

**October 20: College Admissions during COVID** Peter Van Buskirk brings a **virtual** program about the selective college admissions process, leaving students with practical strategies for competing successfully in a field of equally qualified applicants. 7pm. Geared toward students; parents are welcome. More info to follow soon.

**October 27: School Day SAT** administration for MHS seniors who register only. More information to follow soon.

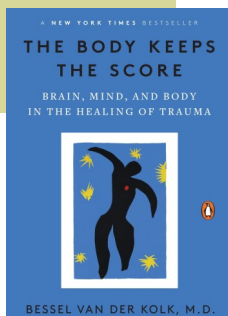
**October 29: School Day PSAT** administration for juniors only who register. More information to follow soon.

**FYI:** December 1st is the last day for transcript requests for January 1 application deadlines. Make sure you plan ahead.



*Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.*

-Anne Lamott



what i'm  
**READING**

## Freshmen Counselor Assignments

- |                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| A—Chandane        | Apel    |
| Chatterjee—Glezer | Glock   |
| Globocnik—Keshav  | Ritson  |
| Kolesar—Moore     | Saleem  |
| Mughal—Rao        | Conway  |
| Ravi—Tadych       | Pogue   |
| Talukdar - Z      | Hampton |

