



# Montgomery High School Counseling/Guidance News

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## News



It's hard to believe that we are already at the mid-point of the year. Seniors are planning for graduation and the many fun activities between now and June. Counselors have met with the juniors to discuss the college process and with the sophomores to talk about what lies ahead. Freshmen will be re-introduced to Naviance and the many applications it has for them during course selection. They can complete the Learning Styles Inventory (which many of them completed at UMS) on their own. It can provide useful information for their high school years and beyond. Please take some time to familiarize yourselves with Naviance, as it is a valuable tool for all grade levels.

## Seniors

If schools to which you have applied have requested mid-year grades, please complete your counselor's mid-year grade request Google form. It was emailed to you earlier this month by your counselor. Make sure to follow all directions.

**Don't forget to fill out the graduation survey!**

### When do students schedule classes for next year and how do they choose their classes?

Counselors will begin to meet with students during the week of February 4th, beginning with the junior class and working in succession each week with the sophomores and freshmen. Please review the Program of Studies (available on the MHS Guidance Website: [Program of Studies 2019-20](#)) Please note that teachers and counselors will make scheduling recommendations based on established prerequisites and what is best for your child. If your child does not meet prerequisites for a course or is not recommended by their teacher and still wishes to take the course, they may fill out a waiver application. Waiver applications will be available from teachers and counselors and must be submitted by May 3rd to receive consideration. All final waiver decisions will be communicated by June 1st.

\*We will be asking students currently in grades 9-11 to input their course requests in Genesis prior to meeting with their counselors. An email will go out very soon for current juniors. There will be a one week window for each grade level to input their requests.

On January 3rd, 2019 the Counseling/Guidance Department hosted an annual Presentation for juniors and their parents. Once again we hosted an MHS alumni student panel with nine alumni representing seven different colleges. They addressed many questions from MHS students and offered some great advice to prepare for the transition to college. Many thanks to the MHS graduates who gave up time during their winter breaks to give back to the Montgomery community.

The PTSA hosted a parent panel to share their experiences with the college process and their children's transition to college (as well as their own transition to being the parents of college students). They were also available to address questions. The counselors' presentation for parents this year was in a completely new format, a live webinar on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Parents could watch the webinar live and ask questions while they watched (which counselors addressed as the questions came in). The presentation is available on the Counseling/Guidance website as are the packets the juniors were given when the counselors met



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### Reminders:

**PSAT scores are now available online for juniors. To access scores: [studentscores.collegeboard.org](https://studentscores.collegeboard.org)** Please check the Guidance website for updates on scholarships and other opportunities. Most have deadlines, so it is important to check often.



*Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.*

~Thomas Alva Edison

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## Upcoming Events:

**January 25th:** 2nd semester begins.

**February 1st:** Grades for semester 1 will be viewable on Parent Resources

**February 2nd:** Cornell Day. Students who have applied will receive information about interviews

**February 4-18th:**

Regular registration for AP exams. Registration will take place online only via Total Registration. Watch for details in an eblast soon.

**February:** Throughout February we will begin course selection for next year, beginning with the junior class and ending with the rising 9th graders the second week of March.

**March—Date TBD:** Practice ACT

**March—Date TBD:** Parent Education Series: “Mindfulness” UMS Media Center 7-8:30pm

## Scholarships:

Scholarship opportunities offered through the PTSA, SEPTA and United Scholarships are posted on the Counseling/Guidance website. The deadline for these applications is March 13th. So, don't delay. Watch the morning announcements for more information. Seniors, there are many available; you should apply for all scholarships for which you are eligible.

**Parents:** The most challenging part about scholarships is that they often require students to write an essay. *Please encourage your children to take the time to write these essays. It could be well worth their effort!*

## It's FAFSA Time!

The FAFSA is used to apply for federal financial aid; however, many colleges, universities and career schools use your FAFSA information to award state and college aid. The process is free. **Never pay to apply for federal financial aid.**

You will need an FSA ID to “sign” your online FAFSA and make corrections to the application. You can get your FSA ID before you begin or as you complete the FAFSA. Be sure you meet application deadlines. For deadlines as well as additional FAFSA information, visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>

OR you may call 1-800-FED-AID

For the 2018-19 school year you will need financial information from 2017.

We are excited to continue our summer programs under the umbrella of SOAR: Montgomery's K-12 summer programs which include our credit courses for high school students. We will once again offer **classes both for credit and for enrichment** in the summer of 2019.

The full, five-credit, classes which will be offered are Geometry and Algebra II. The half, 2.5 credit, class which will be offered is Financial Literacy,

Please watch for additional information from the SOAR program that will be available soon.

Registration for these classes will begin in late winter and run through Memorial Day. Any questions can be directed to Monica Clewell, SOAR Supervisor, or Keith Glock, 7-12 SOAR Coordinator at [soar@mtsd.us](mailto:soar@mtsd.us)

## SAC Corner: The latest happenings from our SAC, Christine Grossmann

### Health Classes

Mrs. Grossmann visited the Senior health classes to provide an overview of grief and loss this month. The lessons included an interactive video and class discussions. In the upcoming weeks, she will visit the Freshmen classes to facilitate lessons on the cycle addiction and recovery.

### The People Project Spreads KINDNESS!

During the entire month of February, The People Project will promote kindness through “Banners of Change.” Each week a different banner will be displayed in the commons encouraging students to participate in small acts of kindness. There are a myriad of things the world could benefit from having more of. Kindness is definitely one of them!



**Students Take Action!**  
A student focus group meets bi-weekly in the SAC office during unit lunch to discuss potential avenues in order to educate others on the dangers of use and discourage the onset of use of electronic devices. If you are interested in participating, please reach out-  
[cgrossmann@mtsd.us](mailto:cgrossmann@mtsd.us)

*Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.*

~Booker T. Washington