



Counseling/Guidance News

MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL

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

We have faced many challenges together this past year and have proven how resilient we can be. The counseling staff has been working diligently over the summer to make the start to the 2021-22 school year and transition back to in-person learning 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 we will go back to in-person presentations for students, but maintain virtual presentations for parents. We have some very exciting presentations lined up in the coming months! Throughout the year counselors will be meeting with all students to assist them in establishing personal goals and developing future plans. We have partnered with Good Grief Schools to bring the “Routes to Resilience” program, adding another level of support for our students and families. Good Grief’s program will reinforce our district’s culture of caring and assist students, parents, and staff in developing skills and strategies to work through life’s challenges.

Wishing you all a great year!

Corie Gaylord

Course Attendance:

The importance of students attending classes and the importance of parents/guardians support in ensuring that students are in school 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.**

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.

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

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 *Naviance*



Senior Notes

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.

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. We are planning again for virtual visits this year. **Students must register to attend.**



Reminders:

- Student schedules will be available on August 27th 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 9th.
- If students have issues with their schedule (for example, if they have empty blocks of time), they should email their counselors.

Upcoming Events—mark your calendars!



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

August 26th: Maureen Healy: "Helping Adults Raise Emotionally Healthy and Happier Children" 6:30pm virtual. More information will be sent in an eblast.

August 30th: David Edward Garcia: Resilience and adapting to challenges. 7pm virtual. More information will follow soon.

August 27: Schedules will be viewable at 5pm, if all required forms have been completed.

August 31: Freshmen Orientation

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

September 22nd: Lisa Damour, a psychologist, best-selling author, monthly New York Times columnist

October 4th: Back to School Night

October 20: The Admissions Game Peter Van Buskirk brings an interactive 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 to attend.

October 29: PSAT administration. 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.

Freshmen Counselor Assignments

A—Cocos	Apel
Coppola—Hari	Glock
Hawkins—Kolli	Ritson
Kopecky—Nambiar	Saleem
Narvekar—Ryberg	Conway
Sahin—Tang	Pogue
Tapia-Lopez—Z	Hampton

Once we choose hope, everything is possible.

-Christopher Reeve

