

Senior Parent/Guardian Night

**Class of 2026
Marblehead High School**

School Counselors

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School Counseling Assistant

School Counseling Intern

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 FLEX/Magic Blocks

- **1st Seminar:** Reviewed the college process
- **2nd Seminar:** Common App, Match Common Application and Naviance, Sign FERPA

Transcripts: Distribute in the 2nd seminar

School Counselors are available every Flex & MAGIC Block in October:

- Post Secondary Planning
- Common Application help
- Assistance with the STARS (Self-reported Transcript and Academic Record)

Day Zero - October 22nd

Students will sign up for one:

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

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

Upcoming Events

- **Two Senior Seminars**
- **Senior Parent / Guardian Night**
 - Wednesday, September 17th, 6pm at MHS
- **NEACAC College Fair** - held at Salem State University
 - [NEACAC College Fair at Salem State University](#)
 - Tuesday, October 14th from 9am- 12pm
- **Financial Aid Night** - Presented by MEFA's Kevin Fudge
 - Tuesday, October 28th at 6pm
 - MHS Auditorium
- **College Visits at MHS**
- **Scholarship Assembly** - in the spring for seniors



Upcoming Events Continued

Virtual College Fairs (via NACAC)

Sunday | October 19th | 1 - 6pm

Sunday | November 9th | 1 - 6pm

<https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs/attend>

Building Bridges HBCU Event

Thursday | October 16th | 9am - 2pm

Reggie Lewis Athletic Center

<https://gotocollegefairs.swoogo.com/registration/begin>

Building Bridges On-site Admissions Interviews

Friday | October 17th | 9am - 12pm

Reggie Lewis Athletic Center



Check in with your school counselor or our METCO Director, Ms. Johnson, if you want to attend HBCU events

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

[Home](#) [Self-Discovery](#) [Careers](#) [Colleges](#) [Planner](#) [About me](#)

    [EN](#) 


College Visits



SEPTEMBER

Mon 15

09:00AM


[University of Massachusetts-Lowell](#)
 The School Counseling
Department

[Register Now](#)
[View Details](#)

SEPTEMBER

Mon 15

10:00AM


[Eastern Connecticut State University](#)
 The School Counseling
Department

[Register Now](#)
[View Details](#)

SEPTEMBER

Mon 15

12:30PM

[Dean College](#)
 The School Counseling
Department

[Register Now](#)
[View Details](#)

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@marbleheadschoools.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 Fees

Options

Flat Fee (\$10.00) ▼

Cancel

▶ Buy Now

🛒 Add To Cart

Transcript Request Form Due Dates

College Admissions Deadline

October 15, 2025

November 1, 2025

November 15, 2025

December 1, 2025

December 15, 2025

*January 1, 2026

January 15, 2026

February 1, 2026

February 15, 2026

March 1, 2026

School Counseling Office Deadline

September 22, 2025

October 10, 2025

October 24, 2025

November 7, 2025

November 21, 2025

*December 1, 2025

December 19, 2025

January 9, 2026

January 23, 2026

January 30, 2026

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 4th** (Registration- September 19, Late registration deadline Sept 23)
 - **November 8th** (Registration deadline October 24th)
 - **December 6th** (Registration deadline November 25th)
- **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 18th** (Late Registration deadline September 30th)
 - **December 13th** (Registration deadline November 7th)
- **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
- Marblehead High School teacher recommendations and evaluations

Scholarships

- **School Counseling Website:** List of outside scholarships under “Scholarship Information”
 - <https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/Page/315>
- **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 2024 tax returns (FAFSA 2025-2026)
- **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:** Tuesday, October 28th at 6:00pm - Kevin Fudge

Thank You & Good Night

PowerPoint will be available on School Counseling website