



# MORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

## Junior Night

### MHS Guidance Department

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College, Career & School Counselors

**October 2, 2018**

- GPA Game
- New Naviance Student
- Types of Applications: Common Application, Coalition for College Access, college-specific
- Types of Admissions Plans and Decisions
- Testing and Preparation – PSAT/ACT/SAT/Subject Tests
- Essay, supplements
- Teacher Letter of Recommendations
- College visits and college representative visits to MHS
- NJ State Testing Proficiency Requirement (PSAT, SAT, ACT, ASVAB, PARCC, portfolio)
- Financial Aid – FAFSA ([www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)) and CSS Profile ([css.collegeboard.org](http://css.collegeboard.org))

#### Key Points:

- Take the PSAT – 10/10
- Spring – register for the SAT/ACT, Subject Tests/AP Tests
- Utilize Naviance to research colleges
- Sign up for college visits at MHS through Naviance
- Visit colleges
- Winter – Junior Conference w/ family & counselor

#### Upcoming Events:

- |                         |  |         |
|-------------------------|--|---------|
| • Wednesday, October 10 | PSAT                                   |         |
| • Tuesday, October 16   | Financial Aid Night                    | 7:00 PM |
| • Wednesday, October 17 | Regional Brown University Presentation | 7:00 PM |
| • Friday, October 26    | Mini College Fair                      | 8:30 am |
| • Saturday, October 27  | ACT Test – MHS Test Site               | 7:30 AM |
| • Saturday, November 3  | SAT – MHS Test Site                    | 7:30 AM |
| • Saturday, December 1  | SAT – MHS Test Site                    | 7:30 AM |
| • Saturday, December 8  | ACT – MHS Test Site                    | 7:30 AM |

#### Web-Sites:

For more detailed information, please visit our web-site – [www.morristownhighschool.org](http://www.morristownhighschool.org)  
Or visit the Naviance web-site – <https://student.naviance.com/morristownhs>

# NAVIANCE STUDENT

## How to access Naviance:

<https://student.naviance.com/morristownhs> (or)

<http://www.morristownhighschool.org> → Guidance tab → Naviance

## Default login info:

You can log in with Clever or

Username = current email address

Password = student ID (unless changed by user)

## For 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Graders:

(Begin to develop an electronic portfolio)

- Self Knowledge
- Self Exploration
- Information & Research on Colleges
- Reflection
- Explore Interests

Explore Careers  
Self Assessments -Strength Explorer-9<sup>th</sup>,  
Do What You Are-10<sup>th</sup>  
Explore Interests- Career Profiler  
Résumé  
Journal  
Enrichment Programs

## For 11<sup>th</sup> Graders:

- Conduct Research on Colleges
- Gather Information
- Compare Colleges
- SAT/ACT college averages
- Review MHS History (Scattergrams)
- Develop College List
- Sign up for College Rep Visits
- Investigate Summer Enrichment Opportunities
- Start Scholarship Search

College Search  
College Compare  
Prospective Colleges  
Mini College Fairs  
Career Fairs  
Scattergrams  
College Rep Visit Schedule  
Links  
News/Events  
Résumé

## For 12<sup>th</sup> Graders:

- Add Colleges to Your List "Thinking About"
- Complete FERPA Wavier and link Common App. Account
- Conduct More Research/Gather Information
- Receive Email Reminders and Updates on Events/Information
- Share/Plan Between Student, Counselor and Parent
- Sign Up for College Rep Visits
- Learn about Scholarships
- Request Teacher Letters of Recommendation
- Complete Senior Brag Sheet/Activity Sheet

Prospective Colleges  
Scattergrams  
College Rep Visit Schedule  
Mini College Fairs  
Career Fairs  
Scholarships  
Senior Brag Sheet  
My Colleges  
Overlaps

## NAVIANCE TABS

### *“Colleges”*

**Colleges I'm Thinking About** – maintain a working list of schools you are interested in or currently researching; use Scattergrams to loosely determine academic fit based on MHS alumni data

**Colleges I'm Applying To** (*for seniors*) – Added for you by guidance once you complete pink sheets, keep track of schools for which you have applied to; track mailing of transcripts

**Upcoming College Visits** – updated schedule of individual college visits to MHS; sign up for the session online then get a pass in Guidance to attend (check frequently for new additions!)

**College Search** – select specific criteria you want and review the list for possible college choices; save searches for future reference

**College Match** – based on your list of schools, see where other students are similarly applying – use this to help broaden your list (also available using the “Overlaps” link on College Profile page)

**Scholarship List** – main database for MHS scholarships; check back frequently for updates; each scholarship has specific instructions for how to apply

### *“Careers”*

Take **Career Interest Profiler\*** - learn about which career activities fit your interests

Complete **Cluster Finder\*** – helps determine which career clusters might be a good fit based on activities you enjoy, personal qualities, and academic subjects you like

**Explore careers & clusters** using the detailed online database – save favorite careers

\*Assessments take some time to complete

Use **Road Trip Nation** – Watch videos about leaders from different fields

### *“About Me”*

Can complete and submit part of the **Senior Brag Sheet** online

Quick access to your **favorite colleges and careers** list

Access **self-assessment and career assessment tools**

**Résumé-builder, journal for college visits, and goal planner**

Access to your **account information and standardized test scores**



## COLLEGE APPLICATION TERMS

**CANDIDATE REPLY DATE:** The date, May 1, by which students must notify the colleges that have accepted them as to their plans for attending in the fall. Students select ONE college to accept and send a deposit, unless you are on the waitlist.

**DEFERRED ADMISSION:** An early decision applicant's admission is deferred to the regular decision pool for re-evaluation.

**DEFERRING:** Admitted student delays enrollment for one year for a gap year.

**EARLY ACTION/PRIORITY:** Students apply early (usually Nov.1, Nov.15, or Dec.1), receive decisions back earlier than regular decision, but your decision is not binding and you have until May 1 to commit.

**EARLY ACTION SINGLE CHOICE/RESTRICTIVE:** These colleges (including Yale, Princeton) offer an early deadline which is not binding, but you are limited to applying early action/rolling to other colleges other than public universities. Check each college's requirements with this particular type of early action.

**EARLY DECISION:** Students apply to a first choice college by the early deadline (usually November 1) and the student is committed to enroll if offered admission. If deferred or rejected, the student may apply elsewhere. Students may apply to rolling or early action colleges, but you **must** withdraw your applications if you are accepted on early decision.

**REGULAR DECISION:** The most common deadline, usually January 1. Students will receive decisions usually in March-April and need to reply by May 1.

**ROLLING:** Applications are reviewed on a first come, first served basis and decisions will be released on a rolling basis (usually within a few weeks) after your application is complete.

**WAITING LIST:** Students are notified that they are on the waitlist and they will receive decisions after May 1 and potentially into the summer. Students should remain "active" on the waitlist, communicating their interest to the colleges.

# College Planning: How to Get Started

## STEP 1: GET STARTED

Assess your strengths, weaknesses, goals, passions, learning style, and social skills. What is most important to you in the college-search process? What do you hope to learn from the process?

## STEP 2: MAKE SOME BASIC DECISIONS

- Where do you want to live?  
a small liberal arts college, or a historically black or religiously affiliated college?
- Will you go to college full time? Part time?
- Do you want to attend a single-sex school, a technical college, a public or private college, a large university,  
• How important is the cultural/ideological diversity of the student body?

## STEP 3: ENLIST HELP

Who do you want to assist you in this process (parents, teachers, siblings, relatives, friends)?

## STEP 4: CONSULT REFERENCES AND WEBSITES

Look at college directories (College Board's *College Handbook*, Barron's, Peterson's) and use college searches (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>). Visit the websites of the colleges that interest you.

## STEP 5: TALK

Discuss your goals and plans with your parents, teachers, and school counselor. They can provide helpful advice.

## STEP 6: MEET WITH COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

Visit with college representatives when they come to your high school. Make a list of your important questions to ask the representatives. Also meet college personnel at area college fairs.

## STEP 7: VISIT CAMPUSES

Try to go to the college campus and take a tour, meet with admission and financial aid representatives, and ask students what they think about the college. Can't make the trip? Many colleges provide virtual tours on their websites.

# 20 Questions to Ask College Representatives

Whether you meet them at a college fair or on a campus visit, college representatives genuinely enjoy talking to high school students and answering questions about their college. The following questions will help start a good dialogue.

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1. What makes your college unique?
2. For what academic programs is your college known?
3. How would you describe the students at your college?  
Where are most of them from?
4. Where do students hang out on campus?
5. What happens on weekends — are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most students go home?
6. Are fraternities and sororities a big part of campus life?
7. What are the housing options for freshmen?
8. Do many students live off campus?
9. Is there a sports complex or fitness center?
10. What are the most popular clubs and activities?
11. What's the security like on campus?
12. What's the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?
13. What are the most popular majors?
14. How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?
15. What support services (academic advisers, tutors, etc.) are available?
16. Do I need to bring my own computer?
17. What's the faculty like? Are they accessible outside of class?
18. Are there opportunities for internships?
19. Is there job placement help for graduates?
20. Are there any big changes in the works that I should know about?

# Tips for Parents on Finding the Right College

How can your child find colleges that match specific needs? First, identify priorities. Next, carefully research the characteristics of a range of schools. Finally, match the two. Here are some college characteristics to consider.

## SIZE OF STUDENT BODY

Size will affect many of your child's opportunities and experiences:

- range of academic majors offered
- extracurricular possibilities
- amount of personal attention your child will receive
- number of academic resources

In considering size, your child should look beyond the raw number of students attending. For example, perhaps they are considering a small department within a large school. Your child should investigate not just the number of faculty members, but also their accessibility to students.

## LOCATION

Does your child want to visit home frequently, or is this a time to experience a new part of the country? Perhaps an urban environment is preferred, with access

to museums, ethnic restaurants, or major league ball games. Or maybe it's easy access to the outdoors or the serenity of a small town.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

If your child has decided on a field of study, they can research the reputation of academic departments by talking to people in their field of interest. If your child is undecided, as many students are, they may want to choose an academically balanced institution that offers a range of majors and programs. Students normally don't pick a major until their sophomore year, and those

students who know their major before they go to college are very likely to change their minds. Most colleges offer counseling to help students find a focus.

In considering academic programs, your child should look for special opportunities and pick a school that offers a number of possibilities.

## CAMPUS LIFE

Before choosing a college, your child should learn the answers to these questions:

- What extracurricular activities, athletics, clubs, and organizations are available?
- Does the community around the college offer interesting outlets for students?
- How do fraternities and sororities influence campus life?
- Is housing guaranteed?
- How are dorms assigned?

## COST

In considering cost, look beyond the price tag. Because of financial aid, most students pay less than the "sticker price," so don't rule out a college that would be a good fit for your child before you find out how much financial

aid it will offer. Most colleges work to ensure that academically qualified students from every economic circumstance can find financial aid that allows them to attend.

## DIVERSITY

Your child should explore what the advantages of a diverse student body would be. The geographic, ethnic, racial, and religious diversity of the student body can help

students learn more about the world. Investigate which student organizations or other groups with ethnic or religious foundations are active and visible on campus.

## RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

One of the best ways to measure a school's quality and the satisfaction of its students is to learn the percentage of students who return after the first year and the percentage of entering students who

go on to graduate. Comparatively good retention and graduation rates indicate that responsible academic, social, and financial support systems exist for most students.



From Princeton Review

# SAT vs ACT

Many students and parents begin the college prep process by comparing the ACT and SAT. Two of the most common questions they ask are:

- Is the ACT easier than the SAT?
- Do colleges prefer scores from the SAT or ACT?

The SAT and ACT generally test the same types of content. Both ACT and SAT scores are used for college admissions and merit-based scholarships. The biggest differences between the tests are that the ACT has a Science Test, and there's one SAT Math Section for which you cannot use a calculator. Colleges don't prefer one over the other, so explore both tests to decide which one is right for you.

	SAT	ACT
<b>Why Take It</b>	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
<b>Test Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading</li><li>• Writing &amp; Language</li><li>• Math</li><li>• Essay (Optional)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English</li><li>• Math</li><li>• Reading</li><li>• Science Reasoning</li></ul> <p>Essay (Optional)</p>
<b>Length</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 hours (without essay)</li><li>• 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)</li><li>• 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)</li></ul>
<b>Reading</b>	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
<b>Science</b>	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skill (not your specific science knowledge)
<b>Math</b>	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arithmetic</li><li>• Algebra I &amp; II</li><li>• Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis</li></ul>	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arithmetic</li><li>• Algebra I &amp; II</li><li>• Geometry and Trigonometry</li></ul>
<b>Calculator Policy</b>	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
<b>Essays</b>	Optional. The essay will test your	Optional. The essay will test how well you evalua

	SAT	ACT
	comprehension of a source text.	and analyze complex issues.
<b>How It's Scored</b>	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

## ACT versus SAT: How do I choose?

The best way to decide if the SAT or ACT is right for you is to take a timed full-length practice test in each. Since the content and style of the SAT and ACT are very similar, factors like how you handle time pressure and what types of questions you find most challenging can help you determine which test is a better fit. For example, the pace of the SAT gives you a little more time to think through problems, while the ACT can be more of a time crunch. Some students really thrive under the pressure of the clock, while others prefer the extra time to ponder a question.