

# What your kids don't tell you...

1. College Search
2. College Admissions
3. Assessments and Test Prep
4. Dual credit/AP

# Beyond Morton High School

---

- Electronic copies of info will be distributed on Wednesday, August 24 during junior and senior class meetings.

# Which college is best for you?

---

- Size
- Location
- Public vs. Private
- Academic Fit
- Selectivity
- Campus Life
- Financial Fit



# Junior Year

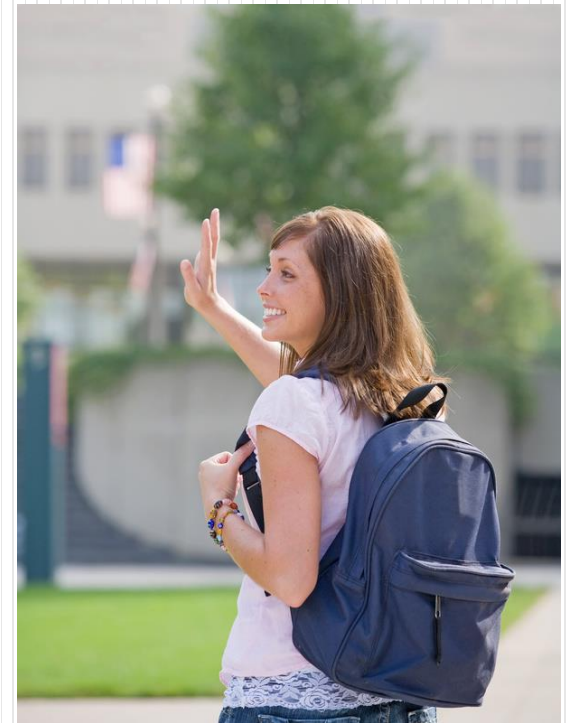
---

1. First research schools online.
  1. Potential major?
  2. Admissions requirements
2. Talk with someone....anyone!
  1. College reps come to MHS regularly.
3. Get on campus. Show demonstrated interest.
  1. Preferably when school is in session.
4. Attend college fairs.
5. Create a professional email.
  1. Do not use a family or parent's email.
6. Test prep



# Senior Year

1. Hone your list.
  1. Keep in mind-admissions requirements!
2. Keep talking
  1. Admissions counselors
  2. Alumni
  3. School counselor
  4. Teachers
3. Keep visiting
4. Apply! Deadlines matter!
5. Apply for financial aid.
  1. Prior/Prior Year, New for Class of 2017!!
6. Make a decision—Yikes!



**Remember the goal: A GOOD FIT!**

# College Admissions

---

Without exception, below are the top 3 factors used in gaining admissions to college—in order of importance:

1. Classes taken in high school—strength of schedule
2. Grades/GPA
3. Standardized tests—ACT, SAT

# Classes taken in high school

---

1. Choose challenging classes.
  1. Rigorous, but not overwhelming.
2. Don't choose classes based on rumors.
  1. Talk to you counselor.
  2. Talk to current or previous teachers.
  3. Talk to the teacher of the course.

# Dual Credit

MHS Class	Credits	ICC Class	Credit Hours
Expository Writing-Honors	0.5	ENGL 110	3
Advanced Speech	0.5	COMM 110	3
Business Law	0.5	BUS 215	3
AP Comparative Political Systems-Honors	0.5	POLSC 124	3
AP Chemistry-Honors	0.5	CHEM 130	4
Earth Science/Geology-Honors	0.5	EASC 116	4
Economics	0.5	ECON 111	3
Music Theory	0.5	MUS 136	3
Intro to Astronomy-Honors	0.5	PHYSC 114	4



# ICC Strong Start

- Dual enrollment
  - Minimum of 3 courses at MHS
  - Minimum of 2 courses at ICC
- Qualifying seniors
  - Credits, GPA, attendance, discipline
- Earn up to 12 college credit hours, 2 semesters
  - Get ahead while still participating in extra-curricular activities and have the supportive academic environment of MHS!!

# Advanced Placement (AP)

---

- AP Calculus AB-Honors
- AP Statistics-Honors
- AP Chemistry-Honors
- AP Spanish 4-Honors
- AP World History-Honors
- AP Comparative Political Systems-Honors
- AP Physics 1-Honors
- AP Biology-Honors
- AP Computer Science Principles-Honors

# What's the difference?

## Dual Credit

- \$140 per credit hour (\$100-dual credit at MHS)
- Will transfer to state schools, may transfer out of state, private colleges
- Taught by highly qualified, MHS teachers (master's degree)
- No additional cost for books
- Students must meet minimum requirements to be in a dual credit course

## Advanced Placement (AP)

- \$91 per exam
- Universal—will transfer anywhere with a 3 or above
- Recognized as a rigorous course
- Each teacher's curriculum must be approved by AP
- Additional time may be required for labs
- No additional cost for books
- Students should have a pattern of taking rigorous courses

# Grades/GPA

---

1. Freshmen year=Game on!
2. In honors classes, Cs are NOT like Bs.
  1. College admissions reps look at grades, not just grade points.
  2. Ask yourself, is your student proficient if they are earning a C?
3. Trends matter—up and down

# SAT and Illinois Education

---

- 3 year contract
- Students must take a college and career readiness test before they graduate.

# Standardized admissions tests

- ACT vs. SAT
- SAT
  - Take the test more than once.
    - Report ALL scores.
    - Choose to affix the scores to the transcript.
    - Every school in IL will accept.

# Test Prep

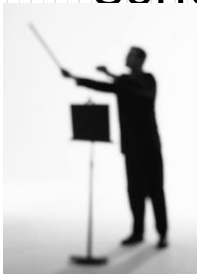
---

1. If your student is invested in it, test prep is a worthwhile investment.
2. Bradley, ICC, and MHS offer affordable options.
3. Sylvan Learning Center
4. Private tutoring also available.
5. Khan Academy-College Board

\*\*Be wary of the “practice score”\*\*

# Extracurricular Activities

1. College admissions reps are looking for:
  1. Consistency
  2. Longevity
  3. Leadership
2. Students that are connected to their school and involved in the community are more successful in high school and college.



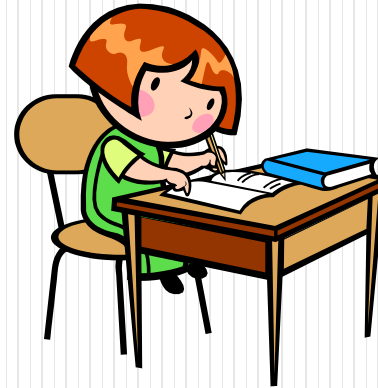


# Counselor Recommendation/ Teacher Recommendation

---

1. College admissions representatives know that students can get at least one person to write them a good letter of recommendation.
2. Your student should fill out a “Senior Information Sheet” BEFORE they ask for a letter of recommendation.
3. Most letters are confidential.
4. Get to know your counselor!
  1. We cannot be bribed!—maybe.

# Essays



1. How are you different from the 10,000 other students that applied to that school?
2. Many times schools use this as a writing sample.
3. Should be perfect! Grammar, content, message, etc.
  1. Ask for help in proofreading!
  2. Your English teachers or counselor can help.

University of Illinois reps say:

“The personal essay is used as a writing sample, but also to see how students are motivated and what they are committed and dedicated to.”

# University of Illinois Writing Prompt

---

Explain your interest in the major you selected and describe how you have recently explored or developed this interest inside and/or outside the classroom. You may also explain how this major relates to your future goals. If you're applying to the Division of General Studies, explain your academic interest and strengths or your future career goals. You may include any majors or areas of study you're currently considering.

# Essays—Common Application

---

- 2016-2017 Essay Prompts
- 1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- 2. The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- 3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- 4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- 5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.
-

# The Role of Social Media

---

- “They loved your GPA then they saw your tweets”
- 31% of college admission counselors view social media
  - 30% said it had a negative impact on their admissions decision
- NCAA coaches

# The Role of Social Media

---

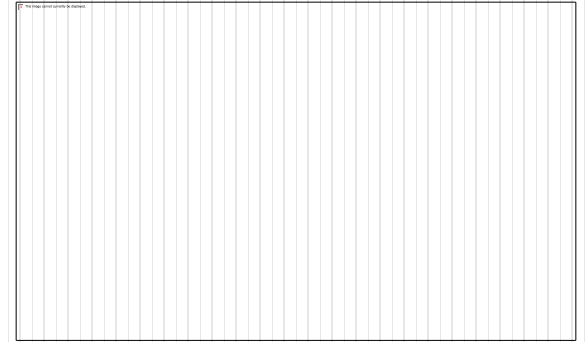
- The Negative
  - Garbage in-Garbage out
  - The Braggart
  - Seeking Popularity
- The Positive
  - Posting about positive contributions
  - Respects authority
  - Communicates well
  - Align with the student's college resume

# What does not affect your admissions decision?

---

1. Rank—not a decisive factor.
  1. MHS does NOT rank.
2. Attendance
3. Discipline record—unless you have a major rule infraction.
  1. Then what do I do?
  2. Be honest.
  3. Reflect on the incident. What did you learn?

# My kid is going Ivy!



1. Awesome! Let's talk!
2. What makes them remarkable?
3. Consider this—MOST kids that apply to Ivy or “Holy Grail” schools are exceptional students.
  1. What more does your student contribute?
  2. Leadership. Innovation.



# What is on a transcript?

- Classes taken
- Grades
- GPA
- Address
- SAT/ACT scores—all of them
  - We have to receive the amendment form to include test scores on the transcript.
- School Profile
  - Narrative description of Morton High School and it's curriculum, and the community of Morton.
  - Mean ACT scores—cumulative and content area.
  - Enrollment
  - GPA bands
  - Grading scale
  - Post-secondary plans
  - Graduation requirements
  - Awards—general
  - Classes offered

# Other helpful hints...

---

1. We are working with your students to teach them a sense of responsibility and learn to advocate for themselves.
  1. Please remember, your student should be filling out their own college applications.
  2. They should also be submitting their own requests to send transcripts.
  3. The student should be soliciting recommendations.
2. Once your student enters college, under FERPA, the college will not talk to you regarding their grades or academic standing. However, they will mail you the bill.

# Dates to Remember

---

- Financial Aid Night
  - September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the library.
- SAT Test Prep dates:
  - Registration in December/January
  - Sessions leading up to April test date.
- SAT test at MHS
  - April 5<sup>th</sup>

