

What your kids don't tell you...

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

Beyond Morton High School

- Electronic copies of info will be distributed on Wednesday, August 30 during junior and senior class meetings.

Which college is best for you?

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



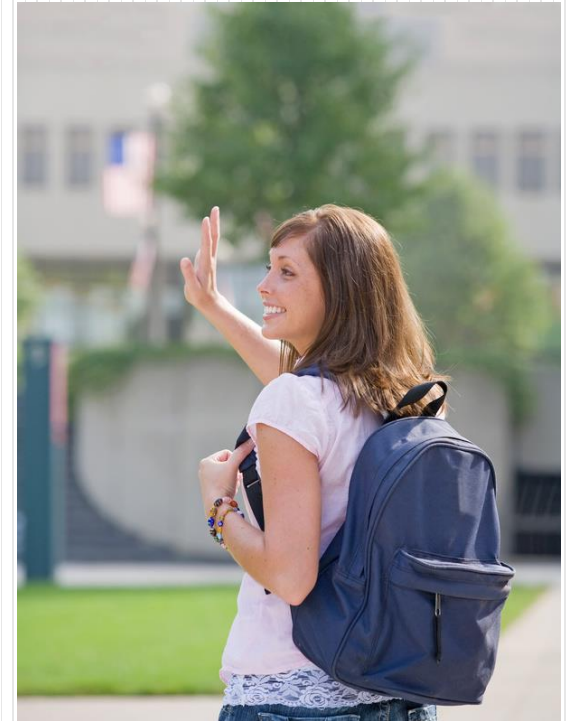
Junior Year



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
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.

Early College-MHS

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

Early College-ICC

- 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?

Early College

- \$100 per credit hour (Early College ONLY)
- 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 (rental)
- Students must meet minimum requirements to be in a dual credit course

Advanced Placement (AP)

- \$94 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 (started 2017)
- Students must take a college and career readiness test before they graduate.

Standardized Admissions Tests

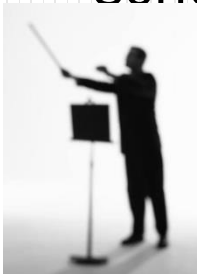
- ACT vs. SAT
- SAT
 - Take the test more than once.
 - Report ALL scores.
 - Choose to affix the scores to the transcript.
 - Every school in IL will accept.

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

Extracurricular Activities

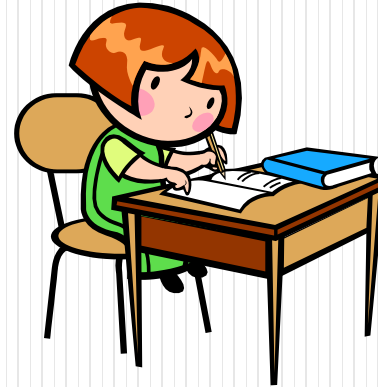
1. College admissions reps are looking for:
 1. Consistency
 2. Longevity
 3. Leadership
2. Students that are connected to their school and involved in the community are more successful in high school and college.



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 career goals. If you're applying to the [Division of General Studies](#), explain your academic interests and strengths or your future career goals. You may include any majors or areas of study you're currently considering. Limit your response to 300 to 400 words.

Essays—Common Application

- 2017-2018 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. [No change]*
 2. *The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? [Revised]*
 3. *Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome? [Revised]*
 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. [No change]*
 5. *Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others. [Revised]*
 6. *Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more? [New]*
 7. *Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design. [New]*

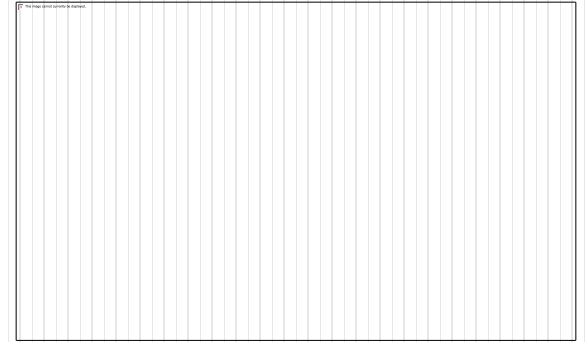
The Role of Social Media

- 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 SAT 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 21st at 6:00pm in the Bertha.
- SAT Test Prep dates:
 - Registration in December/January
 - Sessions leading up to April test date.
- SAT test at MHS
 - April 10th



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