SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR SENIOR YEAR

"YOU HAVE BRAINS IN YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE FEET IN YOUR SHOES. YOU CAN STEER YOURSELF IN ANY DIRECTION YOU CHOOSE. YOU’RE ON YOUR OWN. AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW. YOU ARE THE GUY WHO’LL DECIDE WHERE TO GO." - DR. SEUSS
BOOKMARK
SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS

- Daily Bulletin
- MIHS Website
- MIHS PTSA Website/Listserv
- Eblasts (Naviance!!!)
  - **Make sure you signed up as a parent on your student’s Naviance account NOW
- Senior Facebook Pages/Twitter
- Senior Class meetings
Watch the Facebook/Twitter chatter
Fees & Photos
(ASB Photo)
Parking Spot coloring
Sweatshirts/T-shirts
Sr. Prom
Sr. Assembly

Sr. Nights for sports
Band Awards
Sr. Awards Night
Sr. Finals
Baccalaureate
Sr. Breakfast
Graduation
Sr. Party
Oh – and all those college applications.
OUR COUNSELOR’S

- Counselor
  - Works on High School and Beyond Plan
  - Talks about College Bound, Trade/Tech School/Gap Year/Work
  - Hand in information sheet (family questionnaire for counselor recommendation/statement for private colleges and universities only)
  - Gives guidance about recommendation letters
  - Works on Naviance
WHAT IS NAVIANCE?

- Web based service for the college/career process
- Juniors should have their own account on [www.connection/naviance.com/mihs](http://www.connection/naviance.com/mihs)
- Brainstorm college choices
- Research colleges on your list
- Help with organizational process
- Access scholarships
- Access additional documents (document library)
- Senior year – facilitates college application process
Counselor of the day – Counselors are available every day to answer student questions. They are set up in the commons during both lunches. They can answer quick questions, and/or set up appointments for further questions from students.

There is also a counselor who can answer quick parents questions, or facilitate answering questions or setting up appointments.
Bio form for teacher is on shelf in counseling center
- Make a face to face request
- Teacher will let them know what they want:
  - Resume
  - Bio form

If the staff member is NOT from MIHS, the letter must be sent USPS, from writer/sender to the recipient school, so student should give NON-MIHS staff person an addressed, stamped envelope. MIHS staff letters are delivered via Naviance.
- Stamped addressed business envelope.
- Give them a due date
- MISD email are the only ones open to Naviance
Careers - each year the student does a career survey which is posted on Naviance which fulfills a Washington State Graduation requirement.

- Three different inventories for students to explore careers appropriate for them
  - 9th grade – Cluster Finder
  - 10th grade – Career Interest
  - 11th grade – Do What You Are

Explore Careers: type in the career, see types of jobs descriptions, knowledge & skills necessary, tasks and activities, wages by state

College Research Tools
- Super Match; 11th Grade
- College Search; 12th Grade
- College Look-up
- My Colleges
- College Resources
COLLEGE TOOLS AND INFO ON NAVIANCE

- Scattergrams
- Bio forms for parents and students
  - Under Naviance/documents
- Upcoming College Visits
- Scholarship Supermatch
- Do what your Are is the Myers Briggs
SUMMARY
HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

- Counselors can talk with your student and help them through the process.
- As Parents – we can help de-stress the process by being supportive, staying informed, and not pressuring our kids.
- Try and relax. Stay the course and it will work out if they are:
  - College bound
  - Trade/Tech School bound
  - Gap Year bound - lots of programs available now. It’s worth investigating!!
  - Work bound.

”Where the student goes and what they do will make itself known.”
Launching a senior is more than just academic... it's a full court press....

- Social emotional issues
- Stress
- Soiling the Nest

- Excitement
- Anticipation
- Uncertainty
- Pride and Pressure

Experienced parents can share their thoughts..... So hand in your cards
The following slides offer suggestions for timing – but there is flexibility. Kids take tests and have meetings clear into fall.

You know your son/daughter. Help them keep things in perspective.

Your counselor

Many many deadlines are on college websites. Research them individually!
Plan and register for ACT/SAT testing. If your son/daughter has a 504/IEP, hopefully they are working on accommodations.

PNACAC College Fair – Last week... see list

Students can/should attend one of the resume/essay writing workshops in the Library Presentation room. Dates/times are in the Daily Bulletin.
These took place during both lunches in March.

Same information is presented each time.

Document library / resume & essay

Updated every year.
College list of 4-8 makes less work, less stress, easier decision in March/April.

Advice for student: ALWAYS apply to two colleges you know you can get in to.

Don’t apply to colleges you won’t attend.
THIS APRIL

- Talk with counselors!
- Prepare to take SAT’s and/or ACT’s
- Begin thinking of teachers and counselor who will write letters of recommendation. MJ will help with info.
- Fill out student and parent forms found in “document library” of Naviance/Family Connection; fill out questionnaires, save in a google drive folder which will be out by the end of May.
- Teacher letter recommendations may also want bio information. Get form from Edith in Counseling Center. Give time to write letters over the summer.
This May-June

- Take AP exams
- Think about summer campus visits
- Look for summer jobs/volunteer possibilities/academic camps/internships
- Students start writing their resume
- Talk with teachers who will write recommendations for them; senior teachers can write also for regular admission. Jan 1 and later. Choose subjects that show where you are headed.
SUMMER JUNE-AUGUST
STUDENTS SHOULD:

- End of school year, listen to Daily Bulletin for parking application announcement
- Build and add to resume
- Work/Volunteer
- Visit campuses
- Senior Photo plan – get a photographer...
- Get ASB photo taken (no alterations to face)
- Fees and Photos in fall to pay for parking.
- Gather financial records for student aid.

Check college websites to check admission test score requirements as scores come in.
Narrow college choices; between four and eight applications is a suggested #

As college essay prompts become available, (Common Ap/Coalition Ap) begin writing essays based on essay prompts

If they are considering Early Decision (ED) or Early Action (EA) or Single Choice Early Action (SCEA) the college application process must start early in the fall. Many apps due early November (see note).
Early Decision: Apply early, usually by Nov 1; only one ED app can be filed; legally binding – you must attend if admitted (reduces financial options!). Student may file EA or Regular decision as well, but if admitted all further applications must be cancelled.

Restricted Early Action (SAEA); Stanford, Yale. Apply to only one, usually by Nov 1, hear early, not binding. Only do ONE. Can apply regular decision.

Early Action; can apply to several colleges early action, hear early, commit on May 1, not legally binding.

Regular Admission: January thru March. Really good for those who want 1st Semester grades on transcript, or want 1st Semester activities and accomplishments to be on application
- **Rolling Admission**: Colleges process and make decisions as applications arrive. Notices are sent out when each individual decision is made. Beneficial to apply early.

- **Pool Admissions**: Colleges look at applications as they come in but apps are put in “pools” which are considered at the same time.
Each year, the statistics change. Current College Counselors say more and more kids are applying EA, and thus, more kids are deferred so colleges can see the regular admission applicant pool.

In 2013, the most selective colleges admitted 25% to 50% of their total students from the early admissions pool. In recent years, as many as 40% of freshmen at Ivy League schools have been early admissions applicants.

(this was 2013. Margin is smaller now...)

Early admissions programs can be very advantageous to college applicants, depending on their profile and situation. A high school student who is sure of what school they want to go to, and whose junior year grades, extracurricular activities, etc., are strong enough to secure admission, can benefit from early admissions.

Early decision can be beneficial if your student is 100% they want to attend the school – and merit aid is not expected or needed for for attendance. Also some athletic benefit.
However, we do not encourage clients with any questions at all about their college preferences to seek a binding early decision from any school, regardless of how much better the statistical chances of acceptance may be under an early decision program. Keep in mind that you're not just being asked to indicate a school preference; you're being asked to forego all other options and to commit yourself to spending four years (and tens of thousands of dollars) at a particular institution. That's a big decision for anyone to make. It should only be undertaken with the best possible information and advice, and without undue deadline pressure.

We have parents who have had kids apply early decision and it was fine. Just know what the options are.
FALL SENIOR YEAR

- Senior Meeting in PAC w/ Jostens for cap/gown orders, graduation announcements etc.
- Senior yearbook photos due apx. October 1
- Senior Ads – see Yearbook website under Laura Totten. Announcements in bulletin/listserv
- Attend refresher of College Series!!!!
  - Applications Session/Financing Session
- Early Admission/Decision college deadlines Nov 1
  Follow in Naviance or on college website
- FAFSA4CASTER – complete this
Having a discussion with your student about the financial requirements for college is very important. You hold the reins, unless they are paying completely themselves. Either way, becoming familiar with the financial aid process is imperative.

- Attend the Financial Aid Workshop at MIHS. There are often organizations who run free workshops at the MI Library in the fall as well.
- GATHER FINANCIAL RECORDS NOW!
- FAFSA – the Free Application for Federal Student Aid – opens October 1
- CSS Profile – Longer and more details
Regular admission deadlines start in January and run through apx March.

Follow-up with essays (private schools)

Research Merit Scholarship due dates on college websites. They are often early (Nov/Dec!!)

Check financial aid requirements at schools – CSS Profile or FAFSA.

Work on FAFSA/Profile worksheets.

Due dates are school specific – check websites!
Acceptance Letters come in for regular admission
May 1 is usual commitment date/deposits!
AP Tests
Senior Meeting – April/May during Bridges
  Outlines schedule for EVERYTHING MIHS related;
  How you get cap and gown, transportation to and from Graduation,
  Graduation dress rehearsal info. Sr. Party presentation/Video
  Your student gets the information – IT WILL BE OK.
Prom – mid May
End of Year Awards start – Arts, Sports, Clubs, etc
Senior Skip Day......?
SENIOR SKIP DAY?

“It’s a family discussion...”
Senior Awards Night – End of May
Senior Finals – three days before graduation
Baccalaureate – the night before graduation. Put on by the clergy association and venue changes yearly.
Sr. Breakfast – Morning of Graduation
Graduation – 6/7/18
GRADUATION DAY

- 7:00 am – 9:00 am  Sr. Breakfast
- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  Graduation rehearsal (all Seniors are bussed from MIHS right after breakfast)

Evening (tba)
- Busses pick up students from MIHS

- 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  Graduation
- 9:00 pm – 6:00 am  Sr. Party (Jr. Parents help check-in)

All done
Class of 2019
for questions and signups to volunteer next year

- Debbie Hanson – thehansonfive@hotmail.com
- Jennifer McLellan – mclellanmj@aol.com
COMMUNICATE W/ THEIR COUNSELOR

- Susie Brown (A-D)
- Susan Sutherin (E-J)
- Thomas Welch (K-M)
- Jeff Jones (N-Si)
- Jimmy Vasquez (Sj-Z)
THANK YOU FOR COMING!!

MIHS PTSA
SOURCES

- MJ Hillstrom presentations -2017
- MIHS Counseling Center
- MK Woolston, MIHS PTSA
- MIHS Past Parents
HELPFUL WEBSITES

- http://www.mercerislandschools.org/domain/93
- https://mihsptsa.org/
- http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/students.html
- https://grownandflown.com/