11th Grade Parent Meeting

Montgomery Blair High School Counseling Department
December 2012
### Counseling Department Information

**Resource Counselor**
Ms. Marcia Johnson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Counselor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-Aj</td>
<td>Ms. Jennifer S. Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ak-Cl</td>
<td>Mr. Roland Hollins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cm-Gl</td>
<td>Ms. Susanne Bray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gm-La</td>
<td>Dr. Daryl Howard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lb-M</td>
<td>Ms. Evelyn Martinez</td>
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<tr>
<td>N-Ri</td>
<td>Mr. Alphonso Burwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rj-Tq</td>
<td>Ms. Charlain Bailey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tr-V</td>
<td>Ms. Tia Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>W-Z</td>
<td>Ms. Marcia Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnet (A-K)</td>
<td>Ms. Tia Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnet (L-Z)</td>
<td>Ms. Jennifer S. Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>Ms. LaSchell Wilson</td>
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<td>ESOL Program</td>
<td>Mr. Kirk Simms</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESOL/SBEC</td>
<td>Dr. Vilma Nadal</td>
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</table>
Counseling Department Information

College/Career Information Coordinator
Mrs. Phalia West
301-649-2819

Registrar
Ms. Marguerite Berardi
301-649-2822

Counseling Office Secretaries
Ms. Dee Shub
Ms. Fran Conway
301-649-2810
Preparing For Senior Year

Graduation Requirements

- Earn at least 22 credits (that must include the following):
  - 4 English
  - 3 Science (including Biology, Physical Science, and an elective science)
  - 3 Social Studies (US History A/B, NSL Government A/B, and Modern World Hist A/B)
  - 4 Mathematics (including Algebra, Geometry, any 2 elective math credits)
  - 1 Physical Education
  - .5 Health
  - 1 Fine Arts
  - 1 Technology Education

- Completer Program (must do one of the following)
  - 2 credits Foreign Language
  - 2 credits Advanced Technology Education
  - 3-9 credits Career Development Program

- Complete Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours

- Pass three high school assessments
Preparing For Senior Year

Course/Program Options In Senior Year

- Full Day Schedule at Blair
- Advanced Placement Courses, Electives, etc
- Internship or Site-Based Work Experience (Work Study)
- Abbreviated Schedule
- Visual Arts Program @ Einstein HS
- Thomas Edison High School of Technology
- Dual Enrollment Program (College Class at Montgomery College)
Preparing For Senior Year

**Trailblazer College/Career Planning Packet**
- Trailblazer Student Survey
- Trailblazer Parent Questionnaire
- Resume
- Authorization to Release Records Form
- Blue Teacher Checklists
- Get a Naviance/Family Connections Account

_Juniors will receive the Trailblazer Packet in April of junior year. They should complete these documents before they leave for the summer break. These documents must be submitted before a request for transcript form can be submitted._
Preparring For Senior Year

College/Career Conference With Counselor

- In April of junior year, parents will receive a letter inviting you to set up a college/career conference with your child’s counselor.
- These college/career conferences will begin in April.
- During this conference, counselors will talk with you about college/career options and answer questions you have regarding the college application process.
- Contact your student’s counselor and make an appointment to take advantage of this opportunity.
- You are also encouraged to contact the College/Career Information Center Coordinator, Mrs. West, to get information about the college/career planning process, career searches, scholarship searches, and other pertinent information.
Preparing For Senior Year

Responsibilities of Students

- Know Yourself: Who are you and what are you about? What are your goals and ambitions?
- Communicate with your counselor.
- Research colleges
- Visit Career Center
- Get a jump on your future and take charge of your own success.
- Maintain good grades & review your transcript
## Preparing For Senior Year

### Sample Transcript

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Desc</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>HC</th>
<th>GD</th>
<th>WD</th>
<th>DT</th>
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<tr>
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<td>B</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>ADV</td>
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<td>HON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hon Geometry B</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>500</td>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cap Photo</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>HON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intro Dramatics</td>
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<td>HON</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen Phys Ed 1</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>HON</td>
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### Notes

- **ADV**: Advanced Level
- **HON**: Honors
- **CM**: Certificate of Merit
- **MS**: Middle Sch
- **EV**: Evening Sch
- **SS**: Summer Sch
- **OT**: Other

**Grade Point Average (GPA)** is calculated as follows:

- A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0

Prior to 03-04 school year, weighted GPA (WGPA) is calculated as follows:

- A=5, B=4 for Honors Courses and A=5, B=4, C=3 for Advanced Placement and Advanced Level Courses.

Beginning 03-04 school year, weighted GPA (WGPA) is calculated as follows:

- A=5, B=4, C=3 for all Honors Courses.
Preparing For Senior Year

Counselor & Registrar Responsibilities

- Counselor completes Secondary School Report & Recommendation Letter
- Registrar sends official transcript, secondary school report, recommendation letter, and school profile.
- MCPS is now able to send transcripts electronically to many colleges & universities.
Preparing For Senior Year

College/Career Information Coordinators Assist With….

- Discovering your strengths.
- Learning how these strengths can translate into careers.
- Finding colleges that can prepare you for these careers.
- Discovering enrichment opportunities through community service, internships, summer programs, and employment.
- Registering for standardized tests
- Beginning scholarship search
College Application Process

Begin To Think About Your Options

- 4-Year College/University
- 2-Year College
- Trade/Technical School
- Apprenticeship
- Military
- Employment
College Application Process

Choosing A College/University

- Location
- Size
- Urban/Rural
- Co-ed/Single Sex
- Facilities
- Cost
- Public/Private
- Religious Affiliation
- 2-year Community College
- 4-year College/University
Types of Colleges

Private Liberal Arts Colleges

- Broad cultural foundation in the arts and sciences; offers 4-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree.
- Much of the first two years is spent in required “core curriculum” courses and the last two years are in a declared academic major.
College Application Process

Types of Colleges

Private College/University

- Difference between a college and university is that the university is an institution which normally includes 3 types of schools (undergraduate college, professional schools, and graduate programs)

- Typically smaller enrollment than state university
Types of Colleges

State University or College
- Supported financially by state
- Flagship institutions are typically very large
- Since it is publically funded, tuition is lower than that of most private colleges and universities
- Special consideration given to in-state students
- Admission requirements are usually highly selective for out-of-state students
Types of Colleges

Community College
- 2 year colleges
- Offer a wide variety of academic programs leading to an associates degree
- Less costly
- Have honors programs that are more selective
Making A College List

Reach Schools — These schools possess many of the features the student desires but admissions is very, very competitive.

Realistic Schools — Schools that possess the significant features a student desires and at which the probability of admission is slightly better than even.

Safety Schools — Schools that possess the majority of the features a student desires and at which the probability of admission is highly likely

A Must

Students should want to attend all of the schools on their lists.
College Application Process

Types of Admission Options

Non-Restrictive Application Plans
- Regular Decision
- Rolling Admission
- Early Action
- Priority Deadline (UMCP-Nov 1)

Restrictive Application Process
- Early Decision
- Restrictive Early Action Plan
College Application Process

Factors In College Admission Decisions

- Academic Performance
- Strength of Curriculum
- Character
- Leadership Experience/Community Involvement
- Interests/Goals/Aspirations
- Standardized Test Scores (SAT or ACT)
College Application Process

Campus Visits

- Tour the campus
- Attend an information session
- Interview if possible
- Attend a class (arrange two weeks ahead)
- Talk with students and faculty about special interests
- Ask Questions about Dorm Life and Internships
- Pick up a copy of campus newspaper.

Students are permitted 3 excused absences for college visits. However, they must get pre-approval from their administrator.
College Application Process

What To Do:

- Complete Application (Online or Common App is Preferred)
- Request Teacher Recommendations
- Request Transcript/Counselor Letter
- Complete Essays (if needed)
- Take the SAT or ACT exam
- Prepare for interview (if needed)
College Application Process

The Common Application is a not-for-profit membership organization that, since its founding over 30 years ago, has been committed to providing reliable services that promote equity, access, and integrity in the college application process. We serve students, member institutions, and secondary schools by providing applications—online and in print—that students and school officials may submit to any of our nearly 350 members.

Membership is open to colleges and universities that promote access by
Standardized Tests

- **PSAT** - practice test for the SAT-11th grade score used to determine National Merit Award finalists
- **SAT** - tests reasoning/critical thinking skills
- **ACT** - tests knowledge you have learned from subjects studied in high school
- **SAT Subject Tests** - hour long subject tests required by some colleges in specific subjects.
- **TOEFL** - Test of English as a Foreign Language - evaluates ability of non-native speakers to use/understand English in academic setting
- **Accuplacer** - provides information on math, English and reading skills for college course placement (Montgomery College)
STANDARDIZED TESTS

- SAT Reasoning Test
- SAT Subject Test
- ACT
- TOEFL
- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Accuplacer

*Students should practice before they take any of these tests. Contact your counselor or the College/Career Information Coordinator for prep options.*
Standardized Tests

SAT Prep Opportunities

- Triumph Online SAT Prep
- College Board Online SAT Prep
- For Profit SAT Prep Classes
Advanced Placement (AP)

- AP courses are college-level courses that students may take in high school. These courses prepare students for AP exams as well as give them the experience of doing college-level work. If students do well on the end of the year AP exam, they may be able to earn college credit.

- Most students have the opportunity to take advanced placement courses starting in the 11\textsuperscript{th} & 12\textsuperscript{th} grade. Your student may be taking AP NSL Government this year.

- It is important that you work closely with your child’s counselor to determine which and how many AP courses are appropriate for your student.
College/Career Center Information

- Information on College Fairs & Tours
- College Selection and Guide Books
- Blair Career Notes & Information from Visiting College Representatives
- College/Career Inquiry Software including Bridges Interest Inventory
- College/University Brochures
- Computers for College and Career Searches
- Summer Program Information
College/Career Center Information

Financial Aid & Scholarships

- FAFSA (completed in senior year)
- FAFSA4Caster.com
- CSS Profile
- College & University Scholarships
- State of MD Financial Aid: March 1 deadline
- Other sources for scholarships: religious groups, private organizations, work related
- Financial Aid Information Meeting @ Blair in Fall of senior year
Naviance/Family Connections

Naviance/Family Connections is a valuable website that can help students:

- Search for colleges, research careers
- Locate scholarships
- Use scattergrams to see how other Blair students fared at specific colleges
- See the list of upcoming college visits in the Career Ctr
- Career Center Notes
- Complete a personality inventory
Naviance/Family Connections

In senior year, your student will use Naviance/Family Connections to:

- Complete the Trailblazer Survey
- Log in the colleges/universities they plan to apply to
- Request transcripts for college applications
- Request counselor and teacher recommendation letters
- Sign up for information sessions with college representatives that visit Blair
- Search for scholarships
- Get emails about important information from the Career Center

In senior year, you will use Naviance/Family Connections to:

- Check to see if a transcript and recommendation letter has been sent
- See the list of college representatives visiting Blair
- Assist your student with searching for scholarships
- Get emails about important information from the Career Center

Get an account if you do not already have one!
College/Career Center Information

How To Get A Family Connections Account

- Parents can email Ms. West at Phalia_J_West@mcpsmd.org OR call her at 301-649-2819, to get signed up for family connections.
- Students can stop by the Career Center to get their Family Connections account activated.

Try Out Family Connections With A Guest Account

- Go to the www.mbhs.edu
- Click on Counseling
- Click on Naviance/Family Connections
- Click on “I’m a guest” and then type in the password 210965
- Click on COLLEGES and you can view some of the information you will have access to when you get your own Family Connections account. You will only see a limited amount of information with this guest password. It is easy to sign up and get your own Family Connections account.
College/Career Center Information

Some Useful Websites

- www.collegeboard.com
- http://sat.collegeboard.org
- www.act.org
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.mhec.state.md.us
- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeanswer.com
- www.collegeview.com
- www.collegesavings.org