

# TrailBlazer

## Post-Secondary Planning

MBHS School Counseling Department



An overview for junior and senior Blair Blazers about their post-secondary options, and what to do between now and graduation.

*For more information, contact the  
MBHS School Counseling Office at 301-649-2810.*

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## Resources: Where do I go to get help with...?

1. **College searches** → Career Center, Counselor, CollegeBoard.com
2. **Request a Transcript** → Counselor then Registrar
3. **Financial Aid/FAFSA help** → Career Center
4. **TrailBlazer Documents** → Counselor
5. **Naviance** → Career Center or Counselor
6. **Writing Essays** → Career Center
7. **Military** → Career Center
8. **Searching for Scholarships** → Career Center, Naviance

## Important Dates/Events

- April 2** → NACAC College Fair
- June 3** → 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting (College Application Process)
- June 14** → TrailBlazer Documents deadline
- September** → 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night Meeting
- September** → College Admissions Panel Night
- October** → College Readiness Day: College Fair & Senior Workshops

# 4-year College

## STEP 9

- Talk often with your school counselor!

## STEP 8

- Begin applying for scholarships (FastWeb, Unigo, Capex, NACAC)

## STEP 7

- Begin filling out the FAFSA ([www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)) with your parents/ guardians
- Submit it in October
- Sign the FERPA waivers

## STEP 6

- Begin writing your college essay(s) over the summer
- Have a draft complete by the time senior year starts

## STEP 5

- Know the type of application each college requires (Common App, Coalition, college portal/website, etc.)
- Create an account for each application type
- Know application deadlines

## STEP 4

- Visit colleges (get a tour, sit in on a class, try the food, talk to current students, get to know the local town)
- Sign up for any/all College Fairs (some hosted by MBHS/MCPS)
- Sign up for sessions on Naviance to meet with college admissions reps
- Begin communicating with college admissions counselors so they can get to know you on a personal level

## STEP 3

- Complete your TrailBlazer Documents (see Page 2) by the last day of school
- Begin exploring tools and resources on Naviance
- Begin adding colleges to Naviance to which you plan to apply (see "Colleges" tab)

## STEP 2

- Register to take the SAT on [www.CollegeBoard.org](http://www.CollegeBoard.org) and/or the ACT on [www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org), at least twice
- You are responsible for sending your scores to the colleges that require them
- Get a fee waiver in the College/Career Center
- Participate in SAT/ACT prep (e.g., Khan Academy)
- Register for AP tests
- If needed, do the TOEFL test

## STEP 1

- Finish your junior year strong; these are the grades colleges will see when you send in your applications
- GPA: know the difference unweighted & weighted
- Be sure your transcript is accurate
- Submit Request for Docs form one month before your deadline (i.e., submit Oct 1 for Nov 1 deadline)



# TrailBlazer College Documents

The five (5) items below must be completed in order to send transcripts and college recommendation letters to schools. See your School Counselor if you have questions about accessing or submitting the

## 1. COLLEGE APPLICATION: REQUIRED REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTS (paper form)

**DUE: 30 days prior to the college application deadline** (school counselor signature required for first request)

- Submission of this carbon-copy form is required prior to sending any information to colleges/universities. Components include authorization for release of records (signatures required), disclosure statement agreement, and details about your schools of choice (including dates and types of deadlines).
  - *HOW TO ACCESS: Obtain copies from your school counselor, the hallway wall-bin outside the Registrars' Office window, or from one of the Registrars*

## 2. SENIOR QUESTIONNAIRE/BRAG SHEET (Naviance)

**DUE: June 14, 2019**

- Answer the questions on this Naviance survey about yourself so your school counselor can better reflect you and your story when writing your recommendation letter. See the list of questions on page 4.
  - *HOW TO ACCESS: Log onto Naviance > About Me > My Surveys > Surveys Not Started > Senior Questionnaire/Brag Sheet*
  - *Send any summer updates to your school counselor via email*

## 3. PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE (Naviance)

**DUE: June 14, 2019**

- Your parent or guardian fills this out on Naviance so your school counselor has an objective perspective of who you are according to your family. It helps to understand how your upbringing has impacted you.
  - *HOW TO ACCESS: Have your parents/guardians log onto their Naviance account (see your counselor if they need one) > About Me > My Surveys > Surveys Not Started > Parent Questionnaire*

## 4. FOUR-YEAR SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES / or RESUME (paper form)

**DUE: June 14, 2019**

- Fill out this chart (paper copy) listing all the activities, hobbies, and anything else that you've spent your time doing throughout high school. Be sure to give a description so some of these things can be shared in your recommendation letter. **Or, submit a copy of your resume if you already have one.**
  - *HOW TO ACCESS: Obtain a copy from your school counselor or from the TrailBlazer Shelf in the front of the Counseling Office*
  - *Send any summer updates to your school counselor via email*

## 5. TEACHER CHECKLISTS, two per student (paper forms)

**DUE: June 14, 2019**

- Select two teachers who know you well (from 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade) to fill out a blue teacher checklist. They can turn it in to the counseling office. (**Note:** This does not serve as a teacher recommendation letter—it's just info for your school counselor to have teachers' input into who you are as a student in class.)
  - *HOW TO ACCESS: Obtain copies from your school counselor or from the TrailBlazer Shelf in the front of the Counseling Office*



### STEP 3

- Add Montgomery College to Naviance (see "Colleges" tab)

### STEP 4

- Visit MC!
- Sign up for a session on Naviance to meet with a Montgomery College rep

### STEP 5

- Decide if you want to apply to the MC Scholars Program:  
[www.montgomerycollege.edu/montgomeryscholars](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/montgomeryscholars)

### STEP 6

- Begin filling out the FAFSA ([www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)) with your parents/ guardians
- Submit it in October

### STEP 2

- Register to take the MC placement test, the Accuplacer:  
[www.montgomerycollege.edu/assessment](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/assessment)

### STEP 1

- Submit your MC application:  
[www.montgomerycollege.edu](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu)
- Be sure your transcript is accurate
- Submit Request for Docs form this fall

**2-year**  
(Montgomery College)

**Work/Military**  
/

### STEPS to SUCCESS

- Have a 5-year plan! Consider how this option will help prepare you for who you want to be and what you want to do in the future
- Speak with Mr. Hernandez in the College/Career Center (room 121) to receive more specific information about opportunities and how to pursue them
- If interested in the Military, sign up to take the ASVAB
- If interested in hearing from certain job, trade school, or military reps, speak with Mr. Hernandez to set up a visit!

# College & Career Center



College and Career Coordinator:

Mr. Edvin Hernandez

301-649-2819

Edvin\_M\_Hernandez@mcpsmd.org

## Room 121: open during lunch & after school

- College essay help/review
- Mock interviews (for jobs and/or college)
- Resume-writing help
- Information sessions with college admissions reps at MBHS
- College visits and college fairs
- Fee waivers for the SAT, ACT, and college applications
- Scholarship research
- Financial aid/FAFSA assistance

**DUE: June 14, 2019 on Naviance**

*Any summer updates to the Brag Sheet can be emailed to your school counselor.*

## Questionnaire/Brag Sheet: List of Questions

*Must be completed on **Naviance** for any student in need of a counselor recommendation letter.*

### PERSONAL

1. What are you known for or what do you want to be known for?
2. What are three characteristics/qualities that best describe you?
3. What's a personal obstacle you've had to overcome and what did it teach you?
4. What responsibilities do you have at home? (i.e., caring for siblings/family members, translating, working to help with family income)
5. What's your passion or hobby? What role might it play in your future?

### ACADEMIC

1. What have been some of your extracurricular activities (in and out of school)? Which one has been the *most* important to you and why?
2. What leadership roles have you had in high school? What's something you've learned from being a leader?
3. What's an academic obstacle you've had to overcome? What did the experience teach you?
4. In reviewing your transcript, have there been any extenuating circumstances that may have affected your grades or school performance?
5. What has been your favorite class in high school? Why?

### COLLEGE/FUTURE

1. What are your future goals?
2. List the top three schools you plan to apply to. Do you have a dream school?
3. What college majors are you considering and why?
4. What do you think makes you stand out from your peers? Why should a college/university select **you** to be in their freshman class over another qualified student?
5. What are you most looking forward to about the college experience?

### OTHER

1. Is there anything else that you'd like me to know about you that could help me as I write your letter?