Junior Meeting
Blair Magnet Program

Information from
Counseling
Topics for This Evening

- Registration for Senior Year
- College information
  - Beginning the College Process
  - Testing
  - Visiting Colleges
  - Financial Aid & Scholarships
Senior Year Registration

- Registration information will soon be presented to all students through Social Studies classes
  - Registration card with recommendations
  - Blair Course offerings
  - Guidelines for Magnet Registration
- In early to mid-February counselors will meet with students individually or in small groups to review course selections and advise students on choices
Senior Year Registration

- Senior year is an opportunity to follow interests in depth
- Colleges recognize the rigor of the Magnet program
  - Beyond AP level
- Lots of choices: Check with teachers and other students
- Work Load Alert
  - Be especially careful of overload in senior year!
  - Maintain academic performance
  - “Breathing Room” class ....
  - “Light” elective; Magnet Study Hall;
  - Sports Study Hall to balance a hectic fall and S2 slowdown
Courses:
1. AP or Honors English 12
2. Math (Analysis 1B, Analysis 2, or math electives)
3. SRP B/Academic class of choice
4. Science course
5. Academic class of choice
6. Academic class of choice
7. Academic class of choice
8. “Breathing Room” class
9. At least 3 well-considered alternate options!
EVERYONE, both parents and students, has survived this process...we promise you will too!

We, as well as Career Center staff, are here to support you and your student through this process.
Think about what qualities they are looking for...

- “Excerpts from Commonly Asked Questions Concerning the College Application Process” from the Career Center

Remember that this is a very personalized process
- Not about where friends are applying
- Look beyond the “brand names”: think about the fit between student and college
Some things to start with...

- Career Center is a fantastic resource!
  - Human Resources: Mrs. West, Career Center Volunteers
  - Family Connection: College search, Scattergrams, Scholarships, and weekly Career Center emails
  - College Representative visits
  - College searches with assistance from Career Center
- Planbook
- College Guides in Career Center, libraries, and local bookstores
  - Peterson’s, Fiske, Ruggs, etc.
Scattergrams from Family Connection

Montgomery Blair High School
SAT (2400) vs. GPA Scattergram (2006-2013)

Graph Legend:
- Green square: Accepted
- Red cross: Denied
- Blue diamond: Waitlisted or Deferred
- Green diamond: Waitlisted or Deferred (Accepted)
- Red diamond: Waitlisted or Deferred (Denied)

Accepted Avg.: 3.61

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Both the SAT and ACT are accepted by colleges

- SAT has sections in Critical Reading, Math, and Writing. Tests reasoning and verbal abilities.
- ACT has sections in English, Math, Reading, and Science. Also offers a Writing section. Measures what a student has learned in school.

Most students take SAT to start

- Recommend January or March SAT in junior year
- REMEMBER, test scores are just one aspect of the college admissions process.
- Most important? A student’s grades in challenging courses!

Don’t let your student get test (or test prep) overload!
SAT Subject Tests

- Offered in English, History, Math, Science, and Languages.
- Many selective colleges require 2 subject tests but no more than 3 required.
- Math Level 2 Subject Test (Magnet Functions or PreCal C)
- Students typically take one or two other subject tests in junior year, usually in May or June.
- Typically, a subject test in math and one of the sciences (Physics for engineering students), and at most one other subject area is sufficient for math/science/computer science majors.
AP Tests

- AP registration: early March
- AP exams: early May
- With some self-study combined with some Magnet electives, students can choose to take various AP tests, however, don’t overdo this.
- Be careful of AP test overload!
College Visits

- Beneficial to get a sense about the college beyond what you might learn from a guidebook or the internet
- Planning for a successful visit:
  - Most beneficial when college in session: our spring break is a great time to plan visits
  - Plan a visit to University of Maryland or other local school
  - Take a tour and interview if possible
  - Attend a class by arranging it through admissions/dept.
  - Talk with students and faculty about special interests
  - Other great tips on college visits on the “Commonly Asked Questions…” handout

***Students are permitted 3 excused absences for college visits with prior approval from Mr. Ostrander.
Paying the bill

- We encourage families to start their research now
  - Family Connections for scholarships
    - Not all scholarships are limited to seniors
  - Go to MCPS website for financial aid links
  - FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid
    - [http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/) This estimator will give you an idea of what your expected family contribution will be to your child’s education
  - Books: Financial guides in bookstores and Career Center
  - Scholarships from colleges
  - More expensive does not always equal greater cost to your family!
More Information

- Junior parent meeting on “Navigating the College Admissions Process” hosted by the Counseling

Thursday, March 13th at 7:00 pm
Contacts

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