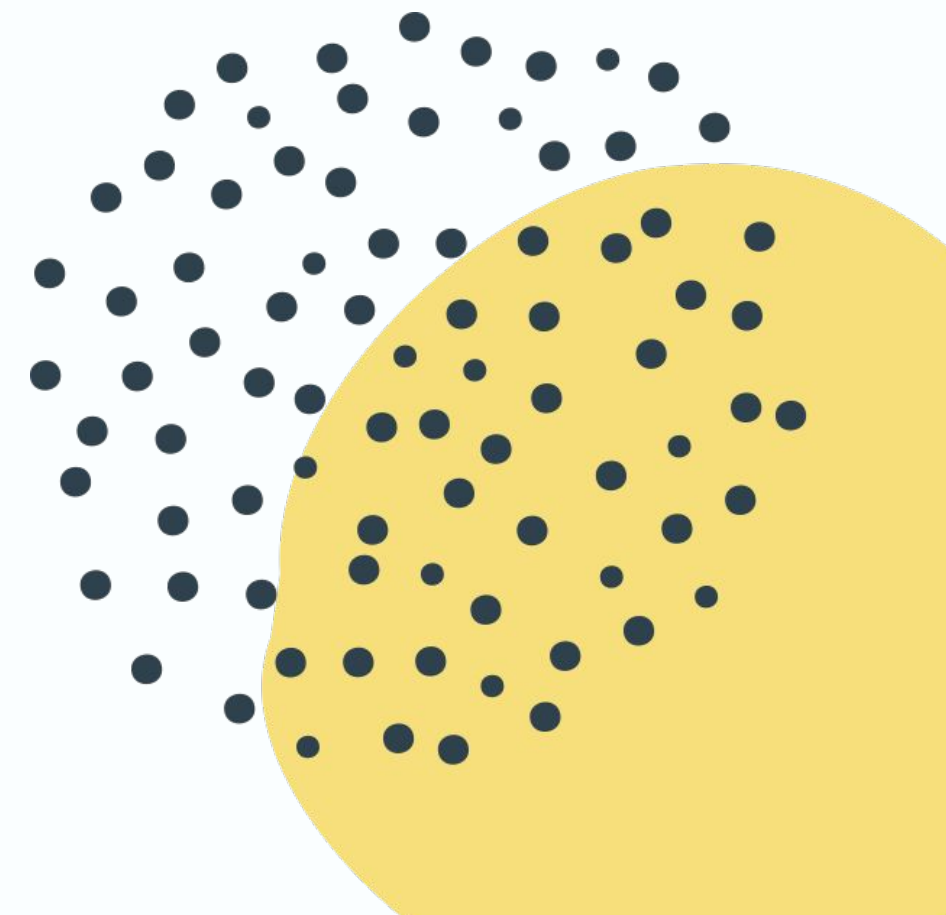


**Junior  
Parent/Guardian  
Night**

**Class of 2026**



# School Counselors

Ms. Vuona	A - C	<a href="mailto:vuona.sarah@marbleheadschoools.org">vuona.sarah@marbleheadschoools.org</a>	x20124
Ms. Kennedy	D-H	<a href="mailto:kennedy.jamie@marbleheadschoools.org">kennedy.jamie@marbleheadschoools.org</a>	x20122
Ms. Costello	I-O	<a href="mailto:costello.tiffany@marbleheadschoools.org">costello.tiffany@marbleheadschoools.org</a>	x20126
Ms. Bagnall	P-U	<a href="mailto:bagnall.rebecca@marbleheadschoools.org">bagnall.rebecca@marbleheadschoools.org</a>	x20130
Ms. Chaykowski	V-Z	<a href="mailto:chaykowski.christine@marbleheadschoools.org">chaykowski.christine@marbleheadschoools.org</a>	x20120

Ms. Benman

[benman.loretta@marbleheadschoools.org](mailto:benman.loretta@marbleheadschoools.org)

x20113

*School Counseling Department*

*Administrative Assistant*

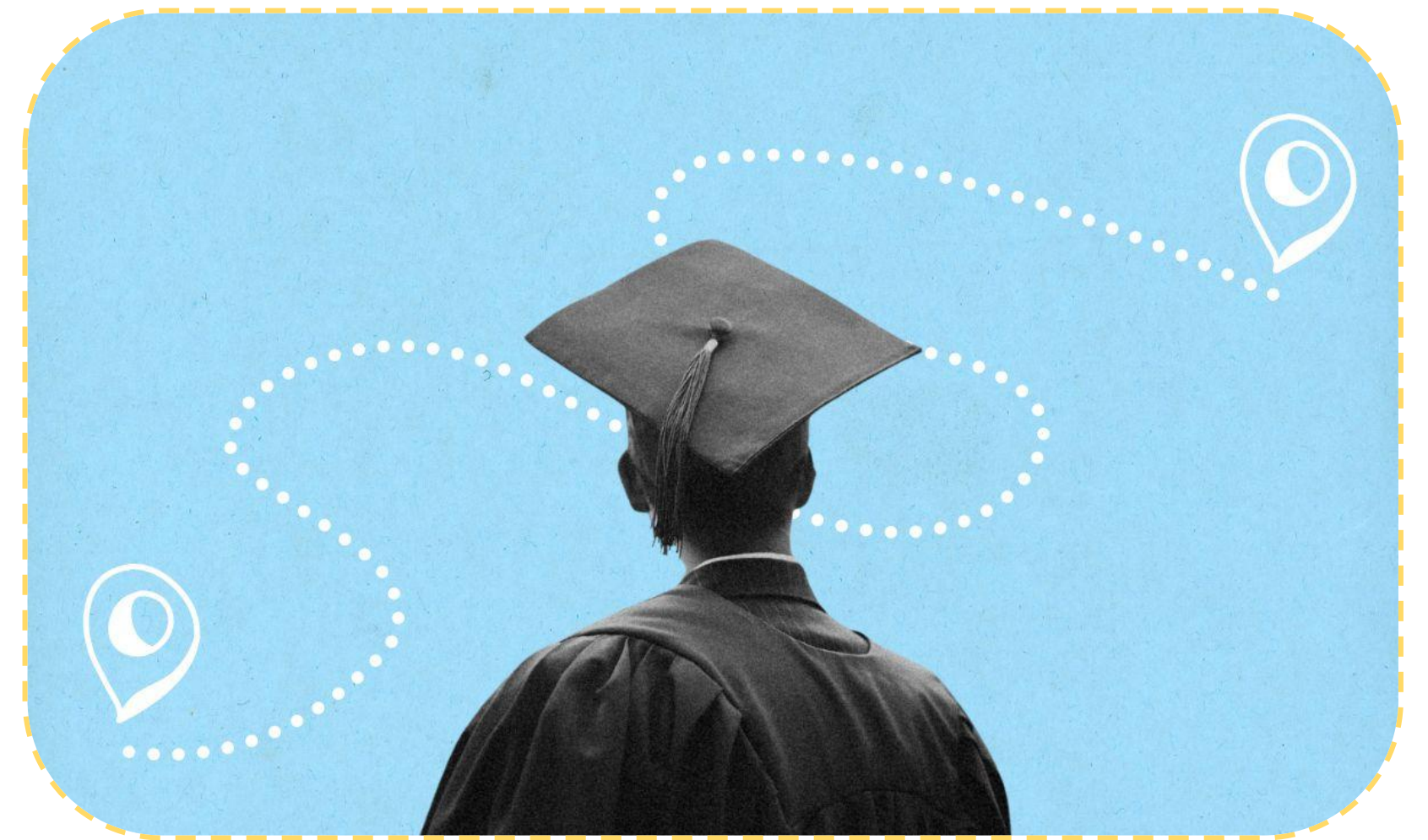
# Agenda

- Post-secondary plans
- Upcoming events
- Organizing the process
- SAT/ACT
- Letters of recommendation
- Brag sheet
- College essay
- Admissions policies
- College visits
- Interviews
- College Rep Visits
- Additional Info
- Naviance



# Post Secondary Plans

- College
  - 2-year and 4-year
- Technical/Vocational schools
- Gap year
- Employment
- Military
- Post-graduate year



*All students should set up a meeting with their school counselor*



# Upcoming Events

- **Junior Seminar 1**
  - MHS college process
- **Junior Seminar 2**
  - Building college list and reviewing transcript
- **Junior Parent / Guardian Night**
  - Wednesday, January 15th, 6pm @ MHS
- **MHS College Admissions Panel**
  - Tuesday, April 1st, Magic Block
    - *UMass Amherst / Syracuse University / Boston University / Quinnipiac University / Union College*



# Upcoming Events Continued

## **VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIR**

via NACAC

- February 16 | 1 - 6pm
- March 23 | 1 - 6pm
- April 27 | 1 - 6pm

## **IN-PERSON COLLEGE FAIR**

@ Boston Convention Center

- March 27 | 9am - 12pm & 6 - 8:30pm
- March 28 | 9am - 12 pm



NACAC COLLEGE FAIR  
REGISTRATION PAGE

# Senior Events

## Fall 2025

- Senior Parent/Guardian Night
- Financial Aid Night
- Senior Seminars
- Common App Bootcamp
- Self-Reported Academic Record (SRAR) MAGIC Blocks

## Fall/Winter 2025

- College visits

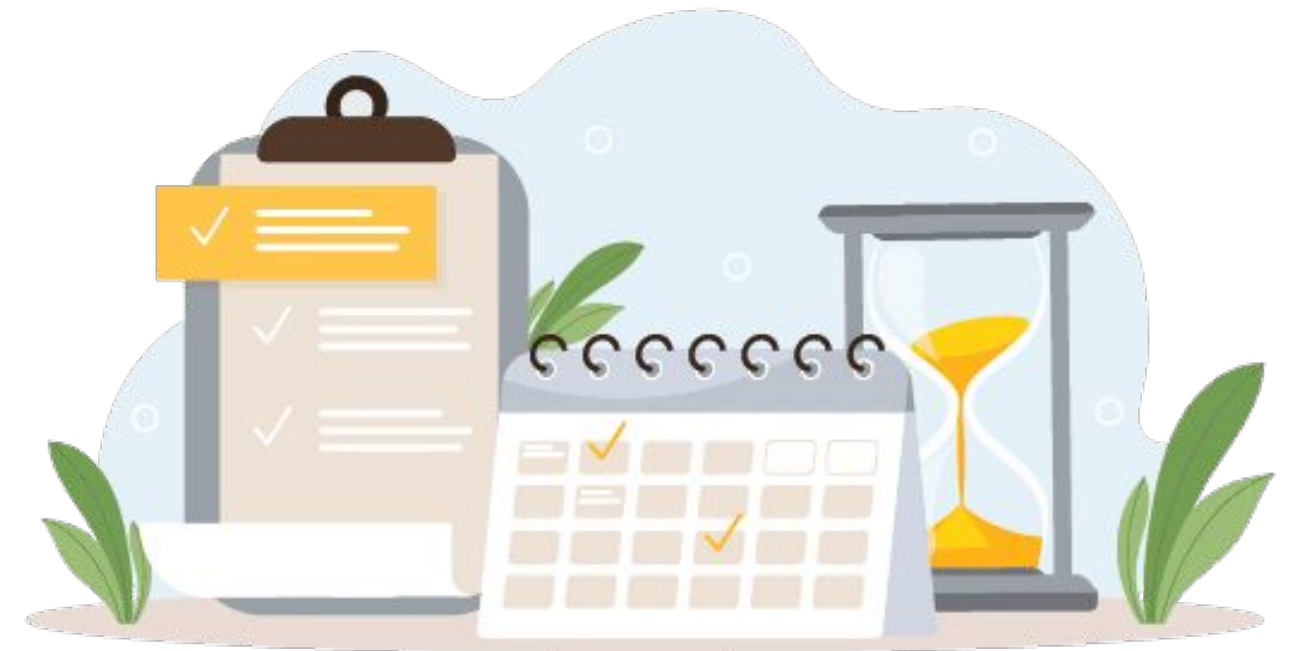
## Spring 2026

- Scholarship Presentation



# Organizing the Process

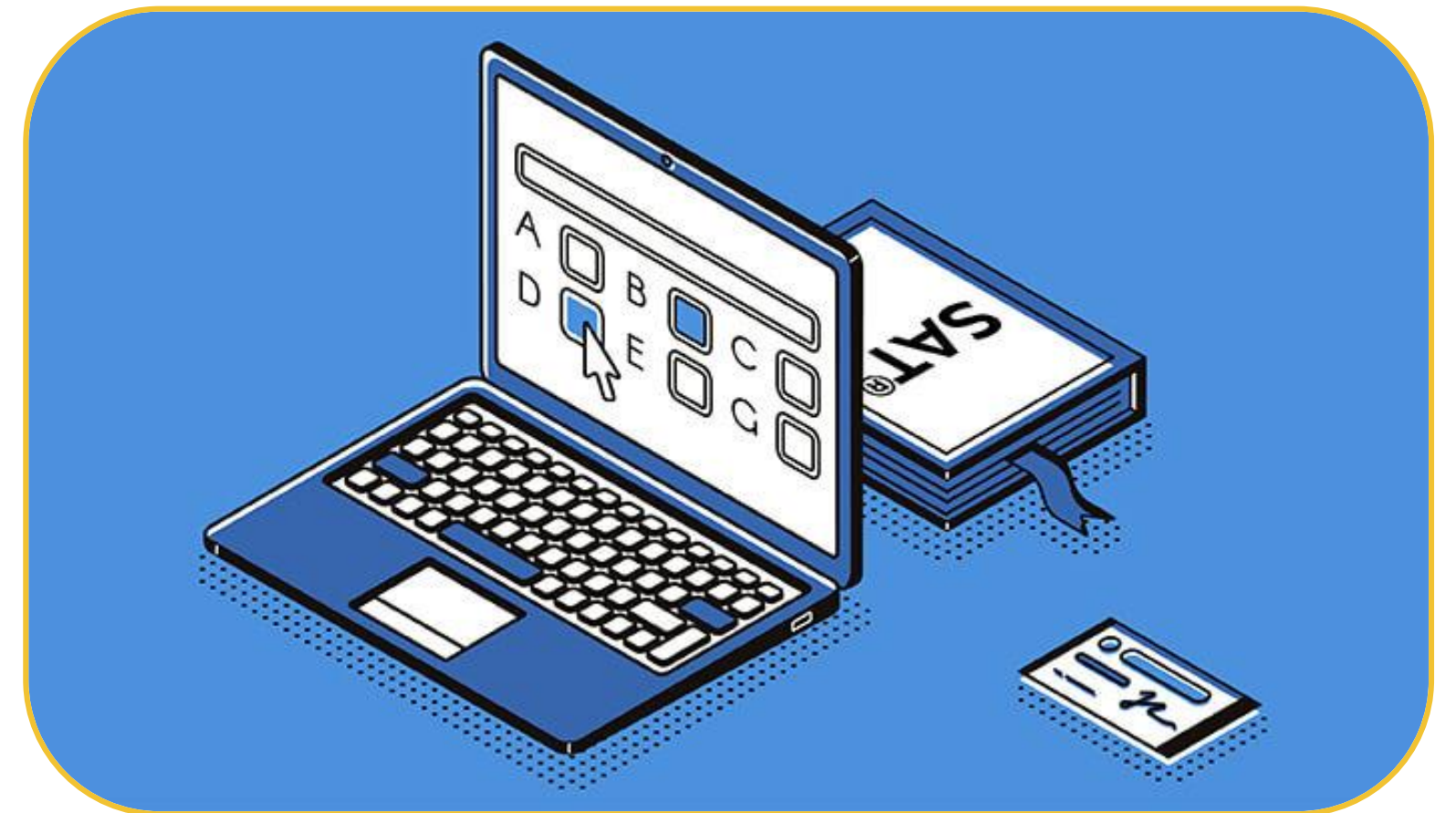
- Start early!
- Time management
- Review junior checklist
- Find a system that works for your family
- Track application and financial aid deadlines
- Know application requirements for each college
  - Auditions, portfolios, interviews, testing, etc.
- Process is designed for all junior and senior students to do independently (parents/guardians and school counselors are here to support)





# SAT Info

- **Register at [www.sat.org/register](https://www.sat.org/register)**
  - Marblehead School Code: 221-325
  - All tests are digital format
- **Test length and scoring**
  - Test used to determine college readiness
  - Evidence-Based Reading & Math
  - Score is out of 1600
    - 800 for Math & 800 for EBR
  - Test length is 3 hours
- **Students responsible for submitting scores**
  - Most colleges superscore
  - Consider the top score for each section
  - Required to submit full scores



Free test prep at Khan Academy  
[www.khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org)

# ACT Info

- **Register at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)**
  - Marblehead School Code: 221-325
  - Available in digital or paper and pencil format
  - Colleges will accept either SAT or ACT
- **Students are responsible for submitting scores**
  - Some schools will superscore but not all
- **Test Length and Scoring**
  - Math, Reading, English, Science
    - Essay portion is optional
  - 3 hours and 35 minutes (including essay portion - 40 minutes)
  - Beginning April 2025
    - Science portion is optional
    - Fewer questions
    - Test length will be just over 2 hours
  - Scoring based on scale from 1 - 36



# SAT Dates

March 8 | registration deadline February 21

May 3 | registration deadline April 18

June 7 | registration deadline May 22



Marblehead School Code:

**221-325**

# ACT Dates

April 5 | registration deadline February 28

June 14 | registration deadline May 9

July 12 | registration deadline June 6



Marblehead School Code:

**221-325**



# Test Day Reminders

## Preparing for test day: SAT guidelines [here](#)

- *On test day, students must bring:*
  - Compatible / fully charged testing device
  - Charging cord
  - Admission ticket
  - Photo ID
  - Pencils
  - Calculator (or use the one in Bluebook)
  - Water / snack

## Preparing for test day: ACT guidelines [here](#)

- *On test day, students must bring*
  - Admission ticket
  - Photo ID
  - Pencils
  - Calculator
  - Water / snack





# Test Optional

- Check college requirements
- Test optional vs. test blind
- Test Flexible
  - Colleges/Universities allow students to choose which type of test they want to submit with their application (i.e. SAT, ACT, or AP Scores)
- Test optional college - check each major
- Sending scores vs. not sending scores
- Visit [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org) for more information



It's better to have scores and not need them than to not test

# Letters of Recommendation

## School Counselor Recommendation

- School counselors write letters for each student
- Be sure to update your brag sheet in the fall

## Teacher Recommendations

- All recommendations are confidential
- Pick a teacher from a core subject area ideally from junior year (i.e. Math, English, Science, History or World Language)
- Ask teacher prior to filling out the Google Form
  - **Form available January 9th and due May 9th**
  - If school requires a second recommendation, get a secondary form from Ms. Benman
- Update teachers with application deadlines in the fall



# Letters of Recommendation

## Outside Recommendations

- Invite recommender through Common App, if available
- Each college has a limit on how many they'll accept

## From CommonApp:

- Other recommenders are individuals you have worked with outside of school. They can provide context around your hobbies, passions, and other responsibilities
- The other recommender types available in the Common App are: Arts Teacher, Clergy, Coach, College Access Counselor, Employer, Family Member, Peer, or Other
- Each college can choose which types of other recommenders they accept.



# Student Information/Brag Sheet

- Class of 2026 Google Classroom
  - **Due May 9th**
- Update over the summer
- Spend time working on it
- Used to write your recommendation





# College Essay

- Common App essay prompts are available online at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
  - Updated prompts available in the spring
- Many colleges will require additional supplemental essays/short answer questions
- Non-Common App schools may have different essay prompts
- Work on your college essay over the summer



MAKE IT YOUR OWN!

# Admission Policies

- **Early Decision**  
Limited to applying to one school ED and EDII  
Binding Agreement - Required to attend if accepted
- **Early Action**  
Can apply to as many schools through EA  
Non-Binding agreement  
Early application review and early notification
- **Restrictive Early Action**  
Non-binding  
College specific, very few schools have this option  
Students may only apply to one college REA  
Can't apply ED elsewhere, check college requirements  
Can usually apply EA to public schools

# Admission Policies

- **Regular Decision**
  - Apply by standard application deadline
  - Allows more time to prepare application
  - Usually notified by mid-April
- **Rolling Admissions**
  - Applications reviewed as they come in
  - Decision issued as soon as application processed
  - Submit sooner rather than later

*Students must submit a deposit by May 1st.*

# College Visits

- Register on college websites
- Attend informational sessions, open houses, and tours
- It is helpful to visit colleges while in session
  - Speak with students about their experience
- See College Visit Questions handout on School Counseling website
- Attend In-Person & Virtual College Fairs
  - Students should keep their camera on
  - Be prepared to ask questions
- Students are allowed 4 absences/year to attend college or postsecondary visit





# MHS College Admissions Counselor Visits

- Over 100 colleges visit MHS in the fall
- Contact is key
  - Email admission representatives
  - Attend info sessions
  - Ask thoughtful questions
  - Show colleges that you're interested!



# Interviews

- Types of interviews:
  - Informational
  - Evaluative
  - Alumni
- Dress professionally
- Make eye contact
- Always send a thank you note



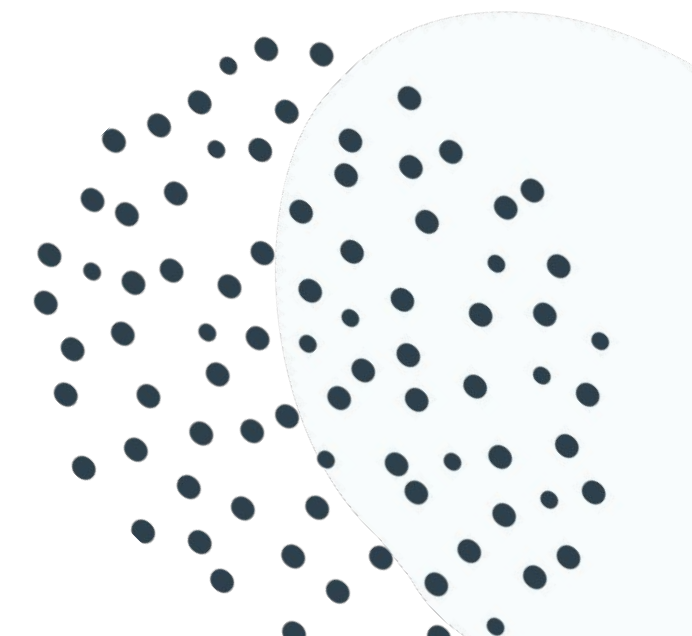
# Additional Information

- NCAA
  - Create Clearinghouse account if interested in playing division I or II athletics
- IEP/504 Plan
  - Disclosing
  - Programs
- Financial Aid
  - FAFSA / CSS Profile
  - Fall 2025 Financial Aid presentation
- Senior Seminars
  - Application Process
  - Common Application



# Helpful Links

Marblehead High School School Counseling Website- <i>Junior Handouts Available</i>	<a href="https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/Page/1413">https://www.marbleheadschoools.org/Page/1413</a>
College Board	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
ACT	<a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a>
Common Application	<a href="http://www.commonapp.org">www.commonapp.org</a> <b>(rolls over August 1st, 2025)</b>
FairTest (List of test optional colleges/universities)	<a href="http://www.fairtest.org">www.fairtest.org</a>
MEFA (Financial Aid Information)	<a href="http://www.mefa.org/">http://www.mefa.org/</a>
Colleges That Change Lives	<a href="http://www.ctcl.org">www.ctcl.org</a>
NCAA Clearinghouse	<a href="https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/">https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/</a>
Historically Black College or University (HBCU) Resource	<a href="http://www.thehundred-seven.org/hbculist.html">http://www.thehundred-seven.org/hbculist.html</a>





# Naviance

- Web-based tool used to research colleges and develop lists
  - Students apply to approximately 8 - 12 colleges
    - 2 safeties / 4 - 8 probables / 2-3 reaches
- GPA updated & uploaded to Naviance mid-year & end of year
- GPA updated *every quarter* senior year
- Primary parents/guardians will receive email with instructions to create parent/guardian Naviance account