



# Montgomery High School Counseling/Guidance News

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## News



It's hard to believe that we are already at the mid-point of the year. Seniors are planning for graduation and the many fun activities between now and June. Counselors have met with the juniors to discuss the college process and with the sophomores to talk about what lies ahead. Freshmen will be re-introduced to Naviance and the many applications it has for them during course selection. They can complete the Learning Styles Inventory (which many of them completed at UMS) on their own. It can provide useful information for their high school years and beyond. Please take some time to familiarize yourselves with Naviance, as it is a valuable tool for all grade levels.

### When do students schedule classes for next year and how do they choose their classes?

Counselors will begin to meet with students during the week of February 10th, beginning with the junior class and working in succession each week with the sophomores and freshmen. Please review the Program of Studies (available on the MHS Guidance Website:) [Program of Studies 2020-21](#). Please note that teachers and counselors will make scheduling recommendations based on established prerequisites and what is best for your child. If your child does not meet prerequisites for a course or is not recommended by their teacher and still wishes to take the course, they may fill out a waiver application. Waiver applications will be available from teachers only and must be submitted by May 1st to receive consideration. All final waiver decisions will be communicated by June 1st.

\*We will be asking students currently in grades 9-11 to input their course requests in Genesis prior to meeting with their counselors. An email will go out very soon for current juniors. There will be a one week window for each grade level to input their requests.



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Many thanks to all of you who attended *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* on January 14th. The message about the use of social media and technology is so timely and important, especially for families with teens.



### Reminders:

## Seniors

If schools to which you have applied have requested mid-year grades, please complete your counselor's mid-year grade request Google form. It was emailed to you earlier this month by your counselor. Make sure to follow all directions.

**Don't forget to fill out the graduation survey!**

On January 8th and 9th the counselors met with all juniors in their history classes to review the college search and application process. All of the information that was presented is available online. Please remember that one of the most important tools for this process is Naviance.

On January 10th the Counseling/Guidance Department hosted an annual webinar presentation for parents of juniors. Parents could watch the webinar live and ask questions while they watched (which counselors addressed as the questions came in). The presentation is available on the [Counseling/Guidance website](#).

**PSAT scores are now available online for juniors. To access scores: [studentscores.collegeboard.org](https://studentscores.collegeboard.org)** Please check the Guidance website for updates on scholarships and other opportunities. Most have deadlines, so it is important to check often.



*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?*  
~Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## Upcoming Events:

**January 27th:** 2nd semester begins.  
**February 1st:** Cornell Day. Students who have applied will receive information about interviews  
**February 3rd:** Grades for semester 1 will be viewable on Parent Resources.  
**February:** Throughout February we will begin course selection for next year, beginning with the junior class and ending with the rising 9th graders the third week of March.  
**February 22nd:** Practice ACT. 8am – noon in the Commons. Registration information to follow soon.

## Scholarships:

Scholarship opportunities offered through the PTSA, SEPTA and United Scholarships are posted on the Counseling/Guidance website. The deadline for these applications is March 17th. So, don't delay. Watch the morning announcements for more information. Seniors, there are many available; you should apply for all scholarships for which you are eligible.

**Parents:** The most challenging part about scholarships is that they often require students to write an essay. *Please encourage your children to take the time to write these essays. It could be well worth their effort!*

## It's FAFSA Time!

The FAFSA is used to apply for federal financial aid; however, many colleges, universities and career schools use your FAFSA information to award state and college aid. The process is free. **Never pay to apply for federal financial aid.** You will need an FSA ID to "sign" your online FAFSA and make corrections to the application. You can get your FSA ID before you begin or as you complete the FAFSA. Be sure you meet application deadlines. For deadlines as well as additional FAFSA information, visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> OR you may call 1-800-FED-AID. For the 2019-20 school year you will need financial information from 2019.



We are excited to continue our summer programs under the umbrella of SOAR: Montgomery's K-12 summer programs which include our credit courses for high school students. We will once again offer **classes both for credit and for enrichment** in the summer of 2020.

The full, five-credit, classes which will be offered are Geometry and Algebra II. The half, 2.5 credit, class which will be offered is Financial Literacy,

Please watch for additional information from the SOAR program that will be available soon.

Registration for these classes will begin in late winter and run through Memorial Day. Any questions can be directed to Monica Clewell, SOAR Supervisor, or Keith Glock, 7-12 SOAR Coordinator at [soar@mtsd.us](mailto:soar@mtsd.us)

## SAC Corner: The latest happenings from our SAC, Christine Grossmann

### Vaping: "Save Your Breath" School-wide assembly—January 29th

Tim is back!!

We are pleased to inform you that Tim Shoemaker will be returning to MHS on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> for a full school-wide assembly. Please feel free to engage in a conversation with your son/daughter following this presentation. Both the CDC and U.S. Surgeon General's office have desperately labeled teen vaping as an epidemic. Thank you to Montgomery HS along with the support of the Montgomery/Rocky Hill Municipal Alliance, we are able to offer a comprehensive program, entitled "Save Your Breath". Please feel free to learn more and access resources directly on [Tim's website](http://Tim's website) or reach out to Christine Grossmann, SAC @ [cgrossmann@mtsd.us](mailto:cgrossmann@mtsd.us)



We are always up to something!  
 Follow us on Instagram:  
[#mhspeopleproject](https://www.instagram.com/mhspeopleproject)

### The People Project

#### 2019-2020 Members

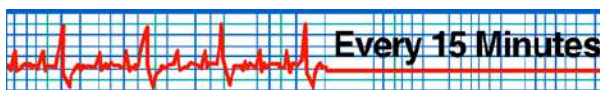
Neil Advant	Marion Biondi
Megan Conway	Sara Curtiss
Nikia Fenix	Zach Feola
Shashaank Joshi	Madison Kim
Alex Levy	Kristin Lucht
Ben Mathew	Olivia Perkins
Noa Ran-Resler	Dee Sethi
Zaina Tirmizi	Victor Xing

*Surround yourself with really good people. I think that's an important thing. Because the people you surround yourself with are a reflection of you.*

~Aaron Rodgers

**Upcoming event:** Every 15 Minutes 2020 is scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd-Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>. If your son/daughter is interested in participating in EFM this year, please have them seek out their school counselor directly.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Christine Grossmann, SAC @ [cgrossmann@mtsd.us](mailto:cgrossmann@mtsd.us)



### In the Community

Reach for Recovery Groups are available at Richard Hall Community Center.

For more information, call:  
 908-253-3119