

MARPLE NEWTOWN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Counseling Department
120 Media Line Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Fax (610) 359-5902

Tracy Jacobson Counselor 359-4246	Karen Brodsky Counselor 359-4225	Linda Donato Counselor 359-4233	Shane Elison Counselor 359-4229	Kelly McCool Counselor 359-4241
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Dear Parent/Guardian and Marple Newtown Senior,

I am certain you will agree this is a very exciting time as senior year approaches! The time for making decisions regarding post-secondary plans whether it be college, technical school, military options or possible employment is here. There is much to be done over the next six months, and the more you can do during the summer, the less stressful the fall semester will be. The secret to the final outcome is in what you do now!

The college-bound student should be working toward developing a definitive list of schools that meet his/her academic, career and personal goals. Throughout the 2007-08 school year, the high school guidance counselors have been meeting both individually and in small groups with all students in the Class of 2009 to provide important post secondary planning information and to encourage each student in the pursuit of his/her desired post secondary goal. We hosted two evening events open to students and their parents and hope that you were able to benefit from the college admissions information provided.

An internet based tool that we continue to use extensively with students is the College Board's website (www.collegeboard.com). This site can be an invaluable resource! The high school guidance counselors have made it a priority to assist each student in setting up a free College Board account. We have provided an overview of the many tools available to them which include but are not limited to: on-line SAT registration, access to PSAT and SAT scores, SAT practice tests and quizzes, a college search engine with direct links to college/university web pages, and a personality assessment with links to suggested majors and careers. In order to support each student's success in meeting his/her goals, Marple Newtown School District has purchased the Official College Board SAT on-line course which all MNHS students can access. Parents, if you have not already done so, we would encourage you to create your own College Board account and begin accessing the valuable information available to parents.

With a list of institutions for further consideration, PSAT and/or SAT scores, and GPA information in hand, you are now ready for college visitations. Once on campus, be sure to sign in at the Admissions Office, take organized tours when available, check out the dorms, talk to students and professors. These contacts demonstrate your interest in their school! College web pages are a convenient and reliable source of information as well.

There are many factors that go into a college admissions decision. How much weight/consideration each factor is given varies by institution. In addition to GPA, class rank, rigor of curriculum and standardized test scores, many colleges and universities rely on letters of recommendation. Enclosed with this letter are two questionnaires (one for the student and one for

the parent/guardian) and an activities list. This information will be incorporated into my letter of recommendation. *Students and parents who have provided this information in the past have without a doubt had the advantage of an informative, supportive and insightful letter from me.* Admissions counselors read hundreds of recommendations. Help me make yours stand out! Tell me what makes you **unique**. As a parent, you know your student better than anyone and have special memories, humorous incidents that depict some of their stronger attributes. This is no time to be bashful. Spend some time on this. **Please know that without this information from you and your student, it will be very difficult to write an informative, supportive and insightful letter of recommendation.** Don't let the admissions decisions be based on SAT's and GPA alone! Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaires, along with any other pertinent information (i.e. newspaper clippings) to me at the Counseling Department, Marple Newtown High School, 120 Media Line Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to visit our web page (www.mnsd.net/mnhs/counseling/index.html). There you will find our comprehensive College Planning Guide, financial aid information, the current scholarship list, our college rep visit schedule (Fall), important dates and forms as well as many other resources that will be helpful to you through the college admissions process.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and relaxing summer, yielding a renewed commitment to your senior year and your future!

Sincerely,

MNHS Guidance Counselors

STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COLLEGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Name: _____ Tentative Major: _____
 Middle School Attended: _____
 Elementary School Attended: _____

Personal Attributes and Characteristics

Listed below are several traits often listed for me to complete on college applications. I would appreciate knowing how you might rate yourself on each one.

	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent
Initiative/Motivation				
Intellectual Curiosity				
Creativity				
Energy				
Self-Confidence				
Responsibility				
Integrity				
Concern for others				
Respect for differences				
Warmth of personality				
Sense of Humor				
Emotional Maturity				
Reaction to setbacks				
Respect given by peers				

Listed below are several questions related to your *academic, personal, extracurricular activities and college plans*. Please answer those that pertain to you. Feel free to use additional sheets of paper. The more I know about you, the better your letter will be!
This is not the time for modesty or to minimize.

Academics:

1. Is your record an accurate gauge of your abilities and potential? _____

2. In what ways have you changed or grown during your high school years, think in terms of thoughts, attitudes, values, goals, etc.?

3. Is there any outside circumstance that interfered with your academic performance?

4. Describe the academic accomplishment (s) you are most proud of and why you take pride in it?

Extra-curricular Activities:

1. What extra-curricular activity within school or community based has been most satisfying to you and why?

2. Do you have any hobbies, special interests, talents that you would like to share or feel have been an integral part of your growth?

Personal:

1. How would your best friend describe you? _____

2. What is the most difficult situation you have had to face or obstacle you have had to overcome? _____

3. Has there been any person who has had a significant impact on your life and how so?

4. List your most distinguishing or admirable qualities and explain each in a few sentences. _____

5. Describe your most intellectually stimulating experience: course, project, film, book, etc. How has it changed your perception of the world and/or effected your personal development? _____

College:

1. Considering your potential major or career choice, what are your short-term college goals? What are your long-term career goals? _____

2. In what ways are you looking forward to contributing to your college community? Is there any activity you are looking forward to participating in at college?

3. Please indicate a tentative list of colleges that you are considering: _____

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If you plan on participating on an athletic team during your senior year, please give a copy of this sheet to the Athletic Office.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN “BRAG SHEET”
FOR COLLEGE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Name of Student _____

Name of Person Completing Form _____

- 1. What do you consider to be your teen’s most outstanding personality characteristics? If you had to describe your son/daughter in five adjectives, what would they be? _____

- 2. Identify ONE special trait or characteristic and explain how you have seen it develop THROUGHOUT YOUR CHILD’S LIFETIME. _____

- 3. Describe any special talent or skill that your child possesses. _____

- 4. In what areas has your child shown the most development or growth during his/her HIGH SCHOOL YEARS? _____

5. Where do you see your child in five years? In ten years? _____

6. What do you consider to be your child's greatest accomplishment? _____

7. How does your child deal with personal weaknesses, challenges, or disappointments?_

8. Explain any unusual circumstances or personal experiences that have affected your child's educational or social growth. _____

Thank you for the time and thoughtfulness you have dedicated to this questionnaire.

Procedures to release transcripts

Every application requires a high school transcript (a record of all your final grades as well as test scores, GPA, and class rank.) It does not include teacher recommendations.

Please complete the following steps when requesting a transcript:

1. Complete the "Transcript Authorization" available in the Counseling office. If you are under 18, one of your parents will also have to sign that form.
2. Submit your transcript authorization to the Counseling Department. The first three transcripts are free with each additional costing \$2.00 each. Postage will be paid by the school district.
3. If you do not submit your application online attach it to the transcript authorization form.

Transcript requests are processed in the order they are received.

The Marple Newtown High School Counseling Department cannot guarantee to meet the college application deadline if transcript requests are not received in this office at least 10 days in advance of that deadline.

Remember to sign your application!

To obtain a teacher recommendation

1. Pick up a blue teacher recommendation form in the Counseling Office.
2. Complete the blue form according to the directions printed at the bottom of the sheet and give to the teacher from whom you are requesting a letter of recommendation.
3. Remember: All teacher letters of recommendation are between you and the teacher. They do not go through the Counseling Office.

To obtain a counselor recommendation

1. Complete your summer packet and return to your counselor. Without this packet, it will be very difficult for your counselor to write an informative, supportive and insightful letter of recommendation.
2. Be sure to indicate that you want a counselor recommendation on your transcript request form.

