

Monroe High School
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August 2018

Parent Brief

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to a new school year! This parent brief is designed to provide helpful information that can help you support your student as they navigate the year.

Enclosed is a separate letter for the students that addresses some concerns about scheduling, including our shift to a block schedule and the addition of Achieve Time. These considerable changes can create stress, and it's very understandable to have questions. Hopefully the information in the Student Link will reassure you and your child that we will be spending considerable time during the first two weeks of school ensuring that students feel equipped to navigate these changes.

While the students had several TFT lessons last winter and spring to help them prepare for this adjustment, those conceptual explanations become concrete questions when the change is at the door. That's expected. As we make this adjustment, we would ask for your assistance in helping the students frame their concerns and frustrations as productively as possible so they can get the most out this opportunity. The staff has generated an extensive list of exciting Achieve Time offerings that we think will excite and challenge the students. I look forward to seeing teachers and students work together to mesh interests with curriculum in new ways.

If you'd like more information on Achieve Time, please refer to the March/April Parent Link at the bottom of the resources listed under *Parent Links on the MHS webpage*. You can also feel free to email me.

Beyond these resources, there are some resources you can find on the flip side of this page. We will have a Block Schedule/Achieve Time session at Parent-Teacher conferences to provide information to students and parents as to how to maximize the new schedule. Also, the Student Service Department has a Parent College night at the same time; this event will include representatives from various colleges who can help answer your questions .

Thank you for partnering with us in these quests!

Go Trojans!

Sandy Kreps

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 9/5 School starts
- 9/19: Half Day of School (10:30 am dismissal)
- 9/27 Trojan Pride Day

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 10/1–2/5: Homecoming Week
- 10/6 Homecoming Dance @ 7:00 to 10:00 pm
- 10/10: PSAT Testing 9th, 10th and 11th grades
- 10/10 ASVAB and College Ready activities 12th grade
- 10/18: Parent/Teacher Conferences and Parent College Night 4-7 pm
- 10/19: Picture Retake Day (am_)
- 10/31: Half Day of School (10:30 am dismissal)

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 11/1: County-Wide In-service Day—No School for Students
- 11/21: Half Day for Students (10:30 am dismissal)
- 11/22-11/23: Thanksgiving Vacation
- 12/21 Half Day of School (10:30 am dismissal) Break 12/22–1/2

Important future dates

- 4/1-5: Spring break
- 5/18 :Prom
- 5/31: Graduation

Vision for the PSAT and SAT

MHS is building a PSAT self-assessment culture focused on learning. This will help the students perceive this assessment as a measure of their learning, and not just a TEST! It takes time to cultivate this kind of mindset, but we know it's worth it. The goal is simple: we want students to view assessments as measures and guides to learning, not the end games themselves. The Fall PSAT will serve as a pre-assessment of the student's learning for the year, and the Spring PSAT will serve as a post-assessment of the student's learning for the year. Let's work together to develop a mindset that the PSAT is not a final exam or test but a measure of learning that we (teachers, students, families, and counselors) can use to make informed decisions and tailor instruction.

STUDENT AND PARENT CAREER AND COLLEGE READY RESOURCES

The 12th, 11th and 10th graders all have accounts with College Board, so they can use the Khan Academy test prep features free of charge. If your student has not set up their account, their College Board student number will be their starting point for doing so. In case students have forgotten their number, the MPS technology department is working on the account number being visible in PowerSchool for each student. Please be on the look out for this added feature for 2018-1019.

Please have your child set up this account as soon as possible. Their TFT teacher can provide guidance during the month of September in the event that your student has not activated their account, though it isn't a difficult process. After the 9th graders take the PSAT this fall, they will also be able to set up an account with College Board and Khan Academy. The College Board, Khan Academy, MHS, and student and family partnership is a wonderful collaboration.

SAT Test Prep

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>

Practicing for the New SAT

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/new-sat>

Parent Action Plan for 9th Grade:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents/parent-action-plan-9th-grade>

PSAT 9th Grade Student Flyer:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-8-9-benefits-flyer-students.pdf>

Parent Action Plan for 10th Grade:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents/parent-action-plan-10th-grade>

PSAT/NMSQT 10 – 11th Grade Practice Test Answers:

https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/psat_nmsqt_practice_test_1_answers.pdf

Parent Action Plan for 11th Grade:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents/parent-action-plan-11th-grade>

Parent Action Plan for 12th Grade:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents/parent-action-plan-12th-grade>

The New SAT and College Admissions:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/redesigned-sat-and-college-admission.pdf>