

September/October 2015



Welcome Back Everyone!



Back : Mrs. Becker, Mr. Johnston, Mrs. Rullo, Dr. Ambrose Front : Mrs. Leja, Mrs. Saba, Mrs. Schneider

The High School Counseling Department would like to extend an official "WELCOME" to you, the Class of 2019!

You are about to embark upon an exciting and fruitful journey—the journey through high school.

Many opportunities are available to you, many potential challenges await you, and many, many choices and decisions will determine your success in high school and beyond!

The Counseling Office is located in Suite F306. You will meet with your counselor repeatedly over the next four years. We look forward to seeing you in the Counseling Office very soon!

Your High School Counselors

Mt. Lebanon High School Guidance Bulletin

Topics in this issue:

- > College Visits & Fairs
- > Redesigned PSAT/
NMSQT Tests
- > Fall Parenting Series
- > Twitter/Blog
- > Scholarships

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Upcoming College Fairs



- ♦ Keystone Oaks High School College Fair—September 15, 2015
- ♦ [Christian College Fair @ Orchard Hill Church—September 19, 2015](#)
- ♦ [North Pittsburgh College Fair—October 5, 2015 @ LaRoche College](#)
 - ♦ [Peters Township College Fair—October 6, 2015](#)
 - ♦ [Duquesne College Fair—October 11, 2015](#)

College Visits Begin This Week!

Between now and November representatives from over 100 colleges and universities will visit our school. All 11th and 12th grade students have an opportunity to talk in small groups with the visiting representatives. Since these conferences are time-consuming students should be selective in choosing which visits to attend. Military representatives also visit frequently and are available through individual requests.

Parents and students should view the list of visiting colleges in Naviance under the Colleges tab. When students add colleges of interest and/or colleges they are applying to, Naviance will automatically send an email if this college has scheduled a visit. **It is very important that students check their student email and login to Naviance on a regular basis during the school year to keep abreast of upcoming events and deadlines.** College visit information will also be available on the TV screens in the cafeteria and on the morning announcements.

As a reminder, the following are the Student Responsibilities for attending college meetings:

Students must sign in on iPad when attending a college meeting. This verifies your attendance at the college meeting.

Students must secure the approval of the teacher whose class will be missed prior to the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, students should read about the particular college in Naviance to gather facts and information about the school and SIGN UP in Naviance if they plan to attend.

Students should have some questions in mind to ask the representative.

It is the student's responsibility to make up class work missed as a result of attendance at college meetings.

College meetings are to be taken seriously and are an excellent opportunity to determine if the college may be a good fit for you!



College Board Recommendations from the Counseling Office

The Counseling Department recommends that all students consider taking the ACT at least once during their Junior year. In general, we agree with the UNC's recommendations: University of North Carolina "News and Updates for School Counselors" April 1, 2015. "As you know, the redesigned PSAT and SAT will be offered for the first time in October 2015 and March 2016 respectively. In anticipation of this change, many students, parents, and counselors have asked our advice regarding which version of the test students should take. Students who will be juniors during the 2015-16 academic year should take the new PSAT in October 2015 and the new SAT in March 2016. The College Board will provide a concordance table to assist colleges in comparing the "old" and "new" scores."

If you have questions about College Admissions Testing, please contact your school counselor. Click [here](#) to see a powerpoint presentation on College Admissions Testing

The new PSAT will be given on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. All 10th and 11th graders will take the test during the school day. There are no student fees or need to pre-register. The school district will be providing the test for each 10th and 11th grader. Watch for more information on this from Mr. McFeeley's office in the near future.

The **current SAT** will be administered in October, November, December and for the final time in January 2016.

The redesigned SAT will be administered starting March 2016.

Class of 2017 can take the current SAT through January 2016 and/or the redesigned SAT beginning March 2016.

Class of 2018 and beyond will only take the redesigned SAT.

Practice materials for the redesigned SAT are now live on KhanAcademy.org, making free, world-class, personalized online practice available for all students.

THE NEXT SAT TEST @ Mt. Lebanon High School is October 3, 2015.
Register at the [College Board](#) website.

ACT Test on September 12, 2015. (Not at MTL)

Mt. Lebanon is **not** a testing site for the ACT test. However, Mt. Lebanon students wishing to take this test are encouraged to go to authorized test sites nearby.

It is recommended for students to take this test in addition to the SAT. Please see your school counselor for information about the test.

MTLHS Code: 393730

To register for an ACT test please click [here](#) or go to: www.actstudent.org

For test dates and registration deadlines click [here](#).

For more information on the ACT test please click [here](#).

JOB BOARD



Are you looking for an after school job? We might be able to help you!

Local businesses and residents frequently send us information on job opportunities for students.

Check out the Job Board located in our hallway across from the Nurse's office!

We do not endorse any jobs. Always do your due diligence before accepting any position.

I Need Help!

Help is available in our Study Center, Math Lab and Writing Center. Just pop in and ask:

The Study Center in Room C403 is open Period 1-7 Monday-Friday & Every lunch period. Closed Period 8

Mrs. Trumbull in our [Math Lab](#) provides tutorial, remedial and enrichment services for students in Room B616.

Mrs. Miller is in our Writing Lab in Room B521. The Lab is open:

Period 1-8 Monday-Friday

Before School Monday—Friday 7:15AM—8AM and

After school Monday—Thursday 3:00—3:30 PM!



Junior (IGP) Meetings

Individualized Guidance Plan (IGP) conferences have been traditionally well received by parents and students. Recent feedback indicated a desire to implement the 11th grade conferences earlier in the school year. In response to this feedback, 11th grade conferences will now take place beginning Tuesday, October 13, 2015 through Friday, November 20, 2015 **Please call the counseling office before Friday, September 25, 2015 at 412.344.2062 or 412.344.2053 to schedule an appointment.** We encourage you to participate in this important conference!

Some of the items that will be discussed include:

- Initializing plans for the 2016-2017 schedule
- Reviewing credit status toward graduation
- Sharing current QPA and other official transcript information
- Discussing and planning timelines for college entrance exams
- Discussing career and post secondary educational interests and goals
- Reviewing the Naviance career and college search software tool

Thinking About College?

For Seniors, college may be right around the corner. It's not too early to get yourself acquainted with some of things you'll need to sail through the process a little more smoothly.

The [Federal Student Aid](#) website has FAQs on the FSA ID and a link to create your ID in order to complete the FAFSA Application.

You might want to read [this article](#) before you go to a College Fair to help you navigate the fair most efficiently.

The Obama administration recently released a redesigned online tool with college-specific information about student costs, loans and potential earning power. [The College Scorecard](#) provides a snapshot of what former students at each school might earn, how much debt they leave with and what percentage can repay their loans. Students can conduct searches based on location, size, name of school, programs and degrees, etc. and gain information on costs, financial aid & debt, retention rate and earnings after graduation. An additional resource for evaluating college affordability and productivity is available through [The Center for College Affordability and Productivity](#). Both of these websites share a great deal of data on costs of a post-secondary education. You will also find a variety of college rankings like American's Best Colleges (Forbes) to Money Magazine's College Rankings on the CCAP website.

Senior Meetings

Counselors met with seniors the second week of school to discuss the college application process. This meeting included how to use the common application to submit applications to member colleges, how to use Naviance to request transcripts and letters of recommendation, test scores from College Board and ACT, and other important details.



Many resources including video tutorial are available to you on the [Guidance/Naviance webpage](#).

Yale Information Session - September 28, 2015



Our school community is invited to attend an upcoming Yale Information Session. Kebra Sedam, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, will discuss academic programs, residential colleges and campus life, admissions, and financial aid. [Register online](#).

Monday, September 28, 2015 @ 7PM
Shady Side Academy
423 Fox Chapel Road

Parenting Series

Tweet, Tweet! Blog, Blog!

2015 Free Fall Parenting Series



You can now follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!

Outreach
Teen & Family Services, Inc.

Mt. Lebanon Office
666 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1913
Phone: 412-561-5405

Get a head start on Scholarship applications!

Login to your [Naviance account](#) and explore national and other scholarships that are available for consideration. Some may have applications ready for your completion. This year, scholarships that are open to the public will be posted as they become known to us. Check back regularly to see what is new.

As in the past, **Local Scholarships (those available to Mt. Lebanon Students only)** will be published in December. More information will follow prior to their release.



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