

CCO.MKA

Four-Year College Planning Calendar

We hope that you will make the most of your time at the Upper School by taking advantage of all that MKA and the greater community have to offer. As you navigate the next few years, consult this calendar for guidance on how to set appropriate goals while maintaining a healthy balance and perspective.

Freshman Year

STUDENTS

- Make academic responsibilities your top priority.
- Take advantage of opportunities to explore and develop your interests. Don't be afraid to try something new. Fill your time with a few meaningful activities in which you can really see your potential for growth.
- In February, join the CCO and a college admissions representative for an evening presentation about making the most of the high school years.
- Utilize all of the resources available to you at MKA. Learning to advocate for yourself now will help you become a more successful high school *and* college student.
- If you are interested in playing college athletics, attend the Athletic Recruiting evening and, if appropriate, meet with the CCO Athletic Liaison.
- Consider taking the SAT Subject Tests in June in Math and/or Biology, if you are recommended to do so by your teachers.
- Now is the time to reflect on your first year of high school and set academic and extracurricular goals for the coming year.

PARENTS

- Help your child make a smooth transition to high school. Encourage him/her to connect with the community by getting involved in Upper School student life.
- Consider attending the College Financial Aid Night in the fall to which all MKA Upper School parents are invited.
- In February, join the CCO and a college admissions representative for an evening presentation about making the most of the high school years.
- Learn about the college search and application process from the parent perspective. Come to the Parent-to-Parent event in early March, sponsored by the CCO/PAMKA Committee.
- If your child hopes to pursue college athletics, gain insight into what it takes to play at the next level at the Athletic Recruiting evening.
- In consultation with your child's teachers, help him/her determine whether to take SAT Subject Tests. If so, register for these exams at the College Board website (www.collegeboard.org) by the appropriate deadline.

Explore the College Board website at www.collegeboard.org for testing dates and registration information.



Sophomore Year

STUDENTS

- Continue to make academic responsibilities your top priority.
- Sit for the PSAT and the practice ACT in the fall.
- As you explore your interests, begin to focus on those you find most meaningful. Increase the depth of your involvement and seek out opportunities to take on greater responsibility.
- During the winter months, consider how you will spend the summer before your junior year. Plan to stay busy whether you choose to work, volunteer, attend an academic program, or pursue your athletic/artistic/extracurricular interests.
- If you are interested in playing college athletics, attend the Athletic Recruiting evening and, if appropriate, meet with the CCO Athletic Liaison.
- Join the CCO and a panel of college admissions representatives in the spring for an evening presentation and a Mock Admissions Case Study.
- Consider taking the SAT Subject Tests in June in Math, Chemistry, and/or World History if you are recommended to do so by your teachers.
- Reflect on your academic performance to date. When thinking about your schedule for junior year, carefully consider your teachers' recommendations and select courses that will appropriately challenge you in the classroom.

PARENTS

- Help your child get off to a good start in sophomore year. Encourage him/her to continue to work hard in the classroom and to be involved in the community.
- Consider attending the College Financial Aid Night in the fall to which all MKA Upper School parents are invited.
- Brainstorm with your child about his/her summer plans. Assist with researching opportunities for employment, volunteer work, academic programs, and pursuit of athletic/artistic/extracurricular interests.
- Learn about the college search and application process from the parent perspective. Come to the Parent-to-Parent event in early March, sponsored by the CCO/PAMKA Committee.
- If your child hopes to pursue college athletics, gain insight into what it takes to play at the next level at the Athletic Recruiting evening.
- Join the CCO and a panel of college admissions representatives in the spring for an evening presentation and a Mock Admissions Case Study.
- In consultation with your child's teachers, help him/her determine whether to take SAT Subject Tests. If so, register for these exams at the College Board website (www.collegeboard.org) by the appropriate deadline.

Helpful Resources

Naviance Family Connection website - *For college data specific to MKA, any community member can enter as a guest.*
<https://connection.naviance.com/fc/signin.php?hsid=mka>

The College Board website - *Register for SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests, view scores, and send scores.*
www.collegeboard.org

The ACT website - *Register for ACT Tests, view scores, and send scores.*
www.actstudent.org

Junior Year

STUDENTS

- Stay on top of your coursework.
- Select a manageable extracurricular program and give your best effort to a few things rather than do many things half-heartedly.
- Sit for the PSAT and the practice ACT in the fall; review your results to determine relative strengths and weaknesses.
- Register in Naviance using the code provided by the CCO in December. Thoughtfully complete the student questionnaire.
- Attend the CCO/PAMKA College Kick-off event in January.
- If you plan to take the SAT, register for the March, May or June test.
- If you plan to take the ACT, register for the February, April or June test.
- Start to meet with your CCO counselor and make a plan for the summer with regard to your college process.
- Frequently consult the CCO Spring Checklist and accomplish tasks in a timely fashion.
- If your schedule allows, visit some colleges during March break and/or throughout the spring.
- Meet with the CCO Arts and/or Athletic Liaison, if appropriate.
- Take SAT Subject tests in June as your counselor and teachers suggest.
- Reflect on your junior year performance in the classroom. When selecting courses for senior year, carefully consider your teacher's recommendations and consult with your college counselor.
- Attend the CCO/PAMKA Mock Interview Workshop in May.
- As indicated on your CCO Summer Checklist, work on your Common Application, including the essay.

PARENTS

- Help your son or daughter adjust to the increased workload. Many of them will now be doing college-level work for the first time.
- Consider attending the College Financial Aid Night in the fall to which all MKA Upper School parents are invited.
- Review PSAT and practice ACT results carefully. Help your child understand what types of questions and topics need more attention.
- Attend the CCO Junior Parent Coffees in December and February to learn more about the college search process.
- Register in Naviance using the code provided by the CCO in December and thoughtfully complete the parent questionnaire.
- Attend the CCO/PAMKA College Kick-off event in January.
- Establish a testing calendar for the rest of the academic year in consultation with your child, a CCO counselor, and faculty members.
- Plan a few college visits during spring break if your schedule permits. Visit any college; just get on campus and begin the process.
- Help your son or daughter plan his or her junior summer. Popular options include internships, course work, jobs, volunteer service, and some R & R.
- Meet with your child's college counselor in the spring to discuss the college list, summer plans, testing, and the application process.
- Encourage your child to work on important college process tasks, including the Common Application and essay, as indicated on the CCO Summer Checklist.

You can find the Common Application online at www.commonapp.org

Senior Year

STUDENTS

- Hit the ground running! See your counselor early and often.
- Consult the CCO Senior Year Checklist and do everything on time and as well as you possibly can. Remember that college admission deadlines are non-negotiable.
- Make trips to a few more colleges, but not at the expense of your grades. Each fall more than 130 college admission representatives visit MKA to meet with seniors. To attend these sessions obtain permission from your teachers and sign up in Naviance.
- If you are a recruited athlete, check in frequently with the CCO Athletic Liaison, and register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, if necessary.
- If you plan to submit an arts supplement, continue to meet with the CCO Arts Liason.
- Complete SAT and/or ACT testing in the fall. (December is a back-up date if necessary).
- Be aware of all application requirements and deadlines, and submit materials in a timely fashion.
- Arrange to have your test scores sent to colleges directly from the testing agency. Allow at least three to four weeks for processing materials.
- Be sensitive to your classmates as college admission decisions arrive. Your likely school may be someone else's first choice.
- Immediately inform your CCO counselor of all admission decisions and, if appropriate, discuss strategies for responding to deferrals and/or waitlist opportunities.
- Thoughtfully consider your college options, attend admitted student events, and make your final college choice. Submit a deposit to one school by May 1st to confirm your intention to enroll.

PARENTS

- Provide your son or daughter with an extra bit of support and encouragement. Applying to college is time-consuming and can be stressful.
- Help your child keep track of SAT/ACT testing calendars, college visits, applications, and important dates and deadlines.
- In early fall, attend the CCO Senior Parent Coffee for information pertaining to the application process.
- Attend the College Financial Aid Night in the fall. File the FAFSA, and if required, the CSS Profile, in order to apply for financial aid.
- In consultation with his/her counselor, assist your child in creating a balanced final college list.
- Remind your child to inform his/her counselor of all admission decisions immediately and, if appropriate, to discuss strategies for responding to deferrals and/or waitlist opportunities.
- Support your child's thoughtful consideration of all college options and submit a deposit by May 1st to only one college.

A list of colleges and universities that do not require traditional standardized test scores for admission is available at www.fairtest.org

Financial Aid deadlines are just as important as admission deadlines! You can obtain information on the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov/ and the CSS Profile at profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp

