

November 2019

SMOKE SIGNALS

Martin High School PTSA Newsletter



Welcome to Warrior Country!

PTSA Student Recognition Awards 1st Six Weeks 2019-20

Each six weeks PTSA selects students nominated by the faculty and staff that have shown these characteristics:

DEDICATION~COOPERATION~MORAL CHARACTER~
POSITIVE ATTITUDE~LEADERSHIP~CITIZENSHIP~
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY~STUDENT GROWTH

We are proud of these students and their accomplishments!

Senior ~~ Brian C., Sydney G., Marshall D., Patrick W., Jazmyne E.,
Diavian S., Isabell B. and Haley M.

Junior ~~ Grace L.

Sophomore ~~ Yazmine R. and Camille B.

Freshman ~~ Trent A. and Thomas S.

Thank you MHS faculty and staff for all your nominations!



Counselors' Corner

Counselor Assignments

A-Brov.....	David Pyatt
Brow-Dea.....	Amy Benson
Deb-Grav.....	Jana Lewis
Graw-John.....	Suzanne Bandy
Marv-Orr.....	Connie David
Ort-Roh.....	Karen Peters
Roj-Toh.....	Susan Kingen
Toc-Z.....	Jai Davis
STEM A-L.....	Sara Stringer
STEM M-Z.....	Stephanie Vreeland
AVID.....	Edwina Thompson

FRESHMEN...THIS IS FOR YOU

During November and December counselors will meet you and your parents for your PGP—Personal Graduation Plan—meeting. During your PGP, you will select your endorsement and choose your classes for next year.

You are already building your high school resume. Every class and grade goes on your transcript with your class rank, GPA, test scores, and any performance acknowledgements you have earned.

Start thinking about college now

As a 9th grader, you can:

- Visit college campuses.
- Go online and research schools you're interested in attending. Note their tuition, average SAT/ACT scores, average GPA, and requirements for automatic admission.
- Challenge yourself with tough classes like honors/AP.
- Choose electives that fall into your endorsement area, as well as electives to help you learn about your interests.
- Start a folder to keep documentation regarding:
 - o Awards
 - o Certificates
 - o Job shadowing/internship experiences
 - o Volunteer work
 - o Any other special awards that will help you stand out on a college application.

SENIORS, SENIORS, SENIORS!!

Senior Individual Guidance: Counselors have been very busy meeting individually with each senior to discuss graduation requirements and post-secondary plans, including financial aid, scholarships, SAT/ACT, college applications, transcripts, and career goals. The following is a checklist to help you organize your senior year:

ACTION PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

FALL

Pulling Your Applications Together

- Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10. Get an application and financial aid info. from each. Visit as many as possible.
- Make a master schedule and note: test dates, fees, and deadlines; college application due dates; required financial aid applications and their deadlines; recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials.
- Ask for recommendations. Fill out a BRAG SHEET or resume, and provide to each person, along with a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Write application essays and ask teachers, parents, and friends to read first drafts.

***Applying Early Action or Early Decision?

For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early **NOVEMBER**. Send your SAT scores at collegeboard.com

WINTER

Application Details

- Most regular applications are due between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges.
- Order official transcripts from Mrs. Broker in the counseling office for \$3.00 per copy.
- Contact colleges to make sure they've received all application materials.

FINANCIAL AID

Apply Early. Apply Right.

- Submit your FAFSA *as soon after as possible* at fafsa.ed.gov.
- Men 18 or older must register for Selective Service before receiving any assistance.
- Many priority financial aid deadlines are in February. Apply on time and keep copies of everything you send.

Did you know?

November is National Gratitude Month
Everything in our lives has the ability to improve when we are grateful. Research has shown that gratitude can enhance our moods, decrease stress and drastically improve our overall level of health and wellbeing. On average, grateful people tend to have fewer stress-related illnesses and experience less depression and lowered blood pressure, they are more physically fit, they are happier, have a higher income, more satisfying personal and professional relationships and will be better liked. Grateful kids are even more likely to get A's in school. — NationalCalendarDay.com

Improve your mental health by downloading and using the free app **Gratitude**, a free digital journal.

Looking for scholarships?

bit.ly/MHS-scholarships