

2017 Summer Schedule for College Counseling Office

Please call ahead or e-mail to schedule a time to meet with your counselor.

Mrs. O'Brien: Ext. 136; jobrien@merion-mercy.com

Mrs. Yerger: Ext. 114; tyerger@merion-mercy.com

JUNE

Mon. 6/12	Mrs. Yerger
Tues. 6/13	Mrs. Yerger
Wed. 6/14	Mrs. Yerger
Thurs. 6/15	Mrs. Yerger
Wed. 6/28	Mrs. O'Brien

JULY

Wed. 7/5	Mrs. O'Brien
Wed. 7/12	Mrs. Yerger
Tues. 7/18 thru Thurs. 7/20	Mrs. O'Brien & Mrs. Yerger, <i>College Application Bootcamp Participants Only</i>
Wed. 7/26	Mrs. O'Brien

AUGUST

Wed. 8/2	Mrs. O'Brien
Weeks of Aug. 7 & 14	Office Closed

Merion Mercy Academy College Application Boot Camp

The program will run for three days - 10AM to 3PM on Tuesday, July 18 and Wednesday, July 19 and 10AM – 1PM on Thursday, July 20. Registration is now closed for the program.

May 2017

Dear Rising Senior,

We wish you a very happy end of the school year and a wonderful summer! Time away from school and classes is very important, of course, we also want you to continue to focus on your goals for the college application process. Fall 2017 will be less stressful and demanding for you if you become proactive now about your college applications! Take some time over the summer to review the notes from your college counseling folder as well as using Naviance to realistically look at your list of perspective colleges.

When you return to MMA in September, it is our expectation that you will have a list of 5-10 schools which you have thoroughly researched, visited, and to which you are interested in applying. Your list should include reach, target, and likely to accept colleges. List these in Naviance under the “colleges I’m applying to” section. To help you in your college search, both Mrs. O’Brien and Mrs. Yerger will be in the office on a limited basis this summer. If you would like to visit the College Counseling office, please call or e-mail in advance so we can arrange to be available to help you. We also welcome your questions via e-mail. We hope you will take advantage of our summer hours to help lessen your concerns as you begin to complete your applications.

Remember, be mindful of advice from well-meaning people—family, friends, neighbors, alumni—who give you advice that is exaggerated or simply not true. If you are unsure what you are being told is accurate or a tall tale, please reach out to your college counselor. The world of college admissions has changed markedly over the past years.

Please note that the College Board is offering an August SAT testing date for the first time. The date is August 26, 2017 with a registration deadline of July 28th. The registration deadline for the September 9, 2017 ACT is August 4, 2017 (www.actstudent.org.) Check both websites for the most up-to-date information.

As a final reminder, students/parents will be able to submit a 2018-2019 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date is a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. Also, the 2018-2019 FAFSA will require families and students to report income and tax information from the “prior prior year”, thus the Class of 2018 will report their 2016 income and tax information when filing the 2018-2019 FAFSA.

We have included our summer schedule. Again, please email us with any questions or if you would like to meet in person during the summer.

Have a relaxing and productive summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jeannie O’Brien
jobrien@merion-mercy.com

Mrs. Theresa Yerger
tyerger@merion-mercy.com

Summer 2017: Ways to Get the Most Out of Your Summer

(and still have some fun!)

- **Continue to investigate and visit colleges**
 - **Think outside the box! Expand your horizons to include colleges that are not on your current list. If you have a particular major in mind, research colleges that offer it on Naviance or Big Future. Don't limit yourself to investigating only the colleges that your friends or family have mentioned.**
 - **Learn more about each school's academics, student life, and financial aid.**
 - **Keep a separate folder in your email for each college you're considering. Keep all information and communication pertaining to that college in the folder.**

- **Improve your standardized test scores**
 - **READ! Read your summer reading assignments, magazines, newspapers, the latest novels. Almost anything you read will help you improve your comprehension and vocabulary skills.**
 - **Buy or borrow an ACT or SAT book of practice tests and concentrate on improving your weaker areas. There are also free online practice sites, such as Khan Academy and number2.com.**

- **Find a job**
 - **If possible, find a job that you enjoy and one that will help you with your long-term career plan, such as working at a camp if your career goal involves working with children.**

- **Find an internship or volunteer**
 - **You may be able to find an unpaid internship with a local company, community organization, or through employers of people you know. Internship experience will look good on a college application, help you gain confidence, and help you discover your strengths and weaknesses.**
 - **Arrange to shadow someone who works in your intended field of study. These experiences will help you to decide whether or not your field of interest really suits your interests and talents. Your summer explorations will also show colleges that you are serious about your chosen major. Even one or two days of shadowing can be valuable.**
 - **Volunteering is a great way to help your community, and the work you do may help you to better identify your own likes and dislikes.**

- **IF YOU DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE COLLEGE APPLICATION BOOTCAMP, START WORKING ON YOUR PORTION OF YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS BY AUGUST, ESPECIALLY THE COMMON APPLICATION (including SUPPLEMENTS) and YOUR ESSAYS.**
 - **The more you can do during the summer, the less you will have to worry about once your senior year begins. You want to avoid at all costs writing a mediocre essay in the fall because you have too much homework and too many other things to do. It's not necessary to actually submit your applications in August; just get a head start on the work involved so you'll have time to revise and proofread before actually clicking that "Submit" button.**
 - **Individual college supplemental essays may not be available until after August 1st, but the main Common App Essay Prompts are already published.**