

MHS NEWS - July 1st, 2016

Upcoming Dates

7/7 - Project Graduation Comedy Night, The Town Club, Sanford

Final Report Cards and 16/17 student class schedules will be sent out this week. Schedules will not have teacher names or freshman team assignments on them as these are “preliminary” schedules and are subject to change over the summer. Lunches, Advisory and Study Halls will be added over the summer. First day of school is September 6th!

As the Class of 2016 graduates, know that 9 of them have experienced homelessness this year. 7 of them are graduating on time, 2 as 5th year students. Two additional seniors plan to complete their requirements by the end of the month. Many others have overcome challenges we may or may not be aware of. Congratulations to all of them! Their determination inside and outside the walls of Massabesic HS is inspiring. Thank you to all who have helped support them on their journey.

The number of Homeless Students has doubled in ten years! More than 1 million U.S. students were homeless in the 2013-14 school year -- twice as many as a decade ago.

Important school immunization update! A new law requiring a Tdap booster shot (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) will be submitted to the Maine legislature next fall and will most likely go into effect during the 2016-17 school year. It is recommended that parents ask their son or daughter's medical provider if a Tdap booster has been given yet, and if not request it. The Tdap will be a requirement for entry into grade 7, and may eventually be needed by older students as well.

Comedy Night Fundraiser - MHS Project Graduation continues its work for the Class of 2017!!! We are hosting a 21+ comedy night on July 7th with Comedian Jay Grove, "The Granite Gun" from neighboring New Hampshire. Heavy appetizers will be served from 6:00 - 8:00 PM and a cash bar will be available all night. Jay will go on at 8:00 PM. For tickets visit the MHS Main Office before 2:00 PM Mon-Fri, The Town Club @ 459-4351 or message this page/event. If you are in town for Old Home Days this summer, start your weekend early and have a night of laughs with us! <https://www.facebook.com/events/226603127732019/>

Guidance Info

Juniors! As you look toward the summer before your senior year, now is the time to think about life after high school. Talk with your parents, guardians, or other important people in your life about what you want to do. Explore your options. For those of you planning to apply to college in the fall, if you haven't already done so, start your college search, visit colleges, and check out the application requirements such that in the fall you are well prepared. Senior year will go by quickly. No matter what your future plans, the summer between junior and senior year is a great time to start (or continue) planning for your future.

Hey Juniors and Families- Important FAFSA (college financial aid) information!

1) **The FAFSA will be available earlier.** All students will be able to file a FAFSA three months earlier than in the past. FAFSAs can be filed as early as October 1, 2016, rather than beginning on January 1, 2017. **The earlier availability of the FAFSA is a permanent change.** October 1 will now be the date on which the FAFSA becomes available each year.

2) **Students (and parents, if applicable) will use earlier income and tax information when filing.** For example, for the 2017-2018 FAFSA, 2015 income will be required. Students and parents will no longer have to estimate income and then go back and update the information once taxes are filed. Most individuals will be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when initially completing the FAFSA.

As a junior, you may already be, or will hopefully soon be, embarking on the journey toward higher education - some type of schooling beyond high school. In order to help afford further schooling, you most likely will want to apply for financial aid which can happen as early as this coming October 1. Filing for Federal financial aid requires that you (and a parent, if applicable) obtain an FSA ID prior to filing. Please

consider applying for an FSA ID over the summer to be ready to file for financial aid when the time comes. Go to <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> to complete the necessary information. You can use the attached Tracking and Tip Sheet created by FAME (the Finance Authority of Maine) to keep track of what you choose for a User ID, password, and challenge questions. It is best to write these down as you will need this information in the future when filing for financial aid and to access any financial-aid-related websites. If you have questions, please call FAME (Finance Authority of Maine), the toll free number is (800) 228-3734.

Athletics Updates

Congrats to coach Bowen, coach Tremblay, coach Fournier, coach Cote and the girls lacrosse team for a successful season! Although they finished as runners up for the State Championship, they should be proud of their accomplishments and the season overall!

Congratulations are in order for our softball coach Kevin Tutt. Kevin was voted by his peers as the Coach of the Year for the Southwestern Maine Activities Association for his efforts with the MHS Girls Softball program. Congratulations Kevin on a job well done!

Thanks for reading our Weekly Memo! Have a GREAT summer!!!! See you in September!!