Junior Class Meeting

Class of 2027



<u>Crucial Information:</u> MHS students receive important information almost daily, so it's essential to stay updated. Ensure your parents receive Marcus High School callouts and emails; they must update their contact information in Skyward at the registrar's office if needed. "Like" MHS on Facebook or follow us on Twitter (@MarcusCounselor) for updates, and check the <u>MHS Counselor's website</u> for additional resources.

<u>Post Graduation Plans</u>: You should already be making decisions regarding what you want to do after graduation. Although you may not choose to go to a four-year school, it is in your best interest to continue your education in some form (i.e. technical school, community college, university, military, or other training). My TX Future is a great resource.

<u>Timeline for Juniors</u>: Use the month-by-month <u>timeline</u> to ensure that you meet all deadlines during your junior and senior year. College Board also offers a <u>College Planning Guide for Juniors</u>. LISD also offers a <u>High School Academic Planning Guide</u>. LISD also offers a <u>high school planning resource</u> that can serve as a one stop for most of your future planning needs.

Texas On-Course: As a state-funded initiative to improve college and career readiness, the mission of <u>Texas On-Course</u> is to equip all Texas students for an educational and professional future that unlocks their potential. Texas OnCourse empowers you to make decisions that will help you succeed after high school.

Resume: If you haven't already, begin building your high school resume now. Your resume will be very helpful when filling out college admission forms and scholarship applications. Here is a <u>guide</u> to get you started.

<u>College Campus Visits</u>: As a junior, you can take up to 2 college visits that won't count as absences. To ensure these visits are excused, bring written documentation from the college to the attendance clerk. Additional college visits may also be excused. Get the most from your college visits!

<u>Colleges Visiting Marcus</u>: We have college representatives visiting Marcus. This is a chance to find out more information about programs and admissions at a variety of schools. Some schools will be setting up a table at lunches. Others may have a small group session. Click <u>here</u> for the lunch visit calendar and small group session registration for more information.

College Fairs:

- 1. Lewisville ISD HBCU College Fair: This event features Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) and is scheduled for *February 20, 2026 at TCHS*. Please stay tuned for additional details.
- 2. MHS/FMHS College Fair: MHS and FMHS partner to host a college fair on *April 9, 2026 at Flower Mound HS*. Please stay tuned for additional details.

Get Organized

websites:

The best thing you can do is get organized with potential colleges when you start the application process. This can ensure that you meet deadlines and save time in the long run. There are many ways to organize the college search and application process. Here is one example.

<u>Test Scores</u>: For all testing information, please reference our <u>MHS Testing Website</u>.

To register, access deadlines, and for additional information for the SAT or ACT, please visit the following

SAT: <u>www.collegeboard.org</u> ACT: <u>my.act.org</u>. Use the **Marcus School Code 444-132** when registering. **ACT During School Day - held on February 24, 2026.** You must register by the January deadline.

<u>Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSI)</u>: This test is required for all public Texas colleges and universities. You may be exempt from the TSI depending on SAT/ACT scores. Check with individual colleges and universities for exemption requirements.

GPA and Class Rank: Colleges may use your weighted GPA and class rank, calculated from core and language courses starting in 9th grade, to help determine admission. Rankings are updated every nine weeks, but senior rank is frozen after the 3rd nine weeks for honor graduate designation. Students can choose to remove their class rank from transcripts at the end of junior year or the beginning of senior year; once removed, it cannot be added back. Note that many colleges will re-rank you if you opt out, so check with your colleges about their policies. If you're in the top 10% of your class, you cannot remove your rank.

<u>Top 10% Graduates</u>: Students who are in the top 10% of their class are guaranteed admission to any Texas public university, except The University of Texas at Austin. UT Austin requires ranking in the top 5% of your class for guaranteed admission. This rule guarantees admission to the university, not admission to your choice of major. YOU STILL MUST APPLY, COMPLETE YOUR ESSAYS, AND MEET ALL DEADLINES.

<u>Automatic Admission</u>: If you meet the class quartile and corresponding test score requirements at other universities, you will be admitted AFTER you have applied and submitted all required information. Check the college websites for automatic admission criteria.

<u>Texas First Early High School Completion Program</u>: This program allows public high school students who demonstrate early readiness for college to graduate early from high school. Click <u>HERE</u> to view more information.

<u>Transcripts</u>: All colleges that you apply to will require you to send an official transcript. Official transcripts must be **sent directly from the MHS registrar's office** to the designated institution. Transcript request(s) can be obtained here, or found online on the Marcus Webpage Quick Links. The first 5 requests are free, after that each transcript is \$5.00. If you apply on Common App, your counselor can submit your official transcript for you. You will still have to use the link to send your final transcript in May/June.

<u>Letters of Recommendation:</u> A school may recommend or require a certain amount of letters of recommendation. You should provide a recommender <u>at least</u> 2 weeks notice and a copy of the <u>Recommendation Brag Sheet</u> to help them write the best letter possible.

<u>FAFSA APPLICATION:</u> Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - The FAFSA is the application most colleges use to determine eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, scholarships, educational loans, and work-study programs. This is an application you will fill out during your Senior year. It is now a **requirement** that all students complete a FAFSA application during their Senior year, or submit an Opt-out form in Skyward. **FAFSA opens in the fall of your Senior year**. You will need to make sure you have a FAFSA account before completing the <u>FAFSA application</u>.

NCAA Eligibility: If you plan to be a college student-athlete or seek an athletic scholarship, you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to receive your NCAA ID. After registering, use the MHS Transcript Request form to have an official copy sent to the NCAA. When making the request online, select NCAA under Educational Institutions and spell out National Collegiate Athletic Association. Note: LLC, Night School and/or Credit Recovery courses may not be accepted by the NCAA. See your counselor for more details.

<u>College, Career, & Military Readiness (CCMR):</u> Students are encouraged to meet at least one College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) benchmark by graduation. While not required for graduation, meeting a CCMR indicator is strongly in your best interest.

There are multiple ways to meet this requirement (you only need one). Review the <u>CCMR criteria here</u>. As you do, consider:

- Have you already met an indicator?
- Are your current classes, programs, or test plans putting you on track to meet one by year's end?
- If not, what steps do you need to take?

Your school counselor is available to help you create a plan based on your situation.

<u>Dual Credit Courses</u>: NCTC and Lewisville ISD offer several classes in which you can earn both high school and college credit at the same time. Classes are held on the Marcus campus, online, and on the NCTC Campus. Dual credit classes count in your GPA. For more information see your counselor or Dual Credit Liaison, Neena Johnson. You can also visit our <u>Dual Credit website</u> with more information and a list of courses available.

<u>Virtual Learning Academy</u>: Online courses are offered by LISD, including electives, PE, Art, and many core classes. Classes can be taken during the summer or during the school year. The fee for these classes vary. See your counselor for details, or visit the <u>VLA website</u>.

<u>Night School</u>: These classes are offered at the Lewisville Learning Center. Classes are free and include many core classes and electives. <u>Night School</u> can be used to catch up on credits or for acceleration. See your counselor for more details.