



# Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School

## Principal: Dr. Adam J. Danser

### MJHS COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

We  Our  
Students



SCHOOL  
**COUNSELING**  
MAYNARD JACKSON

Colendly  
NEED AN  
APPOINTMENT?

 <b>MR. ANTHONY DE COSTA</b> LAST NAMES: A-DAU ANTHONY.DECOSTA1@ATLANTA.K12.GA.US	 DECOSTA
 <b>MS. SAKARI BALAM</b> LAST NAMES: DAV-HEN SAKARI.BALAM@ATLANTA.K12.GA.US	 BALAM
 <b>MS. KRISTIN GRESHAM</b> LAST NAMES: HEO-MID KRISTIN.GRESHAM@ATLANTA.K12.GA.US	 GRESHAM
 <b>MS. KEELY HARRIS</b> LAST NAMES: MIE-SIL KEELY.HARRIS@ATLANTA.K12.GA.US	 HARRIS
 <b>DR. LOLA AZUANA</b> LAST NAMES: SIM-Z LAZUANA@ATLANTA.K12.GA.US	 AZUANA

MJHS School Counseling Department is a team of diverse and knowledgeable counselors who have their unique perspectives and talents they bring to our school community! We are all enthusiastic about and equally invested in supporting our students and their families. Our newsletters will provide exciting information about what is happening in the counseling department as well as important information about upcoming events! As members of the School Counseling Department, we want to emphasize that your student's mental health is of utmost importance to us. We understand that navigating the challenges of school, life, and personal growth can be overwhelming at times. It is okay to struggle, and it is okay to seek help when you need it. We want to be here for our students, not just as academic advisors, but as a source of support for their emotional well-being. We understand that everyone faces unique challenges, and no concern is too small or too big to discuss.

## DESTINATION GRADUATION



MAYNARD JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

SCHEDULING BLITZ

**CO2026: JANUARY 22-25, 2024**

**CO2027: FEBRUARY 5-14, 2024**

This year, the MJHS Counseling Team will hold **Destination: Graduation** during the week of January 22nd to begin the course selection process for the 2024-2025 school year. Starting on Monday, January 22, 10th grade students will visit the Media Center with their Social Studies class for classroom instruction from the Counselors, which will cover topics such as APS graduation requirements, college planning and match & fit, HOPE requirements, understanding your GPA, and more. This presentation will be shared with families next week.

**Destination: Graduation** will culminate with student Grade Level Meetings. These meetings are a critical part of the sophomore year, where students speak one-on-one with their counselor to discuss their academic path, future plans, and select their classes for the following school year.

Parents wanting to meet with their child's counselor to discuss their 2024-2025 course selections are invited to schedule an appointment

here: [www.calendly.com/mjhs-counseling](https://www.calendly.com/mjhs-counseling) (Link for CO2026 Parents). The link for CO2027 will be posted soon.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Thursday, February 15:** the Counseling Department in collaboration with our Graduation Coaches and College/Career Counselor will host a Technical College Fair during lunch. Technical colleges vary widely in majors, length of programs, cost, and other characteristics, but they have one thing in common: an emphasis on hands-on training for a specific career. We are excited for our students to engage with various admissions representatives from several Georgia technical colleges.

**Thursday, March 14:** second in the Let's Talk Business Series – Mr. Jay Bailey, President & CEO of the Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs, will meet with 50 students to discuss navigating the corporate world, inspire and offer new perspectives on opening a business, and provide invaluable insight on industry trends.

**Thursday, March 28:** the Counseling Department in collaboration with our Graduation Coaches will hold a JOB FAIR that will include representatives from local and national companies who will meet with our students and conduct interviews.

## FAFSA ALERTS



Bookmark the links below for updates and alerts on the FAFSA. Check it periodically. You may find answers to some of your questions here. Or in the least, be aware of what is currently an open issue with the application.

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-updates>

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/fafsa-simplification-information/2024-25-fafsa-issue-alert>

## IMPORTANCE OF CREDIT RECOVERY

**Credit recovery programs** are designed to help students who have failed courses or fallen behind in their studies, catch up and get back on track. These programs provide an avenue for students to make up for lost credits and gain the skills necessary for success in school.

High school graduation research trends state that on-track students are more than three and one-half times more likely to graduate from high school in four years than off-track students. The indicator is a more accurate predictor of graduation than students' previous achievement test scores or their background characteristics.



Please contact your student's counselor if you are unsure about their graduation status.

### APS PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Units Required</u>
9 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup>	6 units (core & electives)
10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup>	12 units (core & electives)
11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup>	18 units (core & electives)
12 <sup>th</sup> to Graduation	15 ½ core/8 ½ elective=24

## GRADUATION COACHES SPOTLIGHT

### WHO ARE THEY?



**Ms. Arlena Edmonds**  
**9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Coach**  
**Email:**  
[ajedmonds@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:ajedmonds@atlanta.k12.ga.us)



**Mr. Xavier Clifton**  
**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Coach**  
**Email:**  
[xavier.clifton@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:xavier.clifton@atlanta.k12.ga.us)

### WHAT DO THEY DO?

- \* The Graduation Coach provides comprehensive mentoring, outreach, and supportive services to students to include implementing activities to improve the number of participating students who obtain a high school diploma, completing applications for, and enrolling in a program of postsecondary education, or secure training while in high school that will lead career readiness.
- \* This position is also responsible for encouraging student enrollment in rigorous and challenging curricula and coursework, to reduce the need for remedial coursework at the postsecondary level, providing information regarding financial aid for postsecondary education to participating students.



- \* **Graduation Coaches are a critical part of the Student Support Department and frequently collaborate with Professional School Counselors on academic planning for students.**



## SUMMER ENRICHMENT



Many summer enrichment programs are available to MJHS students of all grade levels. To learn more about these programs, visit the APS Summer Enrichment page: <http://tinyurl.com/m2d3r65w>

## MINDFULNESS

What is mindfulness: **Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we are doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what is going on around us.**

Mindfulness education — lessons on techniques to calm the mind and body — can reduce the negative effects of stress and increase students' ability to stay engaged, helping them stay on track academically and avoid behavior problems.

**The Counseling Department is conducting mindfulness and meditation group sessions with our students. Your student's mental health matters!**

To learn more about mindfulness:

<https://childmind.org/healthyminds/mindfulness-students-high-school/>



## COLLEGE ATHLETICS



If you are an athlete who is interested in playing college sports, it is important that you communicate this interest with your counselor as soon as possible. Also, make sure to that Ms. Neal ([maneal@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:maneal@atlanta.k12.ga.us)), MJHS Play It Smart Academic Coach, knows as well. Ms. Neal provides academic support for MJHS athletes. The main focus of the Play It Smart Academic Coach is to help athletes become “scholar-athletes” throughout high school, so they graduate and enroll in a post-secondary educational institution being NCAA eligible to play sports and equipped with life skills to make positive decisions leading to career success.

## COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT



**Location: Atlanta, GA**

**Tuition: \$8,478**

**No. of Undergrad Students: 33,000**  
<https://admissions.gsu.edu/>

**Georgia State University (Georgia State, State, or GSU)** is a public research university in Atlanta, Georgia. Founded in 1913, it is one of the University System of Georgia's four research universities. It is also the largest institution of higher education by enrollment based in Georgia and one of the largest in the nation with a student enrollment of around 50,000, including approximately 33,000 undergraduate and graduate students at the main campus downtown. The President of Georgia State University (currently Dr. M. Brian Blake) is the head administrator and is appointed and overseen by the Georgia Board of Regents.

**Georgia State is one of the nation's leading urban research universities and the only one in Georgia. It is internationally recognized as the leader in introducing advanced technology, programs and initiatives that foster student success.**

# EXAM REGISTRATION

Upcoming SAT and ACT dates can be found below. Note the registration deadlines, as well as the deadline for late registration, which includes an additional fee. **If you are on Free or Reduced lunch, please see your College & Career Counselor for an exam fee waiver.**



Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
Mar 9 2024	Feb 23 2024	Feb 27 2024
May 4 2024	Apr 19 2024	Apr 23 2024
Jun 1 2024	May 16 2024	May 21 2024

*Future exam/registration dates can be found on their website.*



Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
Feb 10 2024	Jan 5 2024	Jan 19 2024
Apr 13 2024	Mar 18 2024	Mar 22 2024
Jun 8 2024	May 3 2024	May 17 2024

*Future exam/registration dates can be found on their website.*

# Upcoming Test Dates

## High Schools (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

JANUARY	
January 10 – February 27	ACCESS for ELLs/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
January 16 – 22	Georgia Milestones EOC Tests Mid-Month
FEBRUARY	
February 5 – 9	Georgia Milestones EOC Tests Mid-Month
February 5 – March 8	BASC 3-BESS Window #2
February 6 – March 8	NNAT, Gifted Evaluation Scale (GES) for Gifted Identification (Grade 9-11)
27-Feb	ACT School Day (Grade 11)
27-Feb	Pre-ACT (Grade 9)
MARCH	
March 4 – 8	Georgia Milestones EOC Tests Mid-Month
March 11 – 22	MAP Growth Testing (Grade 9-11)
March 18 – 29	Torrance Test of Creative Thinking (TTCT) for Gifted Identification (Grade 9-11)
March 25 – April 26	Amp Up APS Survey (Grade 9-12)
March 25 – April 23	Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 (GAA 2.0) Administration
27-Mar	SAT School Day (Grade 11)
APRIL	
April 8 – 19	Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) End-of-Pathway Assessments
April 25 – May 17	International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams
April 29 – May 3	Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) End-of-Pathway Assessments Retest
April 29 – May 10	Georgia Milestones EOC Tests
MAY	
May 6 – 17	Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
JUNE	
June 17 – 21	Georgia Milestones EOC Summer Administration

<b><i>SAT Test Day</i></b>	<b><i>ACT Test Day</i></b>
<b><i>March 27, 2024</i></b> <b><i>11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students</i></b>	<b><i>February 27, 2024</i></b> <b><i>9<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Students</i></b>