

## Understanding the Graduate Programs for Success Plan Process



Milton Hershey School students can accrue scholarship funds for post-graduation education expenses. Before the accrued scholarship money can be applied toward a program, students must have an approved postsecondary plan, called a GPS Plan.

College and career counselors and other staff work closely with high school students to help

them build their GPS Plans. The goal is that every student develops a GPS Plan that matches their abilities and interests.

### What are GPS Plan Progress Reports?

In the fall of each year, parents of students who were enrolled at MHS in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade during the previous school year receive a GPS Plan Progress Report for their students. The report contains personalized information about your student's college and career readiness and progress toward their GPS plan. Some highlights of the GPS Plan Progress Report include:

- Grade level GPA
- PSAT or SAT scores
- Continuing Education Scholarship (CES) accrued
- Postsecondary (post-graduation) Goal
- GPS Plan Qualification Process Status (seniors only)
- CTE Pathway certifications
- College and Career Counselor contact information

This information, paired with the GPS Plan Qualification Process summary, which is mailed with GPS Plan Progress Report, will help parents and sponsors determine if their student is on track to achieve their postsecondary goal.

### Who receives the reports?

A copy of the GPS Plan Report is sent to the student, their sponsor, their houseparents or TL staff, and their college and career counselor.

Ninth-grade students and students who are new to MHS are now creating their initial high school academic records. These students and their parents and sponsors will get their first GPS Plan Progress Report in the fall of the students' next school year.



### MHS Family Weekends Are for You

Learn how the college and career counselors work with your student to explore, plan, and prepare for their career path and how you can take a more active part in the process.

#### Fall Family Weekend, Oct. 28-30, 2022

Junior- and senior-focused: Postsecondary plans (GPS Plans), financial aid and continuing education scholarship (CES), and meetings with counselors

#### Winter Family Weekend, March 3-5, 2023

Junior- and senior-focused: The transition to life after MHS, postsecondary planning options, support services provided by Graduate Programs for Success

#### Spring Family Weekend, May 12-14, 2023

Junior-focused: The transition to senior year, CES and financial aid, postsecondary GPS planning

**Questions?** Call the College and Career Readiness Department at 717-520-2812.

# MHS Career Services Helps Students Plan for Post-Graduation



Milton Hershey School Career Services assists students and alumni with the full cycle of finding a job, from finding job opportunities, completing job applications, preparing for an interview, and accepting a job. In addition, Career Services helps students and alumni find and enroll in short-term training programs to prepare them for in-demand jobs. Below are some of the resources available.

## Career Information Sessions with Employers

Students can meet with employers to learn about careers in their organization with an emphasis on careers that require no college degree. Employers explain job responsibilities, salary information, benefits for full-time employees, and opportunities to be promoted.

## Apprenticeship Information Sessions

Students can meet with apprenticeship providers to learn about skilled trades and learning on the job while earning a full-time wage. During an apprenticeship, the employee also attends classes to learn skills related to the trade. Examples of skilled

trade programs include construction, carpentry, heavy equipment operation, welding, machining, HVAC, masonry, and plumbing.

## Military Career Exploration

Students can meet with military recruiters to learn about careers in the military and enlistment options. They also can take the military entrance exam at MHS to determine if they meet the educational requirements for enlistment.

## Online Job Board

Career Services hosts an online job board where employers can recruit MHS students and graduates for jobs. Employers post job openings for students and graduates to review, and students and graduates can apply for these jobs right on the website. The job board also offers tools to help job seekers and an events page where students can sign up to attend employment events.

## What Can I Do with This Major Tool

If a student is thinking about going to college but not sure which major to choose, it can be helpful to know what careers are possible with certain majors. Career Services has an online tool, called What Can I Do with This Major, that gives students and parents or sponsors a chance to review different careers associated with specific majors and types of employers that hire individuals with those majors.

Your student can learn more about these opportunities and resources by asking their college and career counselor.

---

## Milton Hershey School Students Launch Their Careers with a Pre-Apprenticeship Certification in Manufacturing

In August, 12 Milton Hershey School students earned state-recognized pre-apprenticeship certifications in manufacturing. The students learned skills needed to succeed in the field of manufacturing.

The two-week program was taught by instructors from the Manufacturers' Association of South Central Pennsylvania with support from The Hershey Company, and MHS. Topics included blueprint reading and shop math, food safety, and quality control. The program combined classroom and hands-on activities at MHS and other locations.

The program was developed to include skills that are most important for students and young people to know before entering the field of manufacturing. Students who completed the program also earned a certification from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The goal was to provide a realistic understanding of what manufacturing is and what career options are available to the students in the field after graduation. "Allowing students to earn a state-recognized pre-apprenticeship certificate in manufacturing

exposes them to a vast career field," shared Sheila Ciotti, MHS director of college and career readiness and support.

The pre-apprenticeship program will be offered again in summer 2023. If your student is interested in this type of program, ask them to talk to their MHS college and career counselor.







# Grad's Career Sparked by Community Service While a Student at MHS

By Leilanie Torres '22

Vincent Donaghey '15, a registered nurse in the emergency department at UPMC West Shore Hospital, said MHS played a major role in his career selection. He challenged himself academically and took advantage of opportunities to get involved at the school and in the community.

Vincent enrolled in the health sciences career pathway and fell in love with the emergency services aspect of the pathway when he began running with the Hershey Fire Department as a junior fireman. "Without the opportunity to participate in the extracurricular activity of running with the fire department and getting to know the firemen, I never would have thought of entering a field having to do with providing care for patients," Vincent said.

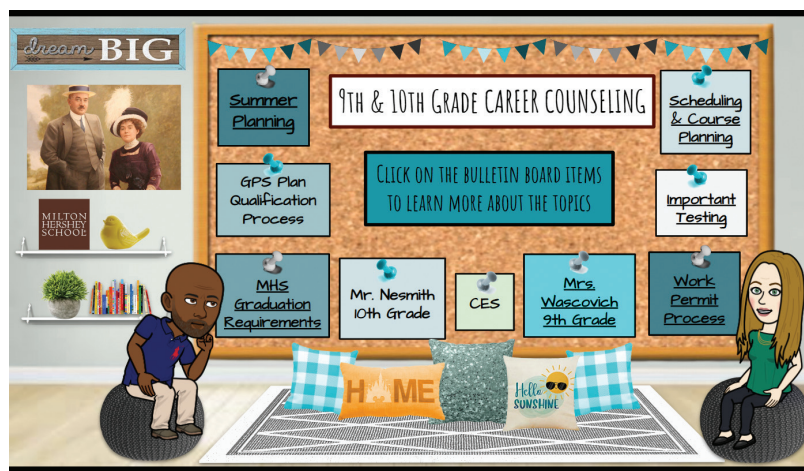
Vincent's journey toward becoming a nurse, however, did not follow a direct path. Initially, after graduating from MHS, he enrolled at Lehigh University to pursue a bioengineering degree. He realized partway through the program, though, that engineering was not for him. He began volunteering with the fire department in the

area and took classes to become an emergency medical technician (EMT). He then worked for Penn State Life Lion for a short time. Eventually, he approached his MHS higher education support specialist about his interest in the nursing program at Harrisburg Area Community College. MHS Graduate Programs for Success staff worked with him to develop a plan. Vincent graduated in 2021 and has been working as a nurse since then.

MHS college and career counselors work with students in high school to help them identify a career field and develop a plan to prepare for their career, but sometimes, through experiences after MHS, graduates, like Vincent, discover a pathway that is a better fit for their personality, life goals, and skills.

"GPS staff are here to help recent graduates manage those types of changes and how they can best use the resources available to them to achieve their goals," said Sheila Ciotti, director of MHS College and Career Readiness. For some graduates, stacking credentials, similar to what Vincent did, is a great approach to prepare for high-demand, well-paying occupations," Sheila said.

To learn more about short-term training programs for high demand jobs, visit [www.mhsalum.org/short-term-credentialing/](http://www.mhsalum.org/short-term-credentialing/).



## 9th and 10th Grade College and Career Counselors Invite Parents/Sponsors to Visit Their Homepage

When your student begins high school, countless questions may come to mind; so, Abbey Wascovich, 9th grade career counselor, and Jeremy Nesmith, 10th grade career counselor, developed an online resource page for parents and sponsors. The online resource resembles a bulletin board with links to information about requirements and programs that will be part of your student's experience.

Scan the QR code below to find information about MHS graduation requirements, scheduling and course planning, important testing, summer planning, the work permit process, and the GPS Plan Qualification Process. There are links in the articles to videos that will allow you to hear directly from a counselor how the topics relate to and influence your student's experience in high school. This resource may help you jumpstart conversations with your student about planning for their future learning and career experiences.

This resource may help you jumpstart conversations with your student about planning for their future learning and career experiences.



# MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL®

P.O. Box 830  
Hershey, PA 17033-0830

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HARRISBURG, PA  
PERMIT NO. 533

## College and Career Counseling Staff

Contact your student's college and career counselor.

### 11th and 12th Grade

**Leigh Farrar-Freeman**

717.520.2910 • farrarfreemanl@mhs-pa.org

**Daniel (Keith) Jones**

717.520.2438 • jonesd@mhs-pa.org

**Rebekah Manney**

717.520.2994 • manneyr@mhs-pa.org

**Matt Speese**

717.520.2039 • speesem@mhs-pa.org

**William Zapata**

717.520.2813 • zapata@mhs-pa.org

### 10th Grade

**Jeremy Nesmith**

717.520.3306 • nesmithj@mhs-pa.org

### 9th Grade

**Abbey Wascovich**

717.520.2439 • wascovicha@mhs-pa.org

**Questions?** Call the College and Career Readiness Department at 717.520.2812.

## CLASS CORNER Important Dates to Remember

### Sponsors of **Seniors**:

**August-November 2022:** Off-campus SAT testing for postsecondary education

**August-December 2022:** Provide proof of health insurance to Mrs. Smyder

**September-December 2022:** College Visits

**Oct. 3, 2022-Feb. 3, 2023:** Complete the 2023-24 FAFSA\* (Financial Aid)

**Oct. 28, 2022:** ASVAB (career assessment tool used by the military)

**February-March 2023:** Submit a copy of your financial aid letter to your career counselor

**March 7, 2023:** ASVAB (career assessment tool used by the military)

**April 21, 2023:** College selection deadline\*

**May 2023:** CES Application, release form and other CES required documents

**June 1, 2023:** GPS Plan Approval Deadline\*

***Note:** If deadlines with an asterisk\* are not met, it is very likely your student's GPS Plan will not be approved for fall 2023.*

### Sponsors of **Juniors**:

Your student should research and discuss with you and their college and career counselor their ideas for a career and postsecondary options – military, world of work, apprenticeships, trade schools, or higher education.

**Oct. 12, 2022:** Juniors will have the opportunity to take the PSAT for postsecondary education; ask your student about their experience.

**Oct. 28, 2022:** Juniors will have the opportunity to take the ASVAB (career assessment tool used by the military).

**March 7, 2023:** Juniors will have the opportunity to take the ASVAB (career assessment tool used by the military).

### Sponsors of **Sophomores**:

**Oct. 12:** 10th graders will have the opportunity to take the PSAT for postsecondary education. Ask your student about their experience with the test.

**March 6, 2023:** ASVAB (career assessment tool used by the military)

### Sponsors of **Freshmen**:

**Oct. 12:** 9th graders will have the opportunity to take the PSAT for postsecondary education. Ask your student about their experience with the test.