

# **9TH AND 10TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT 2025-2026**



**PRESENTED BY  
McQuaid Jesuit  
Counseling Department**

**October 2, 2025**

# **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night**

October 2, 2025 | 6:30 PM

## **Program Outline**

- 1 - Overview of Counseling Office – John Young**
- 2 - The McQuaid Culture – Margaret Gorton**
- 3 - The “9<sup>th</sup> Grade Experience” – Sara Snyder**
- 4 - The “10<sup>th</sup> Grade Experience” – Scott Allan**
- 5 - Early College Planning – John Young**
- 6 - Questions and Answers**

**McQuaid Jesuit  
Counseling Staff**

## 2025-2026

**Mr. John Young, Director of Counseling**

[jyoung@mcquaid.org](mailto:jyoung@mcquaid.org)

585-256-6124

**Mr. Scott Allan, School Counselor**

Grade 9 – Ali - Garsin

Grade 10 – Ahmed - Fusilli

[sallan@mcquaid.org](mailto:sallan@mcquaid.org)

585-256-6123

**Mrs. AnnMarie Galletto, College Advisement Center Coordinator**

[agalletto@mcquaid.org](mailto:agalletto@mcquaid.org)

585-256-6134

**Mr. Jeff Grifa, College Counselor**

[jgrifa@mcquaid.org](mailto:jgrifa@mcquaid.org)

585-256-6120

**Mrs. Margaret Gorton, School Counselor**

Grade 9 – Gauthier - Piehler

Grade 10 – Gazali - Nudo

[mgorton@mcquaid.org](mailto:mgorton@mcquaid.org)

585-256-6178

**Mrs. Amy Sheffer, Registrar/Counseling Office Manager**

[asheffer@mcquaid.org](mailto:asheffer@mcquaid.org)

585-256-6145

**Mrs. Sara Snyder, School Counselor**

Grade 9 – Pipa - Zwetsch

Grade 10 – Omer - Zissis

[ssnyder@mcquaid.org](mailto:ssnyder@mcquaid.org)

585-256-6158

**Mr. Jim Traver, Counselor, Middle School**

[jtraver@mcquaid.org](mailto:jtraver@mcquaid.org)

585-256-6121

## **Early College Planning**

Studies have consistently shown that parents with necessary knowledge and timely information about college planning options and resources can increase their students' success in school, assist in college planning, and increase the likelihood their children will pursue education beyond high school. We also know that students who are exposed to college from very early in their educational career are more likely to view college as a viable option and will, ultimately, be better prepared to find success in the college admissions process.

Listed below are fifteen tips for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade parents to assist in the early college planning process:

### **1 – Make academics a priority**

A student's academic performance in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade weighs heavily in the college admissions process. Get off to a strong start and continue with an upward grade trend. Poor academic performance in the early high school years may cause irreparable damage to your high school transcript.

### **2 – Choose your courses wisely**

The course selections that a student makes in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade are crucial. Students need to take advantage of the rigorous and diverse course offerings that are available at McQuaid Jesuit. Nothing is more important in the college admissions process than a strong high school curriculum. Colleges are interested in the depth and breadth of a student's education. Students need to find an appropriately challenging course load that will stretch them academically and will prepare them well for the challenges that lie ahead in the collegiate world. Course selections that are made in the early high school years may prevent a student from taking advanced courses during the junior and senior years of high school.

### **3 – Get involved in extracurricular activities**

Colleges are interested in accepting students who will enrich their campus community. The best predictor of what a student will be like in college is what he was like in high school. Students who have been actively engaged in their high school community are likely to be actively engaged on a college campus. Note: it is better to be deeply involved in one or two activities that you are passionate about than to put little energy into many activities. Quality over quantity prevails here.

### **4 – Read, read, read**

Reading opens your eyes to the world and stretches your imagination. Read a variety of genres; read newspapers; read classics; read fiction; read non-fiction; read magazines; read anything that interests you, but READ. Reading helps to grow your vocabulary. The SAT and ACT are heavily-biased in favor of students who are well-read.

## **5 – Get to know your school/college counselor**

Your counselor will serve as a wonderful advocate. He or she will assist as you navigate through McQuaid Jesuit. Your counselor will write a college letter of recommendation for you and will nominate you for certain scholarships and programs. The better your counselor knows you, the better he or she will be able to advocate on your behalf.

## **6 – Visit college campuses**

College visits are a great way to expose students to different types of schools (public, private, rural, urban, large, small, technical schools, liberal arts schools, research institutions, etc.) Getting students on college campuses early in their high school careers affords students an opportunity to be more aware of a college environment. One of the great things about living in Rochester is that you can drive an hour in any direction and end up on a wide array of college campuses. It's never too early to get students on campus.

## **7 – Develop study skills**

Establishing productive patterns early in high school will bode well for success at the college level. Use a planner to organize your assignments, test schedule, meetings, games, etc. Time management is one of the most critical skills that a student can develop. Find a dedicated study place that is free of distractions. Find a study time that works best for you. Break your study/homework sessions into manageable segments. Build in a break. Be prepared on a daily basis. Approaching a test that you are well-prepared for is a great feeling.

## **8 – Create a four year plan**

Prepare your curriculum for the next four years. Be familiar with McQuaid Jesuit's course offerings and lay out a plan of action that fulfills your needs. Know when you should take the PSAT, SAT, and ACT. Meet with your school counselor to create a four year plan that will have you well-positioned for the world of college admissions. Remember, colleges want you to challenge yourself by taking a rigorous course schedule. Have a plan for success.

## **9 – Learn how to pay for college**

It's important for parents to become well-versed with the financial aid system. Learn the basics early on so there are no surprises later. Become familiar with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Check out Net Price Calculators on college websites. Go to [www.FAFSA4caster.com](http://www.FAFSA4caster.com) to calculate an Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Attend Financial Aid Night at McQuaid Jesuit.

## **10 – Use high school to learn more about yourself**

While it's important to start thinking about college plans during 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade, no one wants students to go through high school solely focusing on the end-goal of college. This is a critical developmental time for students. They're learning who they are, what they want to do in the future, and thinking about goals that extend far beyond just getting into their top-choice college. Use your time in high school to learn more about yourself and how that feeds into your college plans.

## **11 – Parents: Be involved but let your student drive the process**

A word of advice to parents - - - stay involved, but don't take over. As a parent, it's important to help guide students, make sure they're on track, and help them develop their goals, but don't get in the way of students learning more about their interests and eventual college choices. Parents want the best for their children, so it's not uncommon for parents to push their students toward a path they really don't want to be on because parents think it's in the student's best interest. This is just setting everyone up for disappointment. Be active, be supportive, but let your student be in charge.

## **12 – Begin to take more ownership of your education**

Take the initiative to speak with your teachers. Set your goals, strategize, and execute. Don't be passive about your education. Utilize all resources at your disposal. Seek out the people who can help you attain your goals. Take charge of your education and be your own best advocate.

## **13 – Educate yourself on the landscape of college admissions**

The college admissions process isn't what it was 20 or even 10 years ago. Parents and students should stay informed on college admission trends. Understand application options (Early Decision, Early Action, etc.) Know about test-optional colleges and understand what colleges are looking for and looking at. Information is key when applying to colleges so stay informed.

## **14 – Start to lay a foundation to help prepare for standardized testing**

The PSAT, SAT, and ACT are reading-intensive tests. Long-term preparation is the way to go when getting ready for these tests. Read on a variety of topics, grow your vocabulary, learn grammar rules and take practice tests. Use free online preparation tools.

### **15 – Strike a balance**

Catch your breath and enjoy your early high school years. Enjoy the culture and the spirit here at McQuaid Jesuit. Treat people with respect and appreciate the wonderful opportunity that you have to receive a great education.

## **Factors to Consider When Choosing a College**

It is critically important that you spend time determining what you are looking for from your “ideal”

college. The goal is to devise a list of colleges that would provide the best "fit" for you by offering the educational and social experiences you are seeking. Some students prematurely limit their college options to schools that are familiar, popular, or have high status. Don't feel pressured to find the "perfect" college – there are plenty of schools that can be good fits and make you happy. Here is a list of factors you might want to think about:

***Type of School:*** 2-year or 4-year? Public or private? Religiously affiliated? Single sex or co-educational?

***Selectivity:*** Are you a competitive applicant? What is the average SAT or ACT scores? Is this college a Reach, Good Match, or Safety school?

***Location:*** Urban, suburban, or rural campus? Distance from the nearest large city? How far from home? When considering a college's distance from home, don't forget out-of-state schools. For example, Cleveland, OH is about 270 miles from Rochester and State College, PA (home of Penn State University) is only about 220 miles away. As a comparison, Albany, NY is approximately 215 miles from Rochester.

***Size:*** How big is the student population? What about class size? How big is the campus? Who is teaching classes to undergraduates – professors or teaching assistants?

***Mix of students:*** What kinds of students attend the college, from what parts of the country, and with what types of backgrounds and experiences? Do most students commute home on the weekends or do they stay on campus for social activities?

***Academics:*** Does the college offer programs of study that interest you? Does the college offer a range of academic programs such that you will have alternatives if you change your major? Is the college (or your specific major) nationally accredited?

***Cost:*** What is the cost of attendance (i.e., the total amount it should cost you to go to school, including tuition and fees, room and board, allowances for books and supplies, transportation, and personal and incidental expenses)? What kind of financial aid might you expect to receive? Although price is an important consideration, it should not be the only one – we recommend that you not eliminate a college from consideration too early based solely on the cost of attendance. However, you might investigate some SUNY schools in case the financial aid package from a private college prevents you from enrolling there.

***Extracurricular Activities:*** What do students do when they're not in class? Does the college offer clubs and organizations, intercollegiate or recreational athletics, fraternities or sororities?

***Facilities:*** What is the quality of the residence halls, library, laboratories, student center, computer labs, music and theater halls, and athletic facilities?

## **How College Admission Decisions Are Made**

There are several factors which college admissions officers consider before making a decision on a candidate's application. Although few colleges would give exactly the same weight to all items on this list, most would

agree that the following would be considered in determining whether an applicant would be accepted or rejected.

### **Academic Record**

Your high school record is the best predictor of how well you will do in college. Performance in your courses is probably the single most important criteria in the admissions decision. Your entire high school career, not just your junior and senior years, will be evaluated.

### **Course Selection**

Students who have selected a strong course of study will be in a much better position than a student who has taken a weak load even though the weak load has resulted in a higher overall average. It should be noted that most colleges use only the academic courses in computing your average for acceptance to their school. For example, they are most interested in your English, social studies, math, science, and language courses. To demonstrate your ability to succeed in college, you are encouraged to take the most challenging program you are capable of handling in high school.

### **Standardized Test Scores**

Many colleges require students to take the SAT and/or ACT tests. These tests are viewed as a measure of ability to do college level work. While the SAT has been more well known in past years, the ACT has grown in acceptance and now most colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT. It is wise to take both of these tests. These tests can be taken more than once and most colleges will accept the highest score achieved. Note, however, that test scores are only one factor (and not the most significant) in the admissions process.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

Most colleges will be interested in your extracurricular activities, especially in leadership abilities which you might have developed. The quality of your activities and commitment to ideas and goals, not quantity is important. A student who has clearly made a contribution in some fashion to school or community is a stronger applicant than the uninvolved student. Be sure to include any honors and/or awards received on your activity resume.

### **Recommendations**

Letters of recommendation from counselors, teachers, employers, or other adults will be required at many colleges. In many cases, your counselor will be asked to write a letter of recommendation, so be sure to make him/her aware of any information which should be included.

### **Interview**

A personal interview can provide an opportunity for you to present strengths which might not have been included on your application. Check college catalogs to see if an interview is required or recommended.

### **Level of Interest**

College admissions officers take into consideration the level of interest that you have expressed in their school. You express your interest by visiting campus, attending open houses or college fairs, and by communicating on a regular basis with admissions representatives.

# McQuaid Jesuit High School

1800 South Clinton Ave. Rochester, NY 14618

School Phone: 585-473-1130 School Code: 334 830

Guidance Phone: 585-256-6134

Birth date: 2/15/2004  
 Expected graduation: June 2023  
 Advisor: Mr. J. M. Sarafin  
 Cumulative GPA: 93.881

## Official Transcript

### 2018 - 2019 - 8th Grade

| McQuaid Jesuit High School        |             |               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Course title                      | Final Grade | Total credits |
| Algebra Accelerate 8              | 89          | 1.00          |
| Architectural Design and Drafting | 85          | 0.50          |
| Environmental Earth Science       | 92          | 1.00          |
| Image Edit/Photoshop              | 86          | 0.50          |
| Spanish 1                         | 83          | 1.00          |
|                                   | Total       | 4.00          |
| YR GPA                            | 87.375      |               |

### 2019 - 2020 - 9th Grade

| McQuaid Jesuit High School     |             |               |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Course title                   | Final Grade | Total credits |
| Biology Adv.                   | 90          | 1.00          |
| English 1                      | 94          | 1.00          |
| Geometry                       | 97          | 1.00          |
| Global Studies 1               | 98          | 1.00          |
| Physical Education 1           | S           | 0.50          |
| Spanish 2                      | 97          | 1.00          |
| Studio Art                     | 91          | 1.00          |
| Technology/Engineering Seminar | 97          | 0.50          |
| Theology 1                     | 97          | 1.00          |
|                                | Total       | 8.00          |
| YR GPA                         | 95.480      |               |

### 2020 - 2021 - 10th Grade

| McQuaid Jesuit High School |             |               |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Course title               | Final Grade | Total credits |
| Algebra II/Trig            | 93          | 1.00          |
| AP World History           | 95          | 1.00          |
| Chemistry Adv.             | 92          | 1.00          |
| Drawing & Design           | 93          | 1.00          |
| English 2 Advanced         | 95          | 1.00          |
| Health/PE 2                | 99          | 1.00          |
| Spanish 3                  | 95          | 1.00          |
| Theology 2                 | 100         | 1.00          |
|                            | Total       | 8.00          |
| YR GPA                     | 96.660      |               |

### 2021 - 2022 - 11th Grade

| McQuaid Jesuit High School          |             |               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Course title                        | Final Grade | Total credits |
| AP English Language and Composition | 92          | 1.00          |
| AP Environmental Sci                | 83          | 1.00          |
| AP US History                       | 95          | 1.00          |
| Physical Education 3 & 4            | S           | 0.50          |
| Pre-Calculus Advanced               | 82          | 1.00          |
| Spanish 4                           | 92          | 1.00          |
| Theology 3                          | 97          | 1.00          |
|                                     | Total       | 6.50          |
| YR GPA                              | 92.513      |               |

### 2022 - 2023 - 12th Grade

|                                      |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| McQuaid Jesuit High School           |               |
| Course title                         | Total credits |
| AP Literature and Composition        | 0.00          |
| AP Spanish                           | 0.00          |
| Applied Philosophy and Ethics (CC)   | 0.00          |
| Calculus (CC)                        | 0.00          |
| Economics and Finance                | 0.00          |
| Physical Education 3 & 4             | 0.00          |
| Senior Theology: Companions of Jesus | 0.00          |
| Spanish through Film                 | 0.00          |
| Total                                | 0.00          |

### Grading Explanations

\*Minimum Passing Mark: 70

### Transcript Notations

ADV = Advanced  
 AP = Advanced Placement Course  
 CC = Course Earns College Credit  
 SE = Course taken during Summer Enrichment  
 TR = Transfer Course  
 \* = Remediated Failure after Summer School

### Four Point Grading Scale

| Grade    | Equivalent | GPA |
|----------|------------|-----|
| 97-100   | A+         | 4.0 |
| 93-96    | A          | 4.0 |
| 90-92    | A-         | 3.7 |
| 87-89    | B+         | 3.3 |
| 83-86    | B          | 3.0 |
| 80-82    | B-         | 2.7 |
| 77-79    | C+         | 2.3 |
| 73-76    | C          | 2.0 |
| 70-72    | D          | 1.0 |
| Below 70 | F          | 0.0 |

### Rank

McQuaid Jesuit does not rank its students for internal or external reporting.

AP and ADVANCED/ADV Grades result in a +4% weight in the overall GPA.

McQuaid Jesuit is chartered and certified by the New York State Board of Regents, is a member of the New York State Association of Independent Schools, and is a member of the Jesuit Schools Network.

From mid-March-June 2020, McQuaid Jesuit transitioned to distance learning as a result of COVID-19. Our grading policy remained intact and students received numerical grades for marking periods 3 and 4.

Signature of Official Certifying Transcript

Principal

Date

# McQuaid Jesuit Clubs & Activities

## High School

- Model UN
- Youth & Government
- Speech and Debate
- Sports and Debate
- Admission Ambassadors
- WBER Radio Club
- Biodiversity
- IgKnights
- *The Lance*
- Cybersecurity Club
- Hillside McQuaid Ballers
- Photography/Camera Club
- STEM Solutions Club
- DECA
- Masterminds
- St. Benedict Labre Ministry
- McQuaid TV Broadcast Club
- Mock Trial

## All Students

- Ski & Board Club
- Alumni Career Forums
- Flavor Exchange
- Best Buddies
- Computer Club
- Modern History Club
- Art Club
- French Club
- Spanish Club
- Italian Club
- Chess Club
- Fishing Club
- *Kennings*
- Pride Alliance
- Black Student Union
- Investing Club
- *Accolade*
- *The Shield*

## Middle School

- Knee Hockey Club
- Cubing Club
- Middle School Mission & Ministry
- Future IgKnights
- Video Game Club
- Academic Challenge Bowl

Notes:

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