

Requirements for Graduation

Please read carefully and observe all rules and dates.



Mandatory Costs to Participate in Graduation:

- \$50 Senior Fee
- Cap and gown

2027 candidates for graduation from Marion County High School must meet the following requirements:

- Pass all necessary courses for graduation and have grades on file in counselor's office by May 20, 2027. This includes all transfer/college credit and online coursework.
- No one will be allowed to attend Senior activities and practices until all fees and fines are paid.
- Participate in the Awards Program practice, Awards Program, and graduation ceremony practice prior to graduation. If you plan to participate in graduation exercises, you must attend all mandatory events.
- Purchase a cap and gown from Herff-Jones for the 2026-27 school term (September 24, 6 p.m.) No other materials are required for the graduation ceremony.

Mandatory Event	When and Where?	What to Wear
Awards Practice/LK Hall Walk <i>Meet in Red Zone.</i>	Tuesday, May 11 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. <i>Need a ride home!</i>	College/military t-shirt and jeans under cap and gown
Senior Awards Night	*Thursday, May 13 5:00 reception/6:00 program	Cap and Gown *Appropriate clothing underneath
Graduation Practice	Friday, May 21, 2027 Meet in cafeteria at 8:00 a.m.	Shorts/t-shirt Males bring a baseball-style cap.
Graduation	Saturday, May 22, 2027 Meet in cafeteria at 8:00 a.m.	Cap and Gown *Appropriate clothing underneath

****What do I wear under my cap and gown?***

Please remember...this is a uniform. You should all look alike. No distractions!

Males

- White dress shirt, black slacks, black or red tie (no bowties!), black shoes with black socks.
- No necklaces or any other items of jewelry/adornment are allowed outside the shirt. Only petite earrings are acceptable.

Females

- Any color dress or skirt (shorter than your gown).
- Black low to mid-heeled shoes or wedges (not flip-flops or slides)
- Petite jewelry only
- Honor graduates—Red gowns will not hide dark colors or "loud" prints.

Graduation regalia may only be worn with prior approval from administration. This includes stoles, cords, etc. Primary regalia should come from a group affiliated with MCHS (club, sport, service) or from a nationally-recognized honor society. No personal cords or regalia will be permitted (i.e. screen printed with student's name or picture). Decorated graduation caps are not permitted.



Senior Specifics: Class of 2027

- Remember that you need 4 “rigor credits” to earn HOPE, even if your GPA is high enough. These include: Algebra II, Spanish II, chemistry, upper-level math and science, and dual enrollment/AP courses. HOPE is based on an academic GPA, which must be a 3.0. For more information, you may visit www.gafutures.org.
- You must have a minimum of 28 credits to graduate. If you were promoted to 12th grade (via your report card), you are on track for graduation. You must also be enrolled for 4 classes each semester in order to participate in the May graduation exercises. Dual enrollment courses (scheduled by the deadline each semester) and work-based learning can serve as electives, especially during Senior year. There are no “free” blocks.
- I have attached a tentative schedule and information sheet regarding Spring graduation activities. Please make sure to read it carefully and post it somewhere visible!
- You will receive a letter from GEORGIA MATCH in the fall that will tell you which colleges match your profile. You still have to apply to the ones on the list that interest you. Remember that the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech (Atlanta), and Georgia College & State University are highly competitive and do not participate in Georgia Match.
- If your prospective college requires a Common Application, you can set up an account on www.commonapp.org. The application opens August 1.
- Go ahead and set up an account with www.gafutures.org if you have not already done so. As always, I will be on hand throughout the fall to help you apply for colleges, and we will participate in Georgia Apply to College Week. Keep an eye on your college websites and don’t miss application and scholarship deadlines. Some of those come VERY early!
- My plan is to meet with each Senior before Apply to College Day to make sure you are on track for post-secondary success!
- Send me a Teams message for your updated GPA/rank.

Melissa Jernigan

--Mrs. Jernigan

Marion County High School

Letter to the Class of 2027

Dear Class of 2027:

Welcome to your Senior year! We hope it will be an exciting one for you, and we need your help to make the best Senior year possible. This means you must meet our deadlines so that we have the time to create a fantastic yearbook and t-shirt and to plan an amazing trip for you. All Senior dues and deadlines are available at the bottom of this sheet. Please adhere to these dates and costs if you would like to fully participate in the Senior experience.

Please understand that from time to time, we may need to adjust some of these dates. Updates will be available in the following places:

- Mrs. Jernigan's Class of 2027 group in Microsoft Teams
- On Instagram @marioncoyearbook
- On the MCMHS website

Please make a habit of regularly checking these places.

Senior quotes and accomplishments for the yearbook will be due by **September 8, 2026**. If you have an accomplishment that occurs after that due date, you will be allowed to add it when you come to proof your page. You will also be able to nominate a teacher for the dedication of the yearbook. You may e-mail your quote, accomplishments, and nomination to yearbook@marion.k12.ga.us.

If you would like a Senior ad, you must purchase it and complete the packet by **November 13, 2026**. After that date, a late fee of \$20 will be charged. Please be aware that when you pay for a Senior ad, you must also provide the information and pictures that you want on it. If you are sending hard copies of pictures and messages, please put everything in an envelope with your name and home address printed on the front and turn it in to the front office. If you are sending them digitally, send to yearbook@marion.k12.ga.us. *We strongly recommend only 15 pictures for a one-page ad. If you want more, keep in mind that they will be very small. It is your responsibility to come by and proof your senior ad when we contact you to do so. Please put a personal e-mail address and phone number so that we can contact you with any questions or concerns regarding your ad.

Yearbooks can be purchased for \$70 until December 15, 2026. After this date, they will go up to \$80. If you do not buy a yearbook until after they arrive on campus, the cost will be \$90. The due dates are very important, so we ask that you meet the deadlines and provide your information so that you will be in the yearbook.

Please view the other side of this page for more dates and deadlines! Thank you for your cooperation, and have a great Senior year!

Senior Ad Pricing-MCHS Yearbook		
Size	Price Until 11/10	Price After 11/10 if there is space available
Full Page	\$175	\$195
Half Page	\$115	\$135
1/4 Page	\$75	\$95
1/8 Page (landscape)	\$55	\$75

Shon Martin, Yearbook Sponsor

Melissa Jernigan, HS Counselor

Gina Teate, Senior Sponsor

Important Dates (Subject to Change)	
August 7, 2026	Senior Meeting (9 a.m.)
September 3, 2026	Make-up Senior Pictures at MCHS
September 8, 2026	Quote, Accomplishments, and Teacher Nomination Due
September 17, 2026	Information about Grad Night (Senior Meeting #2)
September 24, 2026	Grad Night College Fair and Ordering (6-7 p.m. in Gym)
TBD	Order Senior T-shirt for \$25
TBD	Last day to choose Senior pic for yearbook
November 13, 2026	Payment in full due for Senior ad and the last day to turn in pics and messages
	<i>Payment increases after 11/13 by \$20 for Senior ads.</i>
December 15, 2026	Yearbooks are \$75 after this date and will go up to \$85 once they arrive.
March 31, 2027	Delivery of caps and gowns and Senior products
May 11, 2027	Awards Practice (1-4:00) MANDATORY
May 13, 2027	Awards Night (5-7:30) MANDATORY
May 22, 2027	Graduation Practice (8:00-meet in cafeteria) MANDATORY
May 23, 2027	GRADUATION

Mandatory Event	When and Where?	What to Wear
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- **Black** low to mid-heeled shoes or wedges (**not** flip-flops or slides)
- Petite jewelry only

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Scholarship NEWSletter

2027

Social Media

Instagram:

- The Scholarship Junkie
- Access Scholarships
- Scholarships 360
- The Scholarship Collective

TikTok:

- Raise Me-Real College \$
- Scholarship Strategist
- College Craft
- ReadySetU

Other:

- Ga Futures (make account)
- Bold.org
- CollegeBoard Big Future
- Scholarship Owl
- Cappex
- Scholarships.com
- Fastweb



Tips

- Build a brag sheet/resume.
- Save some good essays to use.
- Get a few generic recs.
- Visit Financial Aid site of college you plan to attend.
- Create a spreadsheet of scholarship, site, deadline, and what you need to apply.

Search Your Own!

Major
Minority Group
Religion
Chronic Illness
1st Generation
Foster Care/Ward of State
Need-Based
STEM
Special Interest
Clubs and Activities
Service

What makes you stand out?



For High Achievers

- Flint
- Beta
- FCCCLA
- 4-H
- Deca
- FFA
- Gates/GMSP
- Yellowwood

Your job or your parent/guardian's place of employment may also offer scholarships. Check it out!
(Ex: Chick Fil A, QuikTrip, Home Depot, Burger King, McDonalds, Local Banks)

MARION COUNTY HS

SENIOR DUES

Please plan to have all paid by
December 1. Local items are optional.

LOCAL



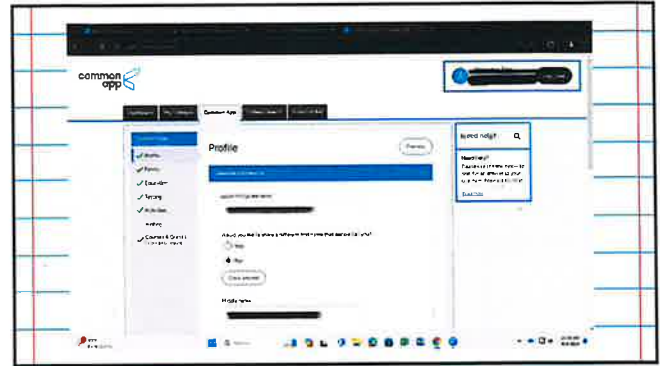
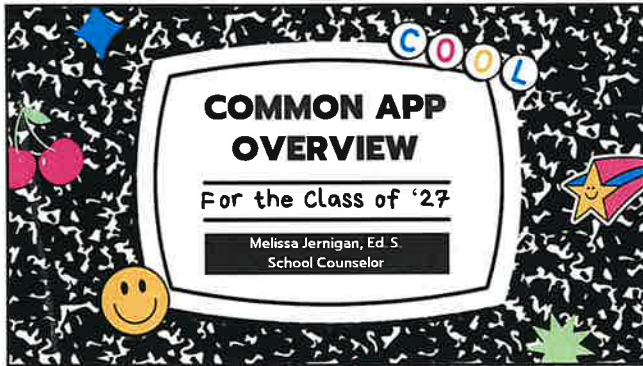
Yearbook	\$70
Wild Adventures Trip	\$55
T-shirt	\$25



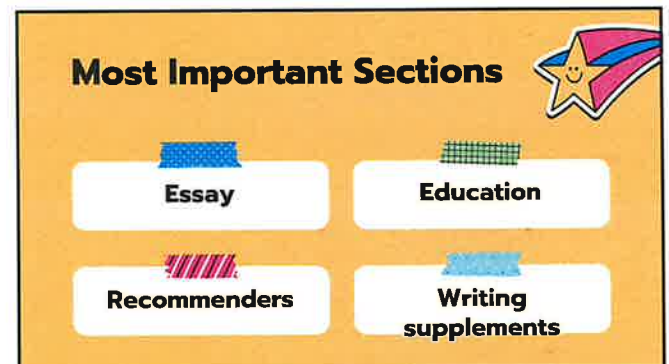
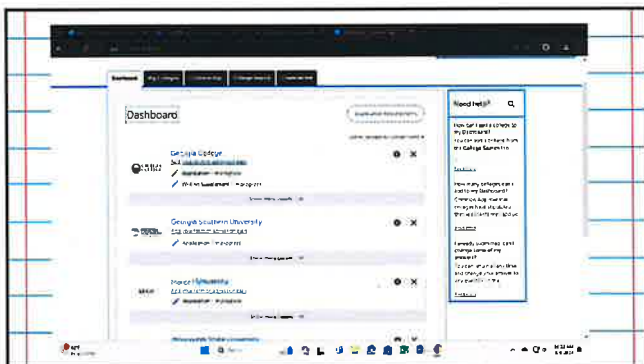
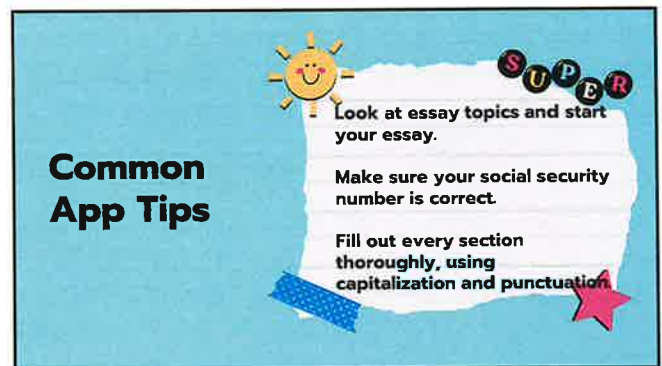
HERFF JONES/BOWEN GRAD

Cap and Gown only	\$100
Package with ring	*\$200 deposit
Package without ring	*\$100 deposit

**Must also pay remaining balance. For
questions regarding Bowen Grad, call 229-
382-6837. Grad ordering is 9/24/26.*



- Go to www.commonapp.org
- Create account
- Choose colleges
- Follow each step for submission (App first, then each individual college)
- Observe deadlines!



Here is the full set of essay prompts for 2026-2027.

- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful to them believe their application would be incomplete without it. (If this sounds like you, then please share your story.)
- You have overcome a challenge or experience that has fundamentally altered your perspective. (Remember: this was the challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?)
- Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- Reflect on a time when you helped someone in need. Did you expect anything in return? For what reason are you thankful in this surprising way? How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
- Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- Describe a topic, issue, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.



**CONTACTED
RECOMMENDERS?**



WRITTEN YOUR ESSAY?



LOOKED AT DEADLINES?



**WRITTEN
SUPPLEMENTAL
ESSAYS?**



ADDED HISTORICAL GRADES WHERE APPLICABLE?



PAID YOUR APPLICATION FEES?

Questions?



Student Name (Printed): _____

Date of Application: _____

Application for Career Ready Diploma Seal(s)

Please fill out the following application for Career Ready Diploma Seals. The application must be turned in to the Counselor's Office by April 15 of the graduation year.

Note: *This application does not affect the following seals—Community Service, Val/Sal, Beta Club, Scholars Academy.*

Employability/Soft Skills

- ☐ Regular
 - Complete a state-recognized soft skills program (GA Best)
- ☐ Distinguished
 - Also earn at least one unit of YAP in the concentrated pathway area

Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator Signature: _____

Pathway Skills-(Amended)

- ☐ Regular
 - Complete a CTAE Pathway OR complete two TCC in one pathway to earn a Technical College diploma in that area
- ☐ Distinguished
 - Complete the requirements above, and 1 of the following
 - Pass an EOPA
 - Earn at least one unit in a state-approved WBL program in the concentrated pathway area
 - Score a minimum of 36 on the ASVAB

CTAE Pathway Teacher Signature: _____

Leadership Skills

- ☐ Regular
 - Hold one year of membership in a CTSO and
 - Prepare a portfolio to include a cover letter, resume, and three letters of recommendation
 - And any 1 of the following:
 - Connect with local businesses to secure support for the student's CTSO (through sponsorship, judging, donations)
 - Advocate for CTSO by presenting at civic organizations, to legislators, or to BOE members
 - Receive a region, state, or national honor
 - Participate in 40+ community service hours
 - Earn a minimum of 36 on the ASVAB
- ☐ Distinguished
 - Must have 2 years as a member of a CTSO
 - Hold a leadership office at the region, state, or national level in a state-recognized CTSO
 - Present to business/industry on behalf of the CTSO
 - AND participate in 80 hours of documented community service

CTSO Adviser Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____



Marion County Middle/High School

1 Eagle Drive Buena Vista, Georgia 31803
Phone (229) 649-7520 Fax (229) 649-5945

Jamie Penoncello, Principal

We at Marion County High School feel that the development of community service in our young people is vitally important in building a strong community. Therefore, we offer a "Citizenship Seal" at graduation to the students who complete the following requirements:

- No money can be made for this work.
- Doing community service under the direction of any law enforcement agency does not count toward the seal.
- **All activities must be logged on this form in writing. The number of hours that were completed must be stated.**
- Students must earn 50 hours to receive a community service seal.

Forms are due by May 1 of the student's Senior year in order to qualify for the Citizenship seal.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

School Leader's Signature: Melissa Jernigan

Agency Monitoring the Community Service:

By signing, I, _____, verify that the above named student satisfactorily completed _____ hours of community service and received no compensation for the work.

Signature of person monitoring the student: _____

Derek Goodroe, Asst. Principal/Athletic Director
Melissa Jernigan, Counselor

Rhonda Jorden-Neal, Assistant Principal/Testing Coordinator
Melissa Price, Counselor

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide all students with a quality education in a safe, nurturing, and challenging environment.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL

Grad Night

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

THURSDAY



6-7 P.M.

MCHS GYMNASIUM
1 EAGLE DRIVE
BUENA VISTA, GA 31803

JOIN US TO ORDER GRADUATION
REGALIA. EXPERTS WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING CAPS AND
GOWNS AND UNIVERSITY/TECH
ENROLLMENT.





CLASS OF 2027

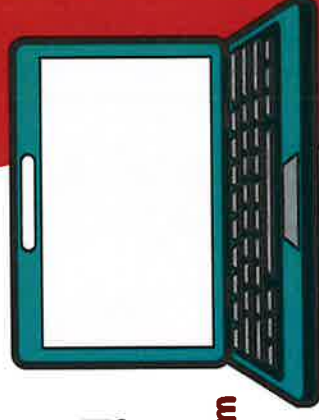
Apply to College Day

November 6, 2026



• Apply (for free in most cases)
to the colleges of your choice

- Learn the ropes of FAFSA and set up your account
- Apply for scholarships
- Get help from the pros!



Computer Labs 401/402 and Eagle Room



#GAApply2College

GA

LOG IN FOR MORE INFO

Closely follow the instructions sent by each college to set up your login. This login will be used for EVERYTHING from housing to payment. Save your login info. **Check your college e-mail OFTEN.**

CHECK YOUR FAFSA AND APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Be sure your FAFSA is complete, correct, and contains the college you chose. Look in your portal for scholarships specific to your school.

SIGN UP FOR ORIENTATION

Sign up for orientation using the link provided, either in an e-mail or in your portal. This is where you register for classes, so get an early one if you can. **Make a habit of reading EVERY e-mail sent to you by the college.**



I'M ACCEPTED. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

DECIDE YOUR BEST FIT

Choose your school carefully. This could be based on distance from home, best fit for your major, great visitation experiences, scholarships received, etc. **Once you decide, confirm in your portal and pay deposit.**

FIND HOUSING AND MEAL PLAN

If you are going to live on campus, you need to secure housing and a meal plan. This option is in your portal. You may want to search for roommates on Instagram; usually there is a page for "Class of 2030" that you pay about \$10 to join. Be sure it is the correct school. You will have to pay to secure housing and meals.

2027-28 FAFSA

***OPENS 10/1**

**Start at
studentaid.gov.**

**Create 2 accounts:
1) Parent account
2) Student account**

**Save your login
information in a safe
place.**

**Once the accounts
are created, click to
access the FAFSA
form.**

**Student should fill out
the form, and then the
FAFSA will e-mail the
parent to log in and do
the parent part.**



Dual Enrollment, Work-Based Learning Intent Form--Class of 2027

- I plan to participate in Dual Enrollment coursework for the 2026-27 school year.
 - I am enrolled with this college/university:

 - I have already registered for classes. Mrs. Price has my schedule from the college.
- I will participate in Work-Based Learning for the 2026-27 school year.
 - I already have a job with an approved employer.
 - I have filled out WBL paperwork with Mrs. Truitt.
 - I have completed this career pathway:
_____.

MCHS students must be enrolled in 4 courses each semester. These courses may include a combination of on-campus courses, online college courses, or work-based learning. All requirements must be met for work-based learning and dual enrollment including deadlines. Students who have not met those requirements will sign up for on-campus electives.

- Dual Enrollment Coordinator: price.melissa@marion.k12.ga.us
- WBL Coordinator: truitt.karen@marion.k12.ga.us
- All other academic and Senior inquiries:
jernigan.melissa@marion.k12.ga.us

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

This signed form must be on file before schedules are processed.