



Junior Newsletter

Grade 11/12 High School Guidance
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Souderton Area High School
CEEB Code 394635

JANUARY

Course Selection

By the end of February, each student will have completed courses selection with their counselor. The schedule will not be developed until every student meets with their counselor, so there is no advantage to being the first or last student. Key points for course selection:



- ⇒ **Come prepared!!!** Carefully review the program of studies to learn about the description of each course as well as course prerequisites. The Program of Studies may be viewed on the District High School Guidance website at: <http://sahs.soudertonsd.org/academics/pos/>
- ⇒ The course selection sheet can also be found at the above site.
- ⇒ Students should speak with **teachers** for recommendations of classes to take in a specific subject area.
- ⇒ Discuss your future career/educational goals with your **counselor** to select the most appropriate courses. You can also discuss preliminary college selection during this time.
- ⇒ Now is a great time to discuss both course selection and college preparation with your **parents!**
- ⇒ Select rigorous courses that reflect your intellect and interests. Colleges want to see students challenge themselves during their senior year. College admissions reps will recognize if you choose to select easy courses. This **will not** be to your benefit! We discourage you from selecting too many senior privilege or study halls.
- ⇒ The **goal** of course selection is for students to select the most rigorous schedule that will allow success.
- ⇒ Remember, course selection is a process! All students will select courses before the schedule is made, giving each student an equal opportunity to receive their desired courses. Students will receive a copy of their schedule in May. Students will have a **two week period to make a request for a change**. These requests will be processed by counselors and contact students with the changes. Make sure that you put thought and effort into selecting your courses, because **SCHEDULES ARE FINAL WITHOUT A REQUEST MADE WITHIN THE TWO WEEK PERIOD. PLEASE REVIEW YOUR SCHEDULE CAREFULLY TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATE REQUEST.**



Worthwhile Websites

CollegeWeek **Live**

Are you interested in a college in Florida, Texas, California or any college that is outside of a day trip to visit? Then you may want to visit, <http://www.collegeweeklive.com/>

This interactive website offers:

- ⇒ college fairs, virtual open houses, live chats with admissions reps and current students for Q & A from colleges all over the world.
- ⇒ an easy way to gain and learn more information about colleges that you do not have easy access too.
- ⇒ webinars on topics such as financial aid, paying for college, transferring schools, test prep, etc.
- ⇒ a connection with over 250 colleges and universities.

This can be a great website for information searching and networking possibilities.

Within the next several months, SAHS Guidance office will be launching NAVIANCE, a computer based program that will help students with their college search and its organization. Students will receive passwords and a tutorial during 5th block and also be able to sign up in small groups to work on the college search later in the spring in the college and career center. Parents will have an opportunity to come in for an evening training. Dates still yet to be determined.



Students interested in Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Schools should visit the following interactive website: www.passhe.edu

PASSHE Universities include:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Bloomsburg | Kutztown |
| California U of PA | Lock Haven |
| Cheyney | Mansfield |
| Clarion | Millersville |
| East Stroudsburg | Shippensburg |
| Edinboro | Slippery Rock |
| Indiana U of PA | West Chester |



SAT info

All college bound students are advised to take the SAT I/Reasoning Test **at least one time** in the spring of their junior year. Students attending state schools/rolling admissions schools should consider taking them twice before the July going into their senior year since applications to these schools should be sent by mid October of their senior year.

SAT I or SAT Reasoning Test: This is the standard SAT that all four year college bound students take. The test consists of Critical Reading, Math, and Writing.

SAT II or SAT Subject Tests: Students applying to highly competitive schools or ones interested in selective programs may be required to take one or more SAT Subject Tests. Some of the subject areas include: English Literature, US History, Math Level 1, Biology, Physics, German, or Spanish. Taken only by a select group of students.

ACT: Another college entrance exam accepted by all four year colleges. Consists of English, Math, Reading, Science

For differences between ACT and SAT, visit the SAHS HS Guidance website and view the October Junior Newsletter.

Remember:

- ⇒ You are allowed to send scores to 4 colleges free of charge each test date.
- ⇒ If you want SAHS to have record of your scores and the ability to send them to potential colleges, you **must** include the school CEEB code listed above: 394635. *If you do not include this number, we will not have record of your scores and will be unable to send them.*

Make sure you see your counselor with any questions or clarification!

SAT Test Dates

| <u>Registration Deadline</u> | <u>Test Date</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| December 30, 2011 | Jan 28, 2012 |
| February 10, 2012 | March 10, 2012 |
| <i>(3/10 offered at SAHS)</i> | |
| April 6, 2012 | May 5, 2012 |
| <i>(5/5 offered at SAHS)</i> | |
| May 8, 2012 | June 2, 2012 |

ACT Test Dates

| <u>Registration Deadline</u> | <u>Test Date</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| January 13, 2012 | Feb 11, 2012 |
| March 9, 2012 | April 14, 2012 |
| <i>(4/14 offered at SAHS)</i> | |
| May 4, 2012 | June 9, 2012 |

JUNIOR YEAR

College Planning Time Line



September/October

- ⇒ Communicate with parents about college/career plans
- ⇒ Stay involved in extracurricular activities
- ⇒ Attend College fair at SAHS (**September 27, 2011 during first block**)
- ⇒ take the PSAT (October)

November/December

- ⇒ Improve/maintain grades
- ⇒ Use your PSAT results to access the College Board's Quick start (December)
- ⇒ Become aware SAT I/SAT II registration and testing dates in the spring

January/February/March

- ⇒ Register for spring SAT test dates
- ⇒ Begin and expand college search by using online references and publications in guidance
- ⇒ Course registration for next year. Prepare a challenging senior year course schedule with advice from teachers/counselor

April/May

- ⇒ Sign up for College Sneak Preview in guidance office (*Sneak Preview is an in depth college selection meeting that occurs in small groups in the college center*)
- ⇒ Draft "smart" list of colleges
- ⇒ Request information from colleges on your list

April/May (cont'd)

- ⇒ Visit colleges and open house programs
- ⇒ Communicate with your parents about your progress and the cost of college
- ⇒ AP exams for students taking these courses
- ⇒ Draft summer plans, especially internship/educational experiences

June

- ⇒ Take SAT I and II tests, if needed
- ⇒ narrow "smart" college list for summer visits
- ⇒ Ask 2 teachers for college recommendation letters (only if you will definitely be applying to a college requesting a teacher rec)
- ⇒ Review schedule to ensure rigorous senior year courses. **NO CHANGES AFTER THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

July/August

- ⇒ Visit colleges
- ⇒ Communicate with admission officers
- ⇒ Narrow college choices to 5-8 schools
- ⇒ Athletes – register with NCAA
- ⇒ Begin writing "rough" draft for application essays

