

College Information Night

2020- 2021



Agenda

- Preparing for College
- Standardized Tests
- Researching Schools
- College App Checklist
- Common App & Coalition
- Financial Aid
- Transcripts
- NCAA
- Important Reminders
- Questions



Introductions

- School Counselors

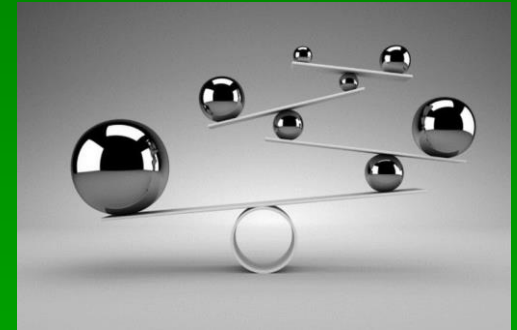
- A-E Phil Cohen
- F-Kj Dana Meledick
- Kk-P Lisa Clearfield
- Q-Z Yvonne Rogers
- Grade 9 Kim Wade

- Registrars

- Allison Sultan
- Debbie Merwitz

Preparing for College

- Earn the best possible grades
- Research colleges and *attend virtual sessions with reps*
- Take the SAT and/or ACT
- Virtual tours
- Compare schools
- Schedule an interview with an Admissions Counselor
- Be prepared to ask and answer questions in the interview



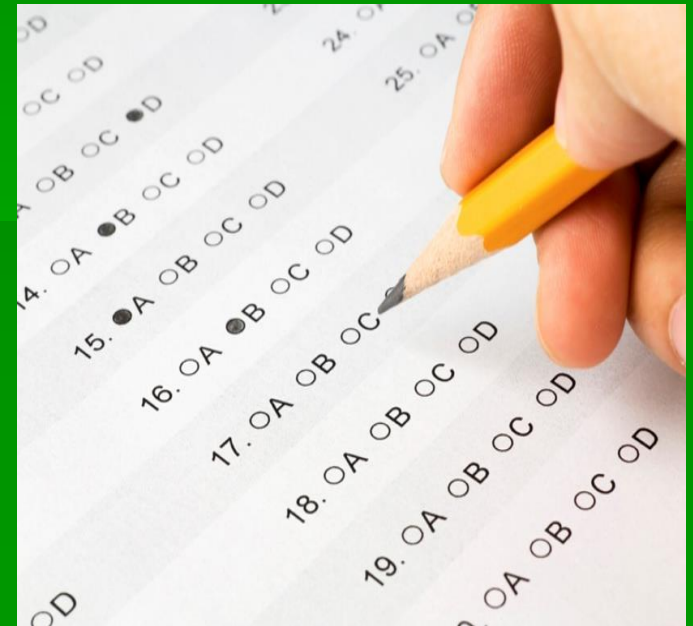
What's Important to Colleges?

Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	173	80.9	10.4	5.8	2.9
Grades in College Prep Courses	171	70.8	17.5	8.8	2.9
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	172	52.3	30.8	14.5	2.3
Strength of Curriculum	170	51.2	29.4	12.9	6.5
Essay or Writing Sample	168	16.7	36.9	20.8	25.6
Counselor Recommendation	167	10.8	46.1	28.7	14.4
Student's Demonstrated Interest	168	15.5	21.4	34.5	28.6
Teacher Recommendation	168	7.1	46.4	29.2	17.3
Class Rank	172	9.3	27.9	36.0	26.7
Extracurricular Activities	169	3.6	34.9	40.8	20.7
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	166	4.2	28.9	28.3	38.6
Portfolio	167	5.4	7.2	27.5	59.9
Interview	168	3.6	14.3	29.2	53.0
Work	169	1.8	17.8	41.4	39.1
SAT II Scores	166	6.6	3.0	19.9	70.5
State Graduation Exam Scores	168	1.8	8.3	17.9	72.0

|SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2017–18.

Standardized Tests

- PSAT (9th, 10th, and 11th grade)
- SAT I
- ACT
- SAT II
- Advanced Placement



SATs

- Register at *collegeboard.org*
- Covers Critical Reading and Math
 - Algebra I, II and Geometry
 - Optional Essay
- Does **NOT** penalize you for incorrect answers
- Questions get more difficult as test progresses

ACTs

- Register at *ACTstudent.org*
- Covers English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing
 - Alg 1, Alg 2, Geometry, and Trig
 - Formulas are not given
- Does **NOT** penalize you for incorrect answers
- Question difficulty is random throughout test

* *Take both exams and retake stronger test*

** *Most colleges accept either SAT or ACT*

SAT and ACT Test Dates

SAT

September 26, 2020

Centennial, Glenelg, Oakland Mills, and Reservoir

October 3, 2020

Centennial, Glenelg, Hammond, Mount Hebron, Oakland Mills, Reservoir, River Hill, and Wilde Lake

ACT

September 12, 2020

Glenelg and Wilde Lake

September 19, 2020

Wilde Lake

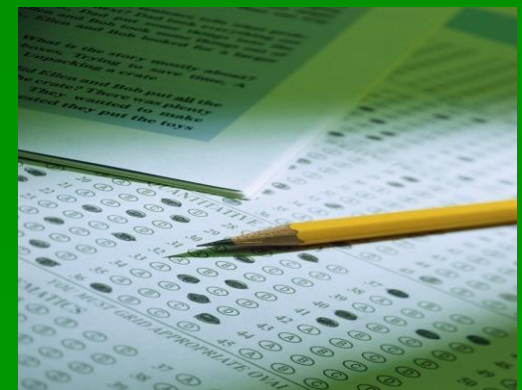
October 24, 2020

Wilde Lake

SAT 2 (Subject Tests)

- Competitive schools require these in addition to SAT 1
- 20 subject tests; no more than 3 required
- Math, English, Languages, History, & Science
- 1 hour long; multiple choice
- 200-800 point scale
- Colleges That Use The Test:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests/about/institutions-using>



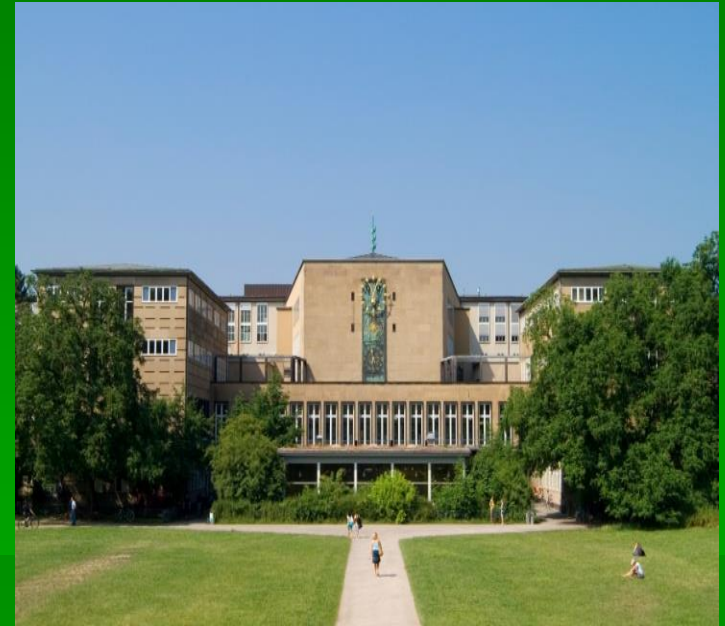
AP Tests

- Tests will be given in May
- Can take test without taking course
- Can earn College Credits
(Each college and university - not College Board or AP Program - makes decisions about awarding credit)
- Can take test without taking course
- Deadline for S1 courses - **Nov. 13th**
 - \$95 per test
 - No penalty to cancel
 - In-person testing



Researching Schools

- Size
- Setting
- Geographic Location
- Academic/Career Focus
- Cost
- Family Considerations
- Other, ie., Athletics, Study Abroad, Religion, etc.



Making A List

- 1-2 Reach Schools
 - Long shot for admission; your academics are below admission averages
- 3-5 50/50 Schools
 - Good candidate; your academics are exactly within admission averages
- 1-2 Likely School
 - Strong candidate; your academics are above admission averages

***Be sure to have Likely Schools both academically and financially on your list!**

College App Checklist

- Complete Counselor and Teacher Info Forms in Naviance
- Email [Waiver of Rights](#) to deborah_merwitz@hcpss.org
- Complete and email [College Transcript Request Form](#) to Mrs. Merwitz 20 school days before [earliest](#) deadline. See [Due Dates](#) here.
- Officially request teachers writing letters in Naviance.
Colleges→Colleges Home→Letters of Recommendation→Add Request
- Submit [Teacher Recommendation Form](#) to each teacher writing a letter of rec 20 days before earliest deadline

Common App & Coalition

- ***Common App*** and ***Coalition*** Schools
 - Only one application for multiple schools
 - Each school requires a different essay
 - You MUST match Common App to Naviance - [How To Video](#)
 - Please DO NOT invite counselors to your **CA** or **Coalition** profile(s).
- All transcript requests/materials are processed and sent by Student Services (*incl. mailed schools*)
- There is currently NO CHARGE for transcript requests

Financial Aid

- **FAFSA** - <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
 - Federal financial aid form
 - Seniors are now able to begin a FAFSA application
 - FAFSA will consider the previous year's tax info (2019 for their Freshman year in college 2021-22)
- **CSS** - <https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>
 - Non-federal financial aid form
 - Available Oct. 1
 - Required by nearly 300 colleges and universities
 - Create an account on collegeboard.org

What Is A Transcript?

- It is an official copy of a student's academic record that includes the following:
 - Course names from 9th-11th grade
 - Final grade for each course
 - Senior courses
 - Weighted and Unweighted GPA
 - *NO MORE Class Rank!!!!!!!*
- Mid-year reports are sent automatically to every school - **used to include 1st Qtr, 2nd Qtr, Mid-Terms; will likely will be different this year (i.e. final grades for semester 1)*

****No SAT, PSAT, HSA, ACT, or AP scores will be included***

NCAA Eligibility

- Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center
eligibilitycenter.org
- Request a transcript
- Send SAT and/or ACT scores using
collegeboard.com and *actstudent.org*

****HCPSS policy does not
permit us to send test scores***



Reminders

- Students should take ownership of process
- Early preparation and organization are key
- Major Dates & Deadlines
 - Oct. 15, Nov. 1, Nov. 15 – earliest college deadlines
- Complete tasks:
 - Waiver Form
 - Counselor Info Form
 - Teacher Info Form



Questions???