



Counselor Summer NEWSLETTER

Remember these Important Dates

Senior Parents: if your child is going to college in the fall and has not taken an ACT or SAT test please make sure they SIGN UP FOR THE OCTOBER TESTS!

Dates for ACT:

ACT Test Dates

Registration Deadlines

September 12, 2009
October 24, 2009
December 12, 2009
February 6, 2010
April 10, 2010
June 12, 2010

August 7, 2009
September 18, 2009
November 6, 2009
January 5, 2010
March 5, 2010
May 7, 2010

Sign-up at www.actstudent.org

Cost: \$31.00 (No Writing)
\$46.00 Plus Writing

Dates for SAT:

SAT Test Dates

Registration Deadlines

October 10, 2009
November 7, 2009
December 5, 2009
January 23, 2010
March 13, 2010
May 1, 2010
June 5, 2010

September 9, 2009
October 1, 2009
October 30, 2009
December 15, 2009
February 4, 2010
March 25, 2010
April 29, 2010

Sign-up at www.collegeboard.com

Cost \$ 45.00

Date for PSAT:

Saturday, October 17, 2009

Cost \$25 Pay at registration

Last Day for refund: Sept. 25, 2009

National College Fair:

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

College Confusion

Is this your first child going to college? Are you confused about the college process? Do you have questions about scholarships or financial aid? Here are some tips that may make the process easier.

TIPS As You Begin the Process:

- Start early looking for colleges and scholarships. Begin this process at the end of the junior year. A good resource is www.idahocis.org. A college and scholarship sort is available in this program and you can do it from home.
Our username is: mtvwhs and our password is: mavs04
GIVE IT A TRY!
- Keep a file for each college. Make sure you understand the admissions requirements and dates for each college. They are not all the same! Information on websites.
- ACT and SAT tests should be taken during the spring of the junior year and by October of their senior year. The website for ACT is www.actstudent.org and the website for SAT is www.collegeboard.com. Our school Id number is 130177.
- Encourage students to practice for these tests. Great scholarships are available to students who score high. Try using the website March2Success.com. It is free!
- Plan to attend the National College fair with your student. It is October 27, 2009 at the Boise Center on the Grove during the day and evening. If students attend the College Fair during the day, the absences are not excused.
- If you know friends or family who have sent students to college use them as a resource. They have knowledge to share that may be helpful.
- Feel free to contact the colleges your student is interested in and visit with a college representative. They can help you through the process at their school. If possible schedule a school visit.

Remember you have a resources here at EHS. All of our counselors are available to help you through this process. Please feel free to e-mail or call with questions.

We look forward to working with you and your student.

EHS Counseling Staff

What are these tests for?

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT)

The SAT and ACT are college entrance tests for students planning to enter four-year colleges and universities. These tests should be taken in the spring of the junior year or fall of the senior year. Registration materials, tests dates, locations, test strategies, and practice tests for these exams are available in the career center.

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)

The PSAT is offered once a year in October. Sophomores can take the PSAT as a practice for the SAT. Juniors can take the PSAT to be considered for possible scholarships in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Information about registration is available during the fall registration process.

The **PLAN** is a practice test for the ACT. It is administered in the fall of the sophomore year. Information about registration is available during the fall registration process.

COMPASS is a placement test widely used by two-year colleges and professional/technical schools. It is available throughout the year at Boise State University at a cost of \$15.00.

ACT or SAT...What's the difference? Here are some facts:

SAT

- *Verbal Reasoning is 50% of the test
- *Math Reasoning is 50% of the test
- *There are analogies
- *Math portion is "fill in the blanks"
- *Penalized for incorrect answers

ACT

- *English is 25% of the test
- *Reading is 25% of the test
- *Math is 25% of the test
- *Science is 25% of the test
- *No penalty for wrong answers

PSAT

Should I take It?

The PSAT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). It measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills. The test is [geared toward high school juniors but can be taken by younger students](#). This test provides not only a [good practice](#) at taking tests such as the SAT or the ACT, but also [enters the student in the competition for scholarships](#) from the [National Merit Scholarship Corporation](#). By taking the test in your junior year, you can also get feedback on your strengths and weaknesses, giving you an opportunity to know specific areas where you need to study or practice before taking the SAT or the ACT. Plan to take this test during your junior year to get your ready for your SAT or ACT.

For more information about the PSAT, go to

www.collegeboard.com

WHY *Attend College?*

Greater knowledge

- A college degree will increase your ability to think abstractly and critically, to express thoughts clearly in speech and in writing, and help you to make wise decisions.

More Money

- A person who attends a four year or two year college generally earns more than a person who does not.

Greater Potential

- A college education can help increase your understanding of the community, the Nation and the world- as you explore interests, discover new areas of knowledge, consider lifelong goals, and become a responsible citizen.

More Job Opportunities

- Many jobs rely on new technology and already require more brainpower than muscle power. In the future more and more jobs will require education beyond high school. With a college degree you will have more jobs to choose from.

Scholarships

Is There Hope Without a High GPA?

There is not only hope to earn scholarships without a high GPA but realistic possibilities. One way to increase your chances of getting scholarships is to add **community service** and **leadership opportunities** to your schedules. Volunteer work is not only self-fulfilling, it is a way to pay for college! Many companies and organizations want to reward those students who spend their time helping others. Companies such as Target, Tylenol, YMCA, Wal-Mart, Discover Card and Prudential Insurance all offer scholarships based on community service and leadership. Organize a food drive, serve as a youth leader in your church, volunteer to help a little kids soccer team – all these will help qualify you for scholarships. Visit <http://charityguide.org> to get more information about these scholarships and opportunities.

8 Steps To High School Success

1. SET UP A STUDY PLACE.

- You can't learn when you are being distracted by people and noise.
- It takes guts to sit, alone, in a quiet place to study, but you have to do it.
- Find a room at home or a "boring" spot in the library, where there's nothing much to do except study.

2. GET INTO A "STUDY FRAME OF MIND"

- Study with the attitude of, "I'm really going to get this done."
- Don't doodle on your notebook, text message your friend or fantasize about the weekend.
- Determine to hit the books earlier, so that you move on to other things later, which leads to stress reduction.

3. GIVE YOURSELF REWARDS

- If you sweat out a block of study time successfully, TREAT YOURSELF!

4. "SKIM" THE TEXTBOOK FIRST

- Look at the title, the subtitles, the chapter headings or anything set in **bold print**, the pictures and the first and last paragraphs of the sections you are to read.
- Ask : what do the main topics or main points in each chapter appear to be? (jot down)

5. TAKE NOTES DURING CLASS AND THEN GO OVER THEM AFTER CLASS

- Go back over notes you took in class, fill in abbreviations/incomplete areas
- Jot down key words and phrases into your notebook from your text
- Emphasize definitions, examples, lists, and main ideas from notes and texts

6. KNOW WHEN TO TAKE A BREAK

- Know when you've had enough
- Try to study in block times of at least one hour
- Ten minutes here and there are basically useless
- Rest for a bit with a short nap, listen to some music, watch a 1/2 hour sitcom, go back to the books a reasonable amount of time later

7. PREPARE A WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Give yourself an overview of the unit by marking down the due dates for papers/projects as your teacher gives them to you.
- Circle or put a sticker on test days or "project due" days.
- NEVER let something sneak up on you unexpectedly!

8. USE "TO DO" LISTS

- For each new day, write out a list of everything you need to accomplish.
- After you finish something, cross it off your list.

MARCH 2 SUCCESS



Is a program designed by the U.S. Army to help students work on their English and Math skills. It also has on-line test preparation materials for the ACT and SAT. This program is FREE to students.

March 2 Success will help students prepare for:

- Assessment examinations
- College entrance examinations (ACT and SAT)
- Trade school entrance tests
- Military entrance tests (ASVAB)
- Applying for a job

Try It Out!

www.March2Success.com

Scholarship Scams

According to the Federal Trade Commission's [Scholarship Scams](#), if you hear these lines from a scholarship service, you may be getting duped:

- **"The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."**No one can guarantee that they'll get you a grant or a scholarship. Refund guarantees often have conditions or strings attached. Get refund policies in writing—before you pay.
- **"You can't get this information anywhere else."**There are many free lists of scholarships available. Start researching scholarships at the high school or library before you decide to pay someone to do the work for you.
- **"I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."**Never give out credit card or bank account number on the phone without getting information in writing first. It may be the set-up for an unauthorized withdrawal from your account.
- **"We'll do all the work."**Don't be fooled. There's no way around it. You must apply for scholarships or grants yourself.
- **"The scholarship will cost money."**Don't pay anyone who claims to be "holding" a scholarship or grant for you. Free money shouldn't cost a thing.
- **"You've been selected by a national foundation" to receive a scholarship or "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.**Before you send money to apply for a scholarship, check it out. Make sure the foundation or program is legitimate.

(Information found at www.collegeboard.com)