



# Junior Newsletter

## Grade 11/12 Guidance

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CEEB Code 394635

# OCTOBER

## *What are colleges looking for?*

Colleges look at many different factors when selecting students for admissions. As you progress through your junior year, you will want to determine your status for each of the following categories. Remember, each college may look at certain factors in a slightly different way.

### TRANSCRIPT

The number one factor that every college or university looks at is a listing of every course you have taken in high school. They will look at the following areas for your transcript:

- ⇒ Grades
- ⇒ Level of difficulty
- ⇒ Cumulative Grade Point Average (some schools will only look at GPA of core courses)
- ⇒ Did you challenge yourself or elect to take easy classes?
- ⇒ Have you improved or decreased in your grades since 9th grade?



### RIGOR

Colleges will look to see how much you challenged yourself. You want to take the most challenging classes you can and still be successful by earning an A or B.



### TEST SCORES

Colleges also look at your SAT and/or ACT test scores. These are national tests and they give colleges the ability to compare you to other students that did not go to the same school or have the same teachers as you.



### ACTIVITIES

Colleges want to accept students that are going to not only do well academically at their school, but ones that will be involved.

In looking at your activities, **QUALITY** is better than **QUANTITY**. For instance, it is better to be involved in a few activities for an extended period of time and be highly involved with the groups rather than to be involved in a bunch of activities for 1 or 2 years with nothing to show for it. Try to hold a leadership position or be able to show something of value that you did within the organization. This shows commitment and value to being involved.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This is another way to show how you stand out among your peers. An accomplishment does not always have to be an award, but something that you can show you achieved that has been a positive reward.

### GROWTH

Colleges will want to see how you improved over your high school career. Did you progressively take more challenging classes? Have you take any positive risks? Have you taken on a leadership role? What improvements have you made? How have you grown?

# SAT vs. ACT

## SAT

1. Sections consist of Math, Evidence Based Reading and Writing and an Optional Essay
2. Each section is between 200-800. Optional Essay is not included in the overall test grade. Overall score ranges from 400-1600.
3. Length:  
3 hours (w/o essay)  
3 hours 50 minutes (w/ essay)
4. NO penalty for incorrect answers
5. Number of questions: 154
6. Reading passages consist of significant historical or scientific documents

**Register online at**

**<http://sat.collegeboard.org>**

### **SAT Test Dates**

All test dates and registration deadlines can be found at:

**<http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-us-dates>**

Souderton Area High School will offer SAT's once in the fall and twice in the spring. Testing months are usually in October, March and May.

## ACT

1. 5 Sections: English, Reading, Math, Science and an Optional Essay
2. Overall Composite score ranging from 1-36. Each section also has an individual score ranging from 1-36.
3. Length:  
2 hours 55 minutes (w/o essay)  
3 hours 25 minutes (w/ essay)
4. NO penalty for incorrect answers
5. Number of questions: 215
6. Reading passages consist of Fiction, Social Sciences, Humanities and Natural Sciences

**Register online at**

**<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/index.html>**

### **ACT Test Dates**

All test dates and registration deadlines can be found at:

**<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>**

Souderton Area High School will offer ACT's once in the fall and once in the Spring. Testing months are usually October and April.

# College Planning Time Line

## JUNIOR YEAR



### September/October

- ⇒ Communicate with parents about college/career plans
- ⇒ Stay involved in extracurricular activities
- ⇒ Attend College fair at SAHS 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

