The Path to College

ISIDORE NEWMAN SCHOOL

JANUARY 9, 2019

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The junior year is the beginning of the college admissions process when parents feel that there is a sense of urgency while students feel that it is so far away.

Idealistically, we want students to take control of the process, but realistically we know that some are not ready and need more direction and guidance.

Tonight is the beginning of the path to bring these parts together. We will give you a timeline for this process.
Junior Year

- Students and parents will both be required to complete online surveys in Naviance prior to meeting with the college counselor.
- Students will first meet one-on-one with college counselor (use Acuity link to schedule).
- The family meeting will be held with the college counselor after the one-on-one meeting (use Acuity link to schedule).
- Develop a spring testing plan with the college counselor. Every junior should take at least one SAT or ACT by the end of May.

**SAT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 2019</td>
<td>February 8, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4, 2019</td>
<td>April 5, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2019</td>
<td>May 3, 2019</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**ACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 9, 2019</td>
<td>January 13, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13, 2019</td>
<td>March 8, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8, 2019</td>
<td>May 3, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13, 2019</td>
<td>June 14, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Junior Year

- Students should carefully choose their senior year courses in consultation with their advisor and the college counselor. Each student should choose a course of study that is appropriately challenging.
- Research and visit colleges (Mardi Gras break and Spring Break are great opportunities to visit). See handout for more information on college visits.
- Begin developing a college list and enter the list into “Colleges I’m Thinking About” in Naviance.
Summer

• Possible additional testing
• Work, travel, camp, sports, classes, etc.
• Research and visit colleges
• College Essay Workshop (information forthcoming)
• Refine college list

Senior Year

• Request teacher recommendations by 9/15.
• Work on college list with college counselor. Final list due 10/1.
• Work on applications (common due dates are 10/15, 11/1, 11/15, and 1/1).
• All applications should be completed by 12/1.
• Possible additional testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24, 2019</td>
<td>September 14, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 5, 2019</td>
<td>October 26, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2, 2019</td>
<td>December 14, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 2019</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

• Final college choice and enrollment deposit due by 5/1.
Important Junior Year Meeting Topics

- Senior year course selections
- Testing schedule
- Student interests – likes & dislikes
- Priorities in the college search and selection process
  - Cost
  - Academic Program
  - Geography
  - School Culture, which could include academic rigor, reputation, admissibility, Greek life, social activism, diversity, athletic culture, distance from home, etc.

Who Does What?

**Student**
- finalizing college list and keeping it up-to-date in Naviance
- requesting teacher recommendations
- completing and submitting the application, including essays
- sending official test scores to colleges

**Counselor**
- helping to finalize college list
- reviewing and giving feedback on essays
- reviewing application before submission
- sending transcript, counselor recommendation, and teacher recommendation(s) to colleges
We Help Students With

- College list & application strategy
- Selecting teacher recommenders
- Choosing test scores
- Completing applications
- Essay brainstorming & review
- Organizing workload
- Practice interviews
- Assisting with need-based financial aid
- Researching scholarships
- Any other part of the process!

College Visits

☐ When

☐ How
Naviance

This is where you will find the college planning surveys for students and parents.

If you need help logging in, contact Anita at anitahedgepeth@newmanschool.org.

Q & A
Planning College Visits

- See several types of colleges: small, large, public, private, faith-based, rural, urban
- Be open-minded to types/specific colleges you’ve not heard of yet
- Visit information and registration is found on a college’s admissions website
- Don’t schedule interviews yet...wait until 12th grade

4 Hints for a Great College Visit:

- Visit 2 colleges a day at most, and 1 visit a day is fine
- Split up the family for the tour – expand your knowledge base
- Pay attention to bulletin boards, newspapers, chalking
- Take pictures during the visit and notes as soon as the visit is over; these impressions are important later!
Types of Standardized Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PSAT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Subject Tests</th>
<th>AP Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Used in college admissions</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Maybe. Less than 15 colleges require or suggest</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th grade</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Probably not</td>
<td>Probably not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th grade</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>Maybe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th grade</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Fall, maybe</td>
<td>Maybe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thoughts on Testing:

- Transcript (grades/trends in grades/course rigor) will always be most important.
- Testing is not as important as you think, but more important than colleges acknowledge
- Focus on either the ACT or SAT, not both
- Strongest growth is from first to second testing, flat at third, harmful after that
- Students CAN overdo it, which isn’t good