

SENIOR NEWS

STUDENT TIMELINE - SENIOR YEAR

- Finalize your college search and selection.
 - Continue to take challenging core classes.
 - Do your best in school—remember that EVERY grade counts and you can't wait until the last minute to bring your GPA up!
 - Stay involved in school and community activities—seek leadership roles.
 - Take the college entrance exams (ACT and SAT).
 - Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you have all the classes you need.
 - Ask teachers, coaches, and/or community leaders for letters of recommendation, if needed.
 - Apply to college early. Pay close attention to application deadlines.
 - Look into doing a job shadowing or internship.
 - Apply for scholarships—applications available on the web and/or in the College Information Center.
 - To prepare to apply for federal student aid, you must apply to get a PIN (personal identification number) from www.pin.ed.gov.
 - Encourage parents to complete income tax returns early.
 - As soon as possible after January 1st, complete and submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.
 - Review your college acceptance and financial aid packages to determine your final choice.
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How to Study

- 1. Be sure that you know exactly what to do.**

2. Write the assignment in a regular notebook that you keep for that purpose. Do not trust your memory.
3. Reduce to a minimum the distractions for study. Study in a quiet room.
4. Have a well-lighted desk cleared of all unnecessary objects and with the necessary study material at hand.
5. Have a planned program of work. Know that to do and how you are going to do it. Focus your attention on the completion of the assignment and work toward that goal.
6. Try not to have distractions. They make it more difficult to keep your mind on your work.
7. Avoid interruptions. They are a waste of time and energy. (Have your friends call before or after study hours.)
8. Form the habit of studying in one particular place.
9. Keep a daily study schedule. By studying at a regular time each day, you can develop good study habits.
10. Begin your study by working on something fairly easy, and then move on quickly to harder assignments.
11. Keep studying once you start by reminding yourself of what you will gain when you finish. It is all right to take a few minutes out to relieve fatigue, but long periods result in wasted time.
12. Develop the right attitudes. They can help you. Try to find some reason for liking a subject you are required to study.
13. Take a farsighted attitude toward learning. The shortsighted attitude that the only value in learning the subject is to pass the course will prevent you from retaining much from your education for your later life.

Tips for Taking the SAT Admission tickets

If your admission ticket doesn't arrive by Wednesday of the week that you are scheduled to take the SAT, call the College Board ATP at 609/771-7600. The hours to call are from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. They will notify the center for which you registered to add your name to the list.

Missing the test

If for some reason you miss the test on Saturday, you will be able to get a portion of the fee you paid if you request it. Sign the back of your admission ticket and return it to the College Board ATP, CN 6200, Princeton, N.J. 0854171-6200, Attn. Candidate Refunds. You will be refunded \$3.00.

School Code

Go to your school guidance counselor to get the code number.

Test Day

Be at your center no later than 8:30 a.m. The test will end at approximately 12:30 p.m. Be sure to take your admission ticket, some identification such as a driver's license or a photo ID card, two #2 pencils, and an eraser. If you do not have an ID, a brief physical description of you on school

stationary signed by you in the presence of your principal or counselor will do. You might want to take a sweater or jacket in case the room is cool.

Tips

1. Plan your time carefully. Spending too much time on the question can be detrimental as a wrong answer.
2. Answer the questions you know first. Then if you have time, return to the unanswered questions.
3. There is only one right answer. If you identify it, don't waste time working through the other possibilities.
4. Pay particular attention to words such as "but", "not", "however", and "therefore". They are often key words that signal major thoughts.
5. Memorize basic math formulas, such as $\text{Area} = \text{Length} \times \text{Width}$ for the area of a rectangle.
6. Don't panic when you find you can't answer a particular question. Even if you get only half the questions correct, you're still doing above average.
7. Get good nights sleep before the test.
8. Bring a watch to the test. It is important to be aware of the time allotted for each section. When practicing the test, time yourself with the watch.
9. Be aware at all times of the number of the item on the answer sheet.

Remember that all test items have the same value. You receive the same number of points for the easy answers as you do for the hard ones.

Senior Year Checklist for Applications!

- Fill out Activities Form and Senior Plan form and return to Counseling office.
- Review your list of universities or technical colleges. Prioritize your schools and begin making applications after **SEPTEMBER 15**. Set a target date to have at least one application in before **NOVEMBER 15**. If you are interested in a competitive field, apply NOW!
- Take college visits to schools of your choice; you or your counselor can arrange these.
- Most college applications are now submitted online. For the traditionalist, paper applications are still available in the guidance office. For other colleges, access their websites for the online application instructions. If you are interested in a military academy, see your guidance counselor for assistance with the application process. Most online applications have a "counselor's sheet" that students print out at the end of the process. Remember to print this sheet out.
- College essays/Personal statements are important; write a draft and have someone with English skills (your English teacher or counselor) evaluate it. Clear, concise writing is important.
- Sign (if you are 18) or have a parent sign a transcript release form(yellow). This is the only way to get an official or unofficial transcript released.

- Bring completed application, transcript release form, and application fee (check or money order) to your guidance counselor. **We can mail your paper application from the guidance office.** If you apply online, bring in counselor comment page, check (if you did not pay online), and transcript release form to your counselor.
- If you are applying to a private school, decide whether you are applying early decision, early action, or regular admission.
- Make sure you have taken the necessary admission tests (ACT, SAT I or Asset). If you are not satisfied with your score or think that other factors affected your test performance, you may want to retest.
- Request letters of recommendation early - give your writer at least two weeks to write the letter. Letters of recommendation are appropriate for some college applications (typically private) and many scholarships. **Remember to thank your reference for the letter!**
- Upon acceptance, submit necessary paperwork and pay tuition deposits and/or housing deposits. Pay attention to deadlines.
- If wait listed or denied admission, consult with your counselor. If wait listed, inquire if supplemental materials can be submitted. If denied, select other colleges and submit applications.