

# Planning Your Future

Class of 2018



# Major Components of College Admissions

- ❖ College application
- ❖ SAT and/or ACT score
- ❖ 9th -11th grade transcript looking at grades and rigor of courses chosen
- ❖ Class Rank
- ❖ Personal essay on many applications
- ❖ Letters of recommendation
- ❖ Extra-curricular activities, leadership roles
- ❖ Some require an interview.



# How to research colleges & careers

- ❖ Visit Occupational Outlook Handbook (US Dept. of Labor): [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)
- ❖ Visit Career Zone website at [www.careerzone.ny.gov](http://www.careerzone.ny.gov)
- ❖ Visit Overgrad website at [www.overgrad.com](http://www.overgrad.com)
- ❖ Visit college resource library in Student Services
- ❖ Visit with college admissions and/or US Armed Forces representatives in Student Services (listen for announcements throughout the year)
- ❖ Go to college fairs, open houses and schedule tours
- ❖ Research college websites
- ❖ Visit your local library, book stores to research college and careers
- ❖ Make an appointment with your favorite school counselor!



# PSAT Exam

What is the PSAT? It's a preliminary (practice) SAT that will test you on skills in the areas of reading, writing/language and math.

Why take the PSAT? This is a practice exam. Depending on your score, you could qualify for merit scholarship money. Your score will not appear on your transcript. You will receive a detailed booklet in December or January explaining your results. You will also receive your original test book with your results. Both books will be a great way to study for the SAT in May.

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2016- during the school day here at Starpoint.

Register: You must register in Student Services from 9/26-10/14. See Mrs. Brogan, secretary. You will receive a practice book upon registration.

Cost: \$15 (Fee waivers available for select students) Bring \$15 to register.

Practice: Use your practice book to study. Also, visit this website to study and learn more:  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

# SAT Exam

What is the SAT? It's the Scholastic Aptitude Test used to measure math and literacy skills needed for academic success in college. This standardized test is widely used for college admissions in the United States.

Structure of the test: 3 hour exam with 3 parts (Reading, Writing/Language & Math)

Optional: Essay part of the test. Some college may require this.

When: Juniors typically take it for the first time in May and again in fall of senior year. Students register online through College Board.

Cost: \$45, \$57 with the optional essay

Scores: range from 400-1600. A score of 1000 is the average. Scores of 1200+ may earn scholarship money. Scores can be sent to up to 4 colleges at no cost.

SAT Subject Tests- required by some selective colleges.

Study- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)



# ACT

- ❖ Like the SAT, the ACT is a nationally administered, standardized paper-and-pencil three-hour test that helps colleges evaluate candidates.
- ❖ You are tested on skills related to English, math, science, and reading. Optional writing portion.
- ❖ Our kids typically do very well on the ACT.
- ❖ Typically taken in June of junior year and again in fall of senior year.



# College Planning Timeline - Junior Year

- ❖ October- Take PSAT
- ❖ May/June- Take SAT and ACT
- ❖ All year- attend college visit sessions, college fairs, research careers and colleges online.
- ❖ Spring/Summer- start asking adults for letters of recommendation for college applications.
- ❖ Summer- attend college tours; narrow down list of colleges; start considering where to apply.
- ❖ Spring/Summer- Register with NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan to play sports at Division 1 or 2 schools.



# Looking ahead to Senior Year

- ❖ September/October: Narrow down a list of 3-5 colleges for you. Continue to tour college campuses. Retake SAT's and ACT's if you want to improve your scores.
- ❖ October 1st- Typical deadline to finish college applications and start the process for applying for financial aid (FAFSA form)
- ❖ December-May: Research and apply for scholarships; review financial aid award letters; make decision and pay deposit.



# Remind App

- ❖ **Remind** is a free text messaging/email **app** that helps teachers, students, and parents communicate quickly and efficiently.
- ❖ Juniors and parents are encouraged to sign up for Mrs. Wasilewski's "Remind" announcements. You will get important reminders about events and deadlines sent to your phone or email.
- ❖ Sign up:

Text @mrstwasi to 81010 or visit [www.remind.com/join/mrstwasi](http://www.remind.com/join/mrstwasi)



# Not planning on attending college?

- ❖ Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook to research jobs (pay, outlook, requirements)
- ❖ Shadow adults who are currently in the job you are thinking about pursuing. This is a great way to assess whether the job is right for you.
- ❖ Visit the US Armed Forces representatives who visit our school regularly.
- ❖ Attend trade school open houses and explore their websites.
- ❖ We recommend that you take the SAT/ACT if there is a chance you might attend a 4-year college.



# Excellent online resources!

## College & Career Information:

[www.overgrad.org](http://www.overgrad.org)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

[www.nycareerzone.org](http://www.nycareerzone.org)

[www.collegetoolkit.com](http://www.collegetoolkit.com)

[www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)

## SAT/ACT Prep:

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

[www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com)



# Remember This

Take a deep breath and know that you don't need to have a concrete plan of what your future looks like at this point in your life.

Use these next few years to learn more about your interests, strengths, weaknesses and what truly brings you happiness.

Great Quote: "Choose a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life."

*Bright futures  
begin here*

