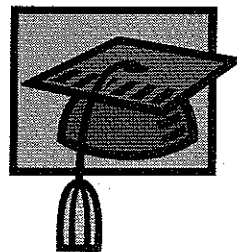


## Guidance Office News

**This September newsletter is focusing on college planning and preparation. While it may be pertinent to 11th and 12th grade students, it is never too early to start planning for your future. I hope many 10th grade students will consider attending some of the events.**



### College Presentations/Events

**What:** University of Notre Dame Presentation

**When:** Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm-6:00pm

**Where:** Kahkwa Club, 3300 Kahkwa Club Road Erie, PA 16505

Maureen Clark, an admissions representative from the University of Notre Dame, will be coming to Erie, PA for a presentation and question and answer session. If you are considering Notre Dame for your future plans, please plan to attend. All are welcome.

**What:** College Meet & Greet

**When:** Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-8:00pm

**Where:** FHS Auditorium

It is never too early to start the college planning process. Our College Meet and Greet session will allow you to hear a guidance presentation on the college basics as well as meet with local colleges, technical and trade schools, and various branches of the military. Together let's make the college planning process a fun experience.

**What:** PACAC Northwest Regional College Fair

**When:** Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-8:00pm

**Where:** Mercyhurst College Rec Center Gym, Erie PA

This college fair has over 75 colleges/universities planning to attend. Plan to attend early as parking can be an issue. A comprehensive list of those colleges planning to attend can be found at: <http://www.pacac.org/College-Fairs-Attending>

**What:** Penn State College of Arts and Architecture Fall Visit Day

**When:** October 10

**Where:** Penn State, University Park, PA

Penn State College of Arts and Architecture is holding a fall Visit Day at University Park. If you are looking into a degree program in the arts or architecture and Penn State is a school you are considering, you should plan to attend. Register online at: <http://visit.aanda.psu.edu>

**What:** Cornell University The Women in Engineering Program (WIE)

**When:** Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

**Where:** Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

The WIE Program is for senior women who are interested in Cornell and Engineering. For more information: [www.engineering.cornell.edu/wieprogram](http://www.engineering.cornell.edu/wieprogram)

**What:** Cornell University The Diversity Hosting Weekend (DHW)

**When:** Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, Ithaca, New York

The DHW Program is for senior students from under-represented backgrounds who are interested in Cornell and Engineering. For more information:

[www.engineering.cornell.edu/falldhw](http://www.engineering.cornell.edu/falldhw)

**What:** Gannon University SAT Prep Courses

**When:** Various Sessions

**Where:** Gannon University

Gannon is offering four sessions of SAT prep courses. Each session includes a review of all three sections of the SAT exam. The cost is \$265 for all three sections (critical reading, math, and writing). For more information visit: [www.gannon.edu/sat](http://www.gannon.edu/sat)

# SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and the PSAT

## What are these exams all about?

### SAT

- The SAT has 3 sections: Math, Critical Reading, and Writing. A perfect score on the SAT is a 2400.
- Most students take the SAT for the first time during the spring of their junior year and a second time during the fall of their senior year.
- You can send your SAT scores to four schools for free. Make sure to make your selection of schools when registering. If you want to send it to more than four schools it will cost \$10.50 per score report. Some colleges will accept SAT scores that are printed on your official high school transcript. If this is the case, save money by having the guidance office send your official transcript instead.
- See the guidance office if you would like to register for the test by mail. Always remember that the deadline for registration is usually a month before the test date. Don't be late or you will have to pay high late fee costs.
- If you have a financial hardship, please talk to the guidance office about the possibility of a fee waiver.
- Not sure if your scores will get you into your school of choice? Go to: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/scores/> Under FIND A COLLEGE, put in your school of choice. Then click the SAT tab for average SAT scores for currently enrolled students.
- Not satisfied with your SAT scores? Try the SAT again or consider taking the ACT. For more information on the ACT visit: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

### SAT SUBJECT TESTS

This information is important to 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students...

SAT Subject Tests are hour-long, content-based tests that allow you to showcase achievement in specific subject areas where you excel. These are the **only** national admission tests where **you** choose the tests that best showcase your achievements and interests. SAT Subject Tests allow you to differentiate yourself in the college admission process or send a strong message regarding your readiness to study specific majors or programs in college. In conjunction with your other admission credentials (your high school record, SAT scores, teacher recommendations, etc.), they provide a more complete picture of your academic background and interests. There are 20 SAT Subject Tests in five general subject areas: English, history, languages, mathematics and science. Some colleges and universities require these subject tests as part of the admissions process. The schools that usually require them are the more competitive schools. Go to the admissions webpage or talk to an admissions counselor at your school of choice to see if these exams are required. (Information taken from the College Board website).

**IMPORTANT:** It is best to take the SAT subject exams as soon as you have completed the equivalent high school course. If you wanted to take the Biology SAT Subject test, you would want to take this exam in your sophomore year upon completing your Biology course. For more information on SAT Subject Tests, please visit <http://sat.collegeboard.org>

### PSAT

All 11th grade students and all 10th grade honors students considering higher education should take the PSAT exam. The PSAT is a practice SAT exam that has no bearing on the admissions process. It allows students a glance at what the SAT exam entails and shows students how they compare to other students across the nation taking this exam. The exam costs \$14 and will be offered at FHS on Wednesday, October 12th. Students need to register and bring their money to the guidance office by the first week of October.

# NCAA



## Thinking about playing a sport at the Division I or Division II level?

### When should students register with the clearinghouse?

The NCAA recommends that student athletes register with the clearinghouse at the **beginning of their junior year** in high school, but many students register after their junior year. There is no registration deadline, but students must be cleared by the clearinghouse before they receive athletic scholarships or compete at a Division I or Division II institution.

### How do students register with the clearinghouse?

Students can register online at <http://eligibilitycenter.org> They will have to enter personal information, answer questions about their athletic participation, and pay a registration fee. The website will then prompt them to have their high school transcript and ACT or SAT scores sent to the clearinghouse.

### What records does the clearinghouse require?

Students should arrange to have their high school transcript sent to the clearinghouse as soon as they have completed at least six semesters of high school. The transcript must be mailed directly from their high school. They must also arrange to have their SAT test scores reported directly by the testing company to the clearinghouse. Students can arrange this when they register for the SAT. When choosing their four schools to send their tests results to, student should mark code "9999" the NCAA clearinghouse as one of their choices. The clearinghouse needs scores directly from SAT and will not accept scores from a high school transcript.

#### SAT Test Dates

- October 1st (must register by Sept 9th)
- November 5th
- December 3rd
- January 28th
- March 10th
- May 5th
- June 2nd

#### ACT Test Dates

- October 22nd
- December 10th
- February 11th
- April 14th
- June 9th

#### PSAT Test Dates

- October 12th

Juniors and Sophomore Honors students, please sign up in the guidance office by the first week of October. The fee is \$14.

## FHS College Visits

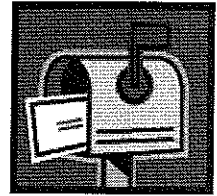
Many colleges visit us at the high school. Seniors, please sign up in the guidance office to receive a pass to attend. Check the guidance office at any time for an up to date list.

September 13th: Slippery Rock	October 5th: Air Force Rep
September 16th: California University of PA Univ of Pittsburgh/Titusville	October 11th: Clarion University
September 20th: Highpoint University	October 13th: Edinboro University
September 21st: Robert Morris University Rochester Institute of Tech Alfred University	October 14th: Kent State Univ
September 27th: Mercyhurst College	October 18th: Indiana Univ of PA
October 3rd: Westminster College	October 19th: John Carroll Univ
October 4th: Univ of Pittsburgh/Bradford	October 20th: Waynesburg Univ Univ of Akron
	October 26th: St. Bonaventure
	November 1st: Wash & Jefferson

## Letters of Recommendation

### Do I really need a letter of recommendation to get into college?

The answer is...it depends on the school. Many colleges and universities are now requiring at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or guidance counselor. This can be important information for an admissions counselor as it can provide insight into the type of person you are, the type of student you are, and overall what you could add to their college or university. Here are some tips:



- Ask someone that really knows you to write the letter. Never ask a family member, but ask a teacher or coach that you have known for a few years to write your letter.
- Fill out the Student Request for Letter of Recommendation form and attach a resume of activities. Give this resume and form to every person writing a letter on your behalf. This form and a sample resume can be found in the guidance office.
- Ask the recommender early. Don't say, "I need this letter in 3 days." Give the recommender at least 2 weeks, but follow up if necessary.
- Some colleges require a specific evaluation sheet. Check your college's website or ask an admissions counselor to see if there is an evaluation sheet or if a letter is sufficient.
- Keep a copy of all of your letters of recommendation or ask for an extra copy from your recommender. This letters may come in handy for scholarship applications in the future.
- Some letters of recommendation need to be kept private and the recommender will seal the envelope and sign over the flap. You may want to ask your college if this is necessary.

### **FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL**

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