

JUNIOR NIGHT

CLASS OF 2011

A Jump-Start on Senior Year

&

What You Should Know

about College

Ms. Pierson

Mrs. Cooper

YHS Guidance Office

FOR TONIGHT

- ✓ Senior Year Priorities
- ✓ Planning for College
- ✓ Picking a College
- ✓ What colleges ask for
- ✓ The SAT and ACT
- ✓ Paying for College
- ✓ What Happens When?
- ✓ The FAFSA
- ✓ What Juniors Can do NOW
- ✓ NCAA
- ✓ More Help and Useful Tools
- ✓ Close with Questions

COLLEGE!?



SENIOR YEAR PRIORITIES

- Turning in you Senior Brag Sheet
- Taking the SAT or ACT
- Keeping on-track with the Senior Year Calendar
- Keeping up your grades
- Writing your college essays
- Getting letters of recommendation
- Applying on time or “early decision” to colleges
- Seeking out financial aid options
- Completing the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and submitting it between Jan 1 and March 10 (can start the form on Dec 1)

WHERE CAN I FIND INFO ON COLLEGES?

- Attend College Fairs
- Take College Visit Days
 - Senior Year - 2 days allowed for college visits
 - Athletes can take up to 5 college visit days thanks to NCAA!
 - Must OKAY this with the front office first
- Attend College Representative Visits to YHS
- Visit College websites
- Call colleges and ask for:
 - brochures and application materials
 - dates of their Preview Days

Check out the links on the YHS Guidance website

PICKING A SCHOOL

- How many should I apply to?
 - An individual decision

How to Pick

Reach

Likely

SAFETY

APPLYING TO SCHOOLS

- What do colleges ask for?
 - Counselor form, transcript, school profile
 - Application
 - Application Fee (varies)
 - Essay
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - SAT/ACT Scores
- When should I apply?
 - Normal versus Early Decision Deadlines
 - These depends on each individual school
 - Keep track of deadlines and have application materials ready well in advance

LETTERS OF REC

- Its okay to ask “Can you write me a strong letter?”
- Give the teachers plenty of notice
 - Two weeks MINIMUM
- Supply the teacher with a school addressed envelope (stamped) and a copy of your brag sheet

SAT AND ACT

- Tests that are required by most colleges - gives them an idea of how you might perform academically
- Check with schools to see which test they require
 - (SAT usually works)
- Best to register online to immediately reserve seat
- There is a fee each time you take the test
- Must be sent from the testing company to the college
 - Make sure you have taken test WELL BEFORE school deadline
 - Scores take several weeks to get results/be sent out
- May want to give yourself time to retake test if unhappy w/ scores

SAT

- Most colleges require the SAT Reasoning Test unless it is stated on the application that they want you to take an SAT Subject Test
- Tests critical reading, math, and writing skills

Some Upcoming Dates - More will be posted soon

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline w/ late fees
May 1, 2010	March 31, 2010*	April 15, 2010*
June 5, 2010	May 5, 2010*	May 19, 2010*

YHS School code: 153890

ACT

- Assesses English, math, reading, and science ability

- Optional writing exam - check with school

Some Upcoming Dates - More will be posted soon

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline w/ late fees
June 12, 2010	May 2, 2010	May 8-21, 2010

YHS School code: 153890

ARE YOU READY? TESTING PREP

- Study!
- How did you do on the PSAT?
- See the YHS Guidance Website for links
- Can purchase prep materials at book stores
- The Compass & other fee-based agencies
- My College Quick Start - tools identify weak areas and give suggestions

PAYING FOR COLLEGE



3 WAYS TO FUND COLLEGE

FAFSA

- Loans
 - Government (subsidized and unsubsidized)
 - Fill out FAFSA to determine eligibility
 - Private
 - Grants
 - Fill out FAFSA to determine eligibility
-
- Scholarships
 - Counseling Office will have a listing
 - Visit the YHS Guidance Website

THE FAFSA

- **MUST** compete to be considered for almost every type of aid
 - Asks for tax information from student and parents - do taxes ASAP
- Federal deadline to file FAFSA is usually in March but some schools will have **EARLIER** deadlines!
 - Easiest or apply online (Can apply for PIN starting December 1st but can't submit until Jan 1)
 - Submit as close to January 1 as possible
 - Opportunities for free FAFSA help
- After you do the FAFSA, a Student Aid Report (SAR) mailed/emailed to you February - April
 - Review carefully and follow any instructions

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Applying
 - Can ask for very little to a lot!
 - Deadlines are absolute
 - Range in award amount- greater chance of winning smaller amounts (less competitive)
- How do I know when they apply to me?
 - Look at requirements on the application
- When should I start looking?
 - Usually start around August - more and more as year goes on
- Where can I find them?
 - YHS Guidance Office & YHS Guidance Website, scholarship websites, churches, businesses
 - Warning: SSN & pay-based search sites

21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS & FREE REDUCED LUNCH

- SAT/ACT fee waivers
 - Allowed up to 2 per year
 - Your counselors can give you the necessary forms
- Up to 4 college application fee waivers
- The Purdue Promise & The IU Covenant

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN?

- Senior Year Checklist



FIRST SEMESTER

- Visit colleges and attend college representative visits
- Apply for as many scholarships as you can
- Take SAT or ACT if you haven't already
- Narrow down list of schools you are applying to

FIRST SEMESTER (CONT)

- Make list of colleges, application materials, deadlines
- Mail all necessary college applications by Nov 1st and call to make sure application packet is complete
- Apply for FAFSA PIN starting December 1

SECOND SEMESTER

- **FAFSA!**
- Continue to apply for scholarships
- If not doing early decision deadlines, make sure everything is turned in by normal deadlines
 - these vary - do NOT be late!
- Call colleges and ask “Is my application packet complete?”

SECOND SEMESTER (CONT)

- Call college financial aid offices to see if they require additional forms (housing, financial aid, etc.)
- Review financial aid information sent from colleges
- Report any outside grants or scholarships you have been awarded to colleges
- April/May: Finalize college decisions, and notify schools - even if you say “no”

NCAA – DIVISION I OR II

- You must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse
 - *Early fall*

[https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/
www.ncaaclearinghouse.org](https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/www.ncaaclearinghouse.org)

- Core approved courses and SAT/ACT scores (see NCAA website)
 - Div I = 16 core courses
 - Div II = 14 core courses

NCAA (CONTINUED)

- SAT/ACT scores
 - Must be reported directly from SAT/ACT
 - Use code “9999”
- If you are being recruited, or think you may be recruited, TALK TO YOUR COUNSELOR!
- Need more info?
 - See the NCAA website, the YHS Guidance website, or your counselor
 - Informational packets available in Athletic Office
 - An updated packet will likely be posted on YHS website in the fall

NEED SOME DIRECTION?



WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

- Guidance Website - Explore career and college majors
- Contact schools for brochures and applications
 - Write down deadlines and gather what they ask for
 - Start to narrow down schools/programs you want to apply to
- Register for and take the SAT or ACT
- Write your essays early
- Turn in your Senior Brag Sheet to the Counseling Office
- Figure out who you will ask for letters of recommendation
- Attend college fairs and take college visit days

KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF

- This semester is the last semester the colleges will see when they are applying in the fall
- Do colleges really care about senior year grades?
 - You can be accepted and then denied months later if your grades significantly drop - they see your final transcript
 - Continue to take rigorous classes - colleges ask for the list
 - of classes you have picked for senior year
 - Continue to be involved in extracurricular activities

VALUABLE TOOLS

- The YHS Guidance Website!

Passed Out:

- DOE Pamphlets
- College App Checklist

On YHS Guidance Site

- This presentation
- Senior Brag Sheet
- Senior Year Calendar
- 2009-2010 Senior Survival Guide
- Can You Afford College, Worksheet
- What is Important to me in a College, Worksheet

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- Check for information from Guidance Office
 - We put together packets of information designed to make applying to college EASIER
- We schedule college visits
 - College representatives come to YHS to tell you about their schools
- Visit the YHS Guidance Website!
 - College and Career Exploration Tab
 - Junior and Senior Tab

YOUR COUNSELORS

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THANK YOU!