

Junior Jumpstart

Oyster River High School

March 2010

SAT Dates and Deadlines

You must register online—not in Guidance!!

www.collegeboard.com

Test Date May 1 June 5

**Registration
Deadline** March 31 May 5

- Be sure to forward your scores to the colleges you think you will apply to—most colleges require official scores to be sent directly from The College Board.
- Most students take the SAT Reasoning Test at least two times—if you have questions, please make an appointment with your counselor to discuss your options. Plan accordingly if you will need to take any SAT Subject Tests. More selective colleges typically require 3 SAT subject tests.



**Don't forget
to register for
Destination
College !**

www.nhheaf.org

ACT Dates and Deadlines

www.actstudent.org

Test Date	Reg. Deadline
April 10	March 5
June 12	May 7

- ✓ Students must register ACT plus Writing



Senior Schedules



Admission to 4-year colleges is becoming more competitive each year. We encourage students to not only meet, but also exceed the ORHS graduation requirements. Colleges are seeking prospective students who have maintained a solid, strong curriculum *throughout* their high school career. You should be challenging yourself with the most rigorous schedule you can handle successfully. A strong senior schedule includes all core subjects—English, math, science, social studies. In addition to a strong schedule, most 4-year colleges recommend 3-4 credits of the same International Language.

An ORHS senior was denied admittance by a university and the reason given by the admissions department was: *the 'senior year schedule of courses was not strong enough. The student had met his/her graduation requirements and decided to take many electives instead of maintaining a strong college preparatory schedule'.*

If you are unsure about attending college, we still recommend that you take challenging courses in all core subjects so you can keep all options open for the future.

Another great way to enhance your senior schedule is through summer programs offered at local colleges/universities. Stop down to the Guidance Office to see what is available.



Identifying Plans for After High School

Whether you plan to attend a four-year college/university, take a gap year, enter the workforce or an armed service, it is important to begin developing a plan for post-graduation now.

- Begin with researching careers and/or trades.
- Develop a preliminary list of four-year colleges/universities, technical schools or community colleges during April break and summer vacation and visit the campuses, if possible.
- Create an activities list or resume.
- If the armed service is your interest, contact a local recruiter to learn more about your options.
- Request information from colleges/universities, potential employers or military recruiters.

College Search Tips

The hardest part of the college search is *getting started!* Using the tips listed below and the websites listed in your junior packet, you will be on your way to narrowing down your list of schools to which you may be applying.

Get to know yourself: What are your interests? What school subjects do you like best?

Look at yourself the way a college would: What courses have you taken? Review your grades and standardized test results. What are your special talents?

Narrowing Choices:

Location: Do you want to be far away or close to home?

Size: Would you like a school with thousands of students or a smaller setting?

Academics: What kind of challenge are you looking for and what programs are available to suit your interests?

Social/Recreational: What extracurricular interests do you participate in and are they available on campus?

Athletics: Do you want a school that offers competitive sports or one with less of focus on athletics?

Once you have explored your interests and things you would like in a school, you are ready to begin your search. It is recommended that you apply to 4-6 schools and make sure that you pay attention to the competitiveness of each school. Remember to compare your academic profile to the schools' and categorize your college selections into: **Reach, Reasonable, and Probable**. Your School Counselor is a great resource to help you categorize your schools as well as get your college search underway!

NAVIANCE

www.connection.naviance.com/oysterriver

Naviance is our college application, search and data management system. Counselors are meeting with all Juniors in February to introduce Naviance and get students registered. All parents of Juniors should have received their own registration codes via mail during February. Please log-on and see the many benefits of the system, prior to the beginning of senior year. Please contact your counselor if you did not receive your registration code, or if you have any questions!

College/Career Exploration

Bridges Career Center

www.bridges.com

The Bridges website is user-friendly and is a comprehensive site for career exploration. Research careers, colleges and jobs all in one site. Stop by Guidance for the Site ID & Password. The Guidance Office has many other resources available to help with college/career exploration.



COLLEGE VISITS

With Spring Break quickly approaching, it is a perfect time to visit a few potential schools. It is important to call or go online to check for tour dates and times.

Smart Questions to ask Tour Guides:

- What did you do for fun last weekend?
- Do people stay on campus?
- Can first-year students have cars on campus? Do you need one?
- How much time do you spend on homework?
- How accessible are the professors outside of class?
- What types of activities are you involved in?



SUMMER Programs

The summer is fast approaching and planning summer activities to enhance your resume should be a priority. Some examples of activities include internships, volunteer work, community service, or a part-time job.

Many colleges offer summer programs for enrichment purposes and also to gain college credit. The guidance office has a number of brochures on the various programs offered both near and far during the upcoming summer.

Deadlines for the summer programs approach fast, so stop down to Guidance to learn about what is available!