

## **JUNIOR NEWS**

**March 2017**

### **Somerset Berkley Regional High School Guidance Department**

#### **JUNIOR INTERVIEWS**

Individual junior interviews will start beginning this month and will continue until all juniors have been seen by their counselor. Students and counselors will discuss future plans, the college selection and application process, as well as reviewing their course selection to ensure their classes are in alignment with their potential plans.

#### **NAVIANCE**

All students have been introduced to Naviance, which is a college and career readiness platform that helps connect academic achievement to post-secondary goals. Students were given their access codes and once they have accessed their accounts, they (along with parents/guardians) will be able to search colleges, college majors, and scholarships that are relevant to the students' individual interests and achievements.

#### **SAT REASONING TEST/ SAT SUBJECT TESTS**

Juniors should remember that if they are planning to attend a four-year college, they should plan to take the SAT Reasoning Test. Some two-year colleges also require the SAT Reasoning Test, as well. It is recommended that students take the SAT (or ACT—see below) during their junior year, as well as at the beginning of their senior year. Colleges will use the highest score achieved in each of these skill areas for admission purposes (Critical Reading, Math, and optional Writing). All students are advised to discuss taking these tests with their guidance counselors.

Juniors will have their first opportunity to take the SAT Reasoning Test at Somerset Berkley Regional High School on **Saturday, May 6, 2017**. The registration deadline for this test is **April 7, 2017**. (Additional upcoming SAT test dates offered at other local schools include the March 11<sup>th</sup> and the June 3<sup>rd</sup> administrations.) A late fee will be added to the cost of the test, should you register beyond the posted deadlines. Students can register on line via [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), and as well via a link that can be found in their Naviance account. The registration process now requires all students upload a picture onto their admission ticket. Students must have this ticket plus a valid photo I.D. the morning of the test in order to be admitted to a testing site. .

Some private four-year colleges require, in addition to the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests. Students should check the individual college websites or speak with their counselor to see if this is a consideration for them.

## SAT PREPARATION

There are various workshops, including those on-line, available for SAT skill improvement. A new, excellent tool students can use for SAT preparation called “Test Prep” can be located through students’ Naviance accounts. “Test Prep” offers SAT instruction based on the students’ individual strengths and weaknesses.

For those students who took the PSAT, **Collegeboard.org** offers a prep course through their website, which links to Khan Academy, to provide individualized test preparation. Once these two accounts are linked, the students are taken through practice in areas of weakness that were specifically indicated from their own PSAT results.

Locally, places that offer prep classes for students include Bristol Community College, Massasoit Community College, and *A Great Place to Learn* (Swansea, MA).

## ACTs

The ACT (American College Test) is an alternative test that is available to prospective college applicants. The SAT is a projective test, which attempts to predict potential for academic success in college, whereas the ACT is a more knowledge-based instrument measuring what you actually know. If you have questions or would like further information about this test, please talk with your guidance counselor.

The ACT will be offered on **April 8, 2017** (registration deadline March 3) and **June 10, 2017** (registration deadline May 5) at local high schools. SBRHS is **not** a test site for the ACT. Additional testing dates will be available in the fall of 2016. ACT registration information can be found at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org), or by following the link in Naviance.

## SENIOR YEAR COURSE REGISTRATION

All students are entering their courses for their senior year into the “request” section of their Aspen grade portal. Students will now be called down to guidance by their counselor to review their selections with them. Any level recommendations for next year will be shown in this request/entry section. Be sure to reference the student handbook regarding SBRHS graduation requirements as well as the college entrance requirements in making decisions about senior year courses.

## COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHT FOR JUNIORS

There will be a college planning night for juniors and their families here at the high school auditorium on Wednesday, March 8, at 6:30 pm. This informative night entitled, **“A Road Map to College Planning”** will address the college planning process and will provide information on what to expect in the months ahead and how to plan accordingly. All upcoming seniors and their parents are highly encouraged to attend.

### **THE HOMEWORK CLUB**

The Homework Club is available to all students in the library after school Mondays through Thursdays from 2:15-3:40 pm. Extra help is offered in four subjects: Mondays-English, Tuesdays-Math, Wednesdays-Social Studies, Thursdays-Science. Students are strongly encouraged to make use of this service.

### **COLLEGE FAIRS**

The National Association for College Admission Counseling will be holding two college fairs in the nearby area. The Boston National College Fair will be held on Sunday, May 7th (2:00-5:00 pm) and on Monday, May 8th (8:30 am-12:30), at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The Providence National College Fair will be also held on Monday, May 8th (5:30-8:30 pm) at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Visit [www.nacacfairs.org](http://www.nacacfairs.org) for more information. On-line registration is available at [www.gotomyncf.com](http://www.gotomyncf.com).

### **COLLEGE MAJOR/CAREER EXPLORATION**

The students' Naviance accounts are excellent tool for the college major and career exploration process. It includes a Career Interest Inventory which yields results they can use and further investigate for themselves, with their parents/families, as well as with their guidance counselors. College Board's website also is particularly helpful as it offers a program entitled, "**Big Future**", an interactive college and career planning tool .

### **QUEST/BRIDGE SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

High-achieving, low-income juniors are eligible to receive full scholarships to college summer programs at schools such as Harvard, Stanford, and Yale. Quest-Bridge is a non-profit organization that aims to increase the number of outstanding, low-income students who attend and excel within selective colleges. Interested students should see their guidance counselor for application materials and/or visit [www.questbridge.org](http://www.questbridge.org).

### **SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS**

There are a number of other educational summer programs available at various institutions of higher learning, and even some sponsored by the armed forces. There are deadlines approaching for these, so if interested, please stop by the guidance office and speak with your counselor about these invaluable opportunities.

## **HELPFUL WEB SITES**

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)- Provides information about SAT and test dates. Also provides information about colleges.

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)- Provides information about financial aid, tips on writing a college application essay and virtual college tours.

[www.mefacounselor.org](http://www.mefacounselor.org)- This is the website for the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority. It contains a variety of helpful information regarding financing a college education as well as links to various websites involved in the financial aid process.

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)- This site provides info about completing the FAFSA online.

(Below you will find a checklist reminder of things to do to help you prepare for the college search process. You may find this helpful as you begin to research potential colleges or majors of study.)

### **MARCH 2017–AUGUST 2017:**

- *Examine educational opportunities available to you and discuss your plans with your parents/guardians.*
- *Investigate career choices and decide on career direction.*
- *Study college admissions requirements and select appropriate courses to meet them. Senior year courses are important to colleges and to your future!*
- *Begin school search by writing for individual school catalogs. If possible, visit schools and visit websites for colleges as well.*
- *Attend local college fairs to examine a wide variety of schools.*
- *Check out Naviance, which has many resources available for your career exploration.*
- *SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests and ACT are offered in the spring and fall. (Somerset Berkley Regional High School offers SAT testing each year in the months of May and November.)*
- *Consider using an ACT or SAT preparation workshop or program, such as College Board's Khan Academy, or the prep program via Naviance.*