

# EHS DEPARTMENT OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

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**EPISCOPAL  
HIGH SCHOOL**

# COLLEGE COUNSELING JUNIOR PARENT NEWSLETTER



## TO THE PARENTS OF 2021:

Greetings from College Counseling! The spring of Junior year marks a significant time in the college search process. We look forward to working with each of your students during this time of exploration. This newsletter details important information and upcoming events.

College Counseling will meet with juniors in small groups daily during Interim Term in January. Together, we will break down the components of the college application process. Students will begin to assess what makes them unique and how to convey their individuality to colleges. They will also create or update their resumes, learn how to approach the college essay, and more!

Junior Conferences will begin in late January after Interim Term concludes. This meeting will begin the process of forming a college list and address individual questions or concerns. Please review the information on the following pages outlining proper protocol for scheduling Junior Conferences.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our College Night Program on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7 p.m. Students do not need to attend.

As always, feel free to contact anyone in our office with questions or concerns. We look forward to working with your students!

Sincerely,

Your Friends in College Counseling

*Mark Carter*

*Patricia M. Houser*

*Monica López*

*Rachel Lopez*

*Julie Rollins*

*Tena Ward*



# SCHEDULING JUNIOR CONFERENCES:

## THE “BRAG SHEET”

Before Junior Conferences can be scheduled, parents/guardians must complete a Brag Sheet. Our department utilizes this questionnaire in preparation for the Junior Conferences and in writing the counselor letter of recommendation for your student.

The Brag Sheet link will be emailed to you on Friday, December 20th as a form that will allow you the option to **complete and submit** or to **save and return later**. Please be thoughtful and thorough in your responses as this will serve as the framework for the recommendation letter we compose for your child.

Surveys submitted electronically are emailed directly to Ms. Tena Ward.

## THE APPOINTMENT

Once the Brag Sheet has been submitted, please contact Tena Ward to schedule the appointment. She will work with your student’s schedule to find a meeting time. Email Ms. Tena Ward directly at [ward@ehshouston.org](mailto:ward@ehshouston.org) for your appointment.

## INTERIM TERM

Juniors will participate in a variety of exercises and activities that will allow them time for self-reflection and exploration as they begin their college search process. Students will create a visual inventory of values, priorities, interests, academic pursuits, and extracurricular activities for

their mind map. They will also revisit the formative experiences of their life to find ideas that will inspire a potential college essay. Additionally, they will complete the YouScience aptitude assessment, begin creating a resume, search colleges with SCOIR, and complete their Junior Questionnaires. These student documents must be submitted before Junior Conferences can be held. For students traveling on a school sponsored trip, we will work with them to make up these missed assignments.



## IMPORTANT NOTE:

EHS does not assign counselors. Your appointment will be scheduled according to your student’s schedule and counselor availability.

Regardless of who the student meets with as a sophomore or junior, all of the college counselors work with all students. The college list, rec letters, and many other factors in the process are collaborative efforts. Therefore, parents should not request or worry about the specific counselor for this particular meeting.

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# ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE:



## COLLEGE NIGHT



Please join College Counseling for College Night on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7p.m. in the Hildebrand Athletic Center, Alumni Room (3rd floor).

## YOU SCIENCE APTITUDE ASSESSMENT

YouScience is an exciting new tool for us, offered directly to our families for the first time. With this program, students will discover their unique set of talents through the revolutionary intersection of aptitudes, interests and personality. It’s a completely new way to understand where and how your children will succeed and allows EHS College Counseling to deliver even more effective and accurate guidance.

The online assessment takes students through a series of exercises and interest questions designed to determine their results in the key aptitudes utilized in the working world. The results include a review of the student’s strengths, suggested environments where they will succeed, detailed information on possible careers that match those skills and interests, majors that map to those careers, and much more. It’s our hope that this assessment will create a more open dialogue that broadens the student’s scope of potential careers.

## SCOIR

We are pleased to announce that Episcopal High School is introducing a new college planning system called SCOIR (pronounced “score”) for the rising junior Class of 2021. We have chosen SCOIR to help students more fully discover colleges that match their personal as well as academic interests.

Each student received an email invitation over the course of this fall semester from SCOIR with a link to register their account. Once the account is created, they can immediately begin using SCOIR to search for colleges that interest them and start building their college list. The College Counseling office will be using SCOIR to communicate with them during their college planning process and during Junior Grade Level Learning in Interim Term.

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## PSAT

Students received their PSAT results on December 11th via an email from College Board. Paper copies will be mailed to your home when they become available.

## SAT & ACT

Our office recommends that juniors take the **SAT** and/or the **ACT** (both with writing!) early in the spring semester. Colleges do not have a preference for either exam, so your student should take the test which best suits their strengths. Students typically take the SAT or ACT a second time in May or June to try to improve their score.

## SAT SUBJECT TESTS

Some colleges require students to submit SAT Subject Tests. While most of these schools are highly selective, the exams can also be used for course placement at others. Students typically take the tests (up to three are offered on one date) in May or June when coursework is completed. Students cannot take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests on the same day. Students in Honors and AP classes are the ones most likely to take SAT Subject Tests. College Counseling will advise specific tests during the Junior Conference.

# TESTING INFORMATION:

## TEST PREPARATION

Many students find great value in preparing for standardized exams outside of school. Each student's needs are different, and certainly cost and time commitment affect one's ability to prep outside of school. College Counseling does not endorse a single source for test preparation as the individual results and needs of students vary.

Also, proceed with caution when using tutors who try to sell college counseling services. Unfortunately, our staff finds they must help students reconstruct essays and/or resumes, initially drafted using these services, due to either poor quality or unethical embellishment. We also find that much of the college counseling advice students may receive outside of EHS is misguided as many of these consultants have little to no training or experience. If you need guidance in this area, contact any member of the EHS College Counseling Office.

**PLEASE SEE BACK FOR  
UPCOMING TEST DATES.**



# UPCOMING SAT/ACT TEST DATES:

EHS TESTING CODE (CEEB/ACT): 440561

## SPRING 2020 SAT \*\*w/Writing AND SAT SUBJECT TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (late fee applies)
March 14, 2020*	February 14, 2020	March 3, 2020
May 2, 2020	April 3, 2020	April 21, 2020
June 6, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 27, 2020
* <b>SUBJECT TESTS ARE NOT OFFERED ON THIS DATE.</b>		
Tentative SAT Test Dates for Fall 2020 August 29, 2020 October 3, 2020 November 7, 2020 December 5, 2020		

## ACT \*\*w/ Writing TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (late fee applies)
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020	January 11-17, 2020
April 4, 2020	February 28, 2020	February 29-March 13, 2020
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 9-22, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020	June 20-26, 2020
September 12, 2020* October 24, 2020* December 12, 2020*		
* <b>Registration deadlines for 2020-2021 will be announced in spring 2020.</b>		

\*\* STUDENTS SHOULD REGISTER FOR THE SAT AND/OR THE ACT WITH WRITING.

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