



## **EHS COLLEGE COUNSELING**

### **FALL 2020 GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR YEAR**

#### **GRADES**

Junior year is an excellent opportunity to showcase your academic profile and/or demonstrate an upward trend in grades. After this year, your transcript determines your position in the class (particularly top 6% as it relates to UT and top 10% for A&M) and is the basis for college admission evaluation. Do not let your grades falter!

#### **STANDARDIZED TESTS**

##### **PSAT**

All juniors will take the **PSAT** on **Wednesday, October 14** at EHS as long as we continue to remain on an S2 schedule. While PSAT scores are not reported to colleges, this test allows students to qualify for National Merit recognition and also serves as good practice in taking a college entrance exam.

##### **SAT, ACT, & SAT Subject Tests**

We recommend that juniors register for the **(Dec. or Feb. ACT)** and/or the **(Dec. or March SAT)**. As many of you already know, students have faced difficulties over the past six months in actually taking any of these exams due to test site closures because of COVID-19 safety protocols. With that said, please continue to be patient as we are all navigating through this challenging process together. Colleges do not have a preference for either exam, so take the test that best suits your strengths.

Some highly selective schools (i.e. Georgetown University) encourage **SAT Subject Tests**. Consider taking these tests in May or June. 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.

**Note:** Most colleges today do not require the writing section for either SAT or ACT. Our office will provide further instruction and guidance on taking these tests as we learn more information from institutions about their testing policies for the Fall 2021 admission cycle.

## 2020-2021 STANDARDIZED TESTING IMPORTANT DATES

### ACT

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration (late fee required)
October 10, 2020	September 25, 2020	None
October 17, 2020	September 25, 2020	None
October 24, 2020	September 25, 2020	None
October 25, 2020	September 25, 2020	None
December 12, 2020	November 6, 2020	November 20, 2020
February 6, 2021	January 8, 2021	January 15, 2021
April 17, 2021	March 12, 2021	March 26, 2021
June 12, 2021	May 7, 2021	May 21, 2021
July 17, 2021	June 18, 2021	June 25, 2021

### SAT

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration (late fee required)
November 7, 2020	October 7, 2020	October 27, 2020
December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020	November 24, 2020
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021	March 2, 2021
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021	April 27, 2021
June 5, 2021	May 6, 2021	May 26, 2021

### TEST PREP AND INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS

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. We encourage students to take advantage of free college test preparation through Khan Academy (SAT) and ACT Academy (ACT).

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 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. If you need guidance in this area, contact any member of the EHS College Counseling Office.

## INVOLVEMENT

Juniors should pursue activities of personal significance. Colleges prefer genuine interest and depth of activity as opposed to a wide range of superficial involvement. Keep accurate records and update your resume accordingly. Colleges understand these activities may look differently in the global pandemic.

## NCAA/ATHLETIC RECRUITING

College recruiting revs up in the junior year. You can register for NCAA in the spring, but your registration is not complete until your transcript is sent at the end of junior year. You must send SAT and/or ACT scores to NCAA directly from the testing agencies. Talk to your coaches, plan showcase tournaments and competitions, and develop relationships with colleges.

## COLLEGE COUNSELING ACTIVITIES

### Conferences

It is our hope that in-person junior conferences will occur beginning in January. Parents/Guardians should attend this meeting in which students create their initial college list with a counselor. 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. We will also keep you posted on these meetings as we continue to remain in line with EHS COVID-19 safety guidelines.

### College Representative Visits at EHS

Juniors should continue to take advantage of college rep visits at EHS. Please note that all visits will be **virtual** this fall. The College Counseling Office will send out weekly visit announcements. ***Instructions on how to register for a college rep visit are included on page 5 of this document.***

### Visits to College Campuses

Juniors are allowed to miss **five** days of school to visit college campuses. You must obtain a Planned Absence Form from the Attendance Desk prior to any visit; teachers must be notified in advance. During this time, a number of colleges are not allowing visitors on campus or they are restricting the visits to high school seniors. However, other schools are welcoming guests with a modified campus tour. It is in your best interest to call the school ahead of time to inquire about their campus visit experience. We also encourage students to take advantage of the numerous virtual college visits.

## VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIRS/ADMISSION EVENTS

Many schools are hosting virtual college fairs and other special admission events throughout the fall. These virtual experiences provide a great opportunity to meet representatives from colleges and universities while learning more about their institution. Please visit Counseling Connections for a list of virtual college events.

- Colleges That Change Lives VIRTUAL College Fair - **September 27th - 30th**

\*Colleges That Change Lives (CTCL) offers a national series of information sessions and college fairs for students, parents, and college counselors. Students and families are able to collect information from and speak directly with admission representatives from the colleges and universities that inspired the book *Colleges That Change Lives*. Students should register [HERE](#).

- **Who Gets In and Why? A Year Inside College Admissions Webinar**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 7pm**

\*Join higher education expert, Jeffrey Selingo, as he shares his insights on the complex world of college admissions in a question and answer with Parish Episcopal Head of School Dave Monaco.

\*What are the realities and nuances of present-day college admissions and how might the pandemic impact the college application and campus experience of students presently in high school? [REGISTER HERE](#)

- **NACAC Virtual College Fairs**  
NACAC's inaugural season of virtual college fairs **for students** starts in September. Click below to see which colleges will be there on each fair date:

- [Monday, Oct. 12](#), 1 - 9 p.m. ET
- [Sunday, Oct. 18](#), 12 - 8 p.m. ET
- [Sunday, Nov. 8](#), 2 - 10 p.m. ET

Each virtual fair is a free, one-day event. Attend as often as you like. Parents invited, too. Simply sign up [HERE](#) and register for one or more fairs. On the event date, use your phone or computer to log in. Learn, connect, ask questions, and discover your best college fit!

- **National Portfolio Day** will take place on **Saturday, Oct. 10, from 11am to 3pm**  
[REGISTER HERE](#)

## **STUDENTS ONLY: HOW TO REGISTER FOR COLLEGE REP VISITS**

**\*Fall of 2020 visits will all take place virtually.**

Over 150 college representatives visit the EHS campus each year. These visits offer opportunities to learn more about various colleges and show **demonstrated interest**. Watch your inbox for weekly emails from The College Counseling Office about upcoming visits; colleges schedule visits every day, so schools are constantly getting added.

### **\*\*HOW TO REGISTER FOR A COLLEGE REP VISIT\*\***

1) Log into [Naviance](#) from the EHS website (see instructions below).

- To log into Naviance, go to the EHS homepage.
- Move your mouse over "Quicklinks," then click on "College Counseling."
- From the College Counseling page, click on "Naviance/Student Resources" and then click on the logo above "Naviance Student."
- Click on "Student" to access the login screen.
- Enter your username and password. Your username is your full EHS email address (e.g. [mlopez2022@ehshouston.org](mailto:mlopez2022@ehshouston.org)). **Forgot your password?** Please be sure to click the link "Forgot your password?" to generate an email with a temporary password.
- HINT: It is a good idea to bookmark this Naviance page.

2) Scroll down your homepage to the box "What's New." Click on "Show More."

3) Look for the school you would like to meet with, then click "more info."

4) Then click "Register Now."

## 2020-2021 CALENDAR

### **Fall Semester**

#### **September**

- Start off the year with strong grades and good study habits
- Get in the habit of attending tutorials
- Research colleges – big, small, public, private, near, far, etc.
- Deepen involvement in extracurricular activities
- Attend virtual college rep visits at EHS
- September 25 (Fri.): Registration Deadline for all October ACT test dates
- September 27- 30: CTCL Virtual College Fair

#### **October**

- October 3 (Sat.): SAT
- October 7 (Wed.): Registration deadline for November SAT
- October 10 (Sat.) ACT
- October 10 (Sat.): Virtual National Portfolio Day
- October 12 (Mon): NACAC Virtual College Fair
- October 14 (Wed.): PSAT (National Merit Qualifying Test)
- October 14 (Wed.): Who Gets In and Why?
- October 17 (Sat.): ACT
- October 18 (Sun.): NACAC Virtual College Fair
- October 24 (Sat.): ACT
- October 25 (Sun.): ACT
- Continue to research colleges
- Attend virtual college rep visits at EHS
- End of first quarter

#### **November**

- November 5 (Thurs.): Dec. SAT registration deadline
- November 6 (Fri.): Dec. ACT registration deadline
- November 7 (Sat.): SAT
- November 8 (Sun.): NACAC Virtual College Fair
- Attend virtual college rep visits at EHS
- Continue to work hard on grades

#### **December**

- December 5 (Sat.): SAT
- December 12 (Sat.): ACT

### **Spring Semester** – Junior Conferences Begin