



College Counseling Crier

January 2021

Volume 4, Issue 5

Upcoming Standardized Test Dates

ACT Test Dates*

February 6, 2021
Registration deadline:
January 8, 2021

April 17, 2021
Registration deadline:
March 12, 2021

June 12, 2021
Registration deadline:
May 7, 2021

July 17, 2021
Registration deadline:
June 18, 2021

SAT Test Dates*

March 13, 2021
Registration deadline:
February 12, 2021

May 8, 2021
Registration deadline:
April 8, 2021

June 5, 2021
Registration deadline:
May 6, 2021

**If you will be taking these tests with accommodations, please contact Mrs. From*

January Kick-Off for Juniors

Our College Counseling Kick-Off for junior parents and guardians begins at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, January 12.** Much like our Junior Parent Coffee this past September, the Kick-Off will be a [live-streamed Zoom webinar](#). The College Counseling staff will explain our office's philosophy, procedures, and practices. We will demonstrate Naviance and explain the topics covered throughout the rest of the year for the Class of 2022.

Juniors will meet with their college counselor individually or as an entire-grade level throughout the year during designated evening program times, which will be released at a later date. By now, each junior should have received an email from their college counselor.

We are looking forward to working closely with the entire Class of 2022 as they begin their college search process.



PSAT Update

Juniors: In December, Mrs. Kittel contacted those juniors who expressed interest in taking the PSAT through a previously submitted survey. Our plan to host the in-person PSAT for those students is still scheduled. Details on the locations are forthcoming, but rest assured the tests have been ordered and ready to go. As a reminder, those students need to bring with them several sharpened #2 pencils, an eraser, a calculator with working batteries, a non-smartwatch (to keep track of time), a snack, and a drink on **Tuesday, January 26.**

Sophomores: Just before our winter break, Mrs. Kittel sent an update to all sophomore students and families with information about the PSAT. Given the current conditions, we will be unable to accommodate both the junior and sophomore class for the rescheduled, in-person PSAT on January 26, 2021.

Since the PSAT is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying exam (NMQT) for the juniors, it is a priority to administer the exam to them this year. We have an

[Save the Dates](#)

Junior Parent Kickoff

Tuesday, January 12
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Join through Zoom

excellent alternative for all sophomores. We have partnered with Applerouth Tutoring Services to offer a live-proctored (via Zoom), full-length, fully-scored PSAT. These exams will be administered at no cost to Bullis students and will be given every Saturday morning **from January 30 through February 20**. In addition to a standard-time exam (3 hours and 30 minutes) on **Saturday, February 13**, Applerouth will host an extended-time exam (5 hours and 30 minutes) for those students with accommodations.

Sophomores who register by **Wednesday, January 20** using [Applerouth's Bullis-specific landing page](#) will be given a hard-copy test to take home. The Applerouth proctor will email students a reminder the day before and again on the morning of the test with the link to the live-online Zoom proctoring platform. This structure mirrors a real, proctored PSAT examination.

Students will receive an instructional email explaining how they can, immediately after the practice PSAT, receive an instant score report, or submit a copy of their bubble sheet to Applerouth and receive a score within the week. The proctor will reiterate these scoring options on the day of the test. Students keep the actual hard-copy test booklet and can refer to it as they prepare for the SAT in the future.

Regardless of the scoring method they choose, students will receive a full, detailed, question-by-question, section-by-section score analysis and report. This will allow students to see exactly which test sections and topics are their strengths and which areas still need some improvement.

Applerouth will create a specific landing page on their website for Bullis students to register for this PSAT exam. In the coming weeks, Mrs. Kittel will provide the link via email for registration. Even if students hadn't previously indicated interest in taking the PSAT, they are still able to register for this Applerouth proctored exam.

We apologize that we are unable to provide an in-person PSAT this year, but we feel confident the Applerouth option will simulate a true, proctored PSAT, and will enable students to receive feedback about their skills and preparedness for future College Board standardized tests.

Decisions, Decisions: Trends in College Admission



This year, like every, brings about new trends in the college admissions arena. Of course, the pandemic threw many of the old rules and adages to the wayside, and colleges feel the unpredictable nature as much, if not more than seniors and families around the world. With fluctuating application numbers, a growing divide between representation amongst sub-

groups of applicants, newly introduced standardized testing policies, and heightened anxiety around the application process, Brennan Barnard consulted

with many admissions leaders in a December piece for *Forbes*, titled “What Is Trending In College Admission?” Mrs. Kittel shared this earlier with our senior families, and we thought it would be helpful for the entire Upper School population to read.

Sketching Out Your Summer

College and universities around the country offer summer programs for high school students. Due to the pandemic’s unpredictable nature, many of these programs are now offered online! These programs are an excellent way for students to get a feel for college life by taking classes and meeting other students around the country who share their interests.

To find these opportunities, please see the [Summer Opportunities](#) section of the College Counseling webpage.

As in the past, we’ve provided focal groups for a more specific search. In addition to those listed, we will continue to add programs as we hear about them. If students need help throughout the summer program application process, we in College Counseling are happy to provide guidance and assistance.

January Joys!

To date, our seniors have successfully submitted **1,303** applications and Document Request Forms! Many of our students who have applied through Early Decision, Restrictive Early Action, Early Action, and Rolling admission have received their decisions; **178** acceptances have been offered. Later this month, we anticipate the decision-release for the University of Maryland, University of Miami, University of Michigan, and University of Virginia to name a few!



*As a reminder to our seniors, please let us know of **all** admission decisions and scholarship awards.*

We want to celebrate with you, and provide good advice and counsel.