



# Mansfield High School Junior Guidance

## COLLEGE TESTING

**Entrance Exams** - Most 4-year colleges and universities require students to submit SAT or ACT test scores as part of the application process (SAT or ACT scores are not required for students who plan to attend a 2-year college after high school). While many colleges have been test-optional since the start of the pandemic, most colleges haven't decided if testing will be required for the class of 2023. For this reason, we advise that you plan to take one or both of the college entrance tests this school year.

**SAT** - a college entrance exam that students generally begin taking during the junior year. The test has two sections:  
-Evidence Based Reading and Writing  
-Math

All Mansfield High School juniors will have the opportunity to take the SAT in the spring during a school day.

You can sign up for additional SAT testing opportunities here:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

**ACT** - a college entrance exam that students generally begin taking during junior year. The test has four sections:

- English
- Reading
- Math
- Science

You can sign up to take the ACT here:

<https://www.act.org/>

Most colleges have no preference as to which entrance test that you take, and most students take both tests at least one time.

**Readiness and Placement tests** – Tests used to determine course placement once you start college. These tests determine whether you can take on level courses that apply to your degree, or whether you need to take remedial courses first. Certain SAT or ACT scores might exempt you from these tests.

**TSI** – a readiness and placement test required for students who want to attend a public college or university in Texas. There are 2 sections:

- English Language Arts and Reading
- Math

The TSI can be taken at any time through TCC, but there are steps that must be taken before testing:

<https://www.tccd.edu/admission/testing-centers/tsi-assessment/>

## COLLEGE VISITS

Junior year is a great time to begin visiting colleges. Colleges have "visitation days" especially for prospective students and their parents. Most of these days are on Saturdays, which are easier to schedule. Also try "virtual tours" online, which is a way to take a quick look at a campus. Spring break and summer are good times to take college road trips. Juniors can use up to 2 school days to visit colleges. See your assistant principal or the attendance office to let them know when you plan to visit a college or university before you go, and they will let you know what you have to bring back to document your college visit for attendance purposes.

## ATHLETES

An athlete must meet NCAA requirements to play a sport or to receive a scholarship at an NCAA Division I or II school. The requirements include a minimum GPA on 16 specific core classes as well as a required ACT/SAT score.

Registration with the NCAA Eligibility Center should be done online by the end of the junior year:

<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

Athletes who plan to play a sport at an NAIA school also must register and be declared eligible:

<https://play.mynaia.org/>

There are no academic eligibility requirements for athletes entering junior colleges.

See your coach for additional information regarding recruiting and college athletic academic eligibility

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Although you cannot apply for most scholarships until you are a senior, now is the time to begin looking for scholarship possibilities. Many academic scholarships are based on minimum 3.5 GPA and high ACT/SAT scores. In order to receive an athletic or talent scholarship, a student must be truly outstanding. There are also scholarships based on leadership, community involvement or certain special traits (including being tall!)

We encourage all students to sign up for the College Board Opportunity Scholarships. These are task-based scholarships that simply require that students complete certain college readiness steps in order to be put in scholarship drawings (this opportunity typically opens in December of the junior year):

<https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/home>

Also, begin compiling a list of your high school accomplishments, honors and awards, and community service for these applications. Scholarship searches online are free, so be cautious of scholarship services who contact students and claim to be able to help get money for college.

## SENIOR COURSE REGISTRATION

We will be meeting with you this semester to select your courses for next school year. Please go into Xello and update your course selections to reflect what courses you would like to take next school year (you can access Xello through Class Link). Remember to select your required classes! You will have until the spring semester to change your course request for next school year, but after the course request change deadline **NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE** unless a scheduling error (on our part) is made or you complete courses that you signed up for in summer school. **Elective change requests will not be granted.** If you sign up for an advanced or AP courses, **YOU ARE COMMITTED TO THAT COURSE.** No change to a regular equivalent will be made prior to the end of the first 6-weeks, but there is no guarantee that a change will be made even at that time, because there will likely be very little space in classes for changes (we set our schedule and staff our classes based on what you select). Remember that some advanced and many AP courses have no regular equivalent. **Advanced and AP courses are hard** (that is why they receive additional weight when calculating GPA). We advise that you consider your level of motivation, commitment, and time available to commit to your studies **before** choosing advanced or AP courses. Please consult with your current teachers for advice and suggestions for next year's courses including advice and information about AP or advanced courses. That way, you can make informed decisions. Finally, **do not sign up for a class simply to get a certain teacher**, we can't guarantee that you will get any particular teacher (and students are not able to request certain teachers). You should select courses because they will benefit you based on your future goals.

## SUMMARY

The junior year in high school is an important year in your academic career. Keep good study habits, take the ACT/SAT, and begin researching your post high school options (College/trade school, military, work). Pay attention to deadlines (they are truly not suggestions), and don't procrastinate! Reach out to your counselor for help and advice. It truly is why we are here!

## NOTES

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