

Guidance Office: January News

Junior College Prep

Now is the time for Juniors to start thinking about the next chapter of life after high school! Mrs. Weaver met with students in December to discuss college and career readiness as well as other resources. There will be additional dates to set up one-on-one time with Mrs. Weaver for those who still wish to do so. Please lookout for dates and announcements on Schoology and find the sign-up sheet in the guidance office.

PSAT's/SAT's

Student's PSAT scores are available to our students online. [Login](#) to your Collegeboard.org account to see your scores and watch the [video](#) to learn more about preparing for the SAT's. Students should only ever create one CollegeBoard account using their full legal/given name.

Make sure you link your PSAT scores to Khan Academy, they will create a free individualized test prep plan for you based on the questions you missed on the PSAT's. This can be of significant assistance in preparing you for the SAT's. For additional SAT test prep programs options please [click here](#).

All juniors should plan on taking the SATs in March, May, or June of 2024. Register for the SAT's [here](#). SAT testing dates and registration deadlines are as follows:

Digital Test Date

March 09, 2024

May 4, 2024

June 1, 2024

Registration Deadline

February 23, 2024

April 19, 2024

May 16, 2024

CollegeBoard offers the following resources and more! Click [here](#) to go to the PSAT information page.

- **How to Access Your PSAT/NMSQT Scores** – watch a video to learn how to access your scores.
- **Video Tour of the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report** – a helpful overview of your score report and how to interpret and use it.
- **Practice for the SAT Using Your PSAT/NMSQT** – Join Khan Academy to get personalized help with SAT practice based on your PSAT results.
- **Discover your AP Potential** – Explore the possibility of taking an AP class based on the list generated by your performance on the PSAT and SAT.
- **College and Career Planning** – Create a plan for your future based on your scores and interests.
- **Explore Scholarships** – Find scholarships and financial aid to help you pay for college.

Any sophomore or junior in Directed Study Halls who would like to request the paperwork for SAT accommodations should visit the Guidance Office as soon as possible. The process with the College Board can take as long as 8 to 12 weeks. Current educational testing is a requirement for the accommodation request to be approved. It is recommended that educational testing be no more than 3 years old for college services.

SCOIR ACCOUNTS

Mrs. Weaver also assisted all Juniors in setting up their SCOIR accounts. SCOIR is a secure online program that Dock uses to aid our students in discovering colleges that match their personal and academic interests, helping them navigate through the college selection process. It is designed to assist students and their parents in making informed decisions about college opportunities and career choices. From the students' account they will be able to explore careers, majors, colleges, request official school documents and letters of recommendation to be sent and access other helpful resources. While some colleges can be applied to through SCOIR they don't need to use SCOIR to apply to their colleges. However, through their SCOIR account they will request transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other official school documents to be sent.

[Here](#) is a brief overview of what SCOIR has to offer.

Senior SCOIR Reminder

Seniors applying to college, remember to add all colleges you are applying to on your SCOIR account and once you apply to a college, please move them over to the APPLIED column. The Guidance Office uses SCOIR to send all supporting documentation to these colleges, including your transcript and if you do not move them over to the APPLIED column they may be missed. You should be requesting letters of recommendation through SCOIR as well. Please give your teachers at least 1-2 weeks' notice to write letters on your behalf. Mid-year grade reports will be sent in February through SCOIR. Please sign up in the guidance office to have your mid-year reports sent. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kabakjian.

JUNIOR CHECK LIST

While all four years in high school are important, the most pivotal year for academic and career decisions is the student's junior year. During their junior year, students take a more comprehensive look at their future beyond high school. Below are some things juniors should be working on this year.

- ❖ Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October and review your test results with your counselor and parents when you receive them.
- ❖ Set up a time to meet with Mrs. Weaver about your future career goals, college selection, current academic standing, and selection of their senior year courses.
- ❖ Explore your options to prepare for the SAT. Seek out free online resources and SAT Prep classes as needed. There is a brief list available on the Guidance Office [SAT Prep webpage](#).
- ❖ Develop a list of potential colleges, technical schools, or job opportunities to research.
- ❖ Student athletes who are considering playing in a Division I or II sport in college should become familiar with the *NCAA Guidelines for Student Athletes*. It is important that you check to make sure you are meeting the core course requirements and test standards.
- ❖ Visit the colleges and technical schools that fit your career goals and aspirations.
- ❖ Gather financial aid information from any sources available: Dock, the local community, and most importantly, from the educational institutions you are seeking to attend.

North Montco Technical Career Center

North Montco Technical Career Center offers 21 programs within seven cluster areas including: Construction Trades, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Engineering/Manufacturing, Health and Human Services, Power and Transportation, and Visual Communications. A new program being added next year is Physical Therapy/Sports Rehab with a focus on 9th and 10th graders for the first seats. Information on programs can be found at North Montco Technical Career Center / Homepage (nmtcc.org). Interested students from Dock will be invited to attend a tour during a school day in January. Details and instructions to sign up in the Guidance Office will be given in early January. In addition, NMTCC's Open House will take place the evening of February 1, 2024. We encourage families that are interested in learning more about NMTCC to attend this event with their students.

Financial Aid and Scholarship Information

College Financial Aid

Last year we held a college financial aid night at our school. Please visit this link to watch this informative presentation www.dock.org/financial-aid. Michael Burke from Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) presented to Dock students and families a detailed overview of the college financial aid process. This will include information on funding sources, types of aid, how to apply for financial aid, what happens after the application process, and much more. There was also information on major financial aid programs offered by the federal and state government, as well as types of loans available and scholarship opportunities. You can visit www.pheaa.org or visit the Guidance Office to pick up PHEAA informational materials.

Parent FAFSA Reminder

It is essential that you fill out the FAFSA Form for your student to qualify for need-based federal loans, grants, and scholarships. Deadlines vary by state and college. This form can be found at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid-fafsa>. We also recommend you visit www.pheaa.org to learn more about The Pennsylvania State Grant Program.

Scholarships

A great resource for scholarships will be found at the college/university in which you plan to attend. Check out their website and ask your admissions counselor what scholarships you might qualify for. You may also wish to contact the financial aid office at the school you wish to attend. Dock also has a list of local scholarships and additional scholarships that our students have received. [Click here](#) to view this scholarship page.

Students with a Disability

According to **Clark in U.S. News 2010**, there are 8 steps for a child with disabilities to use to prepare for college. Along with diligence, creativity, and resilience, the student should:

1. Take college prep classes to practice study strategies, test-taking, and time management.
2. Have knowledge of technology, from something as simple as spell check to diction pens and screen readers.

3. Be creative (*If a student struggles with taking a foreign language, perhaps sign language could work.*)
4. Take charge, advocate for themselves, and be prepared to know what to ask for.
5. Research college options
6. Formal documentation should be 3 years old or less – Plan ahead!
7. Focus on the positive
8. Consider extra help- this may be included in the college tuition, or it may be an added cost.

Students with Disabilities Preparing for Post-Secondary Education: Know your Risks and Responsibilities:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>

