

Putnam County High School Counseling Corner - September

Supporting your child after recent events

In light of the recent school shooting in a Barrow County, it's important to check in with your child and offer a safe space for them to express their feelings. Encourage open conversations, listen without judgment, and reassure them of the safety measures in place at the high school. Remind them that it's okay to feel anxious or scared and let them know they can always come to you or a trusted adult for support. We're here to help if you need additional resources or guidance.

Suicide Awareness Month

September is Suicide Awareness month. Click the link for tips and advice on how to recognize signs and mental health issues for parents and guardians. You can also watch a short video by scanning the QR code located on the flyer.

[Big Challenges.pdf \(hubspotusercontent-na1.net\)](#)

Have you checked your student's grades?

We encourage you to regularly check your student's grades and progress through the Infinite Campus portal to stay informed about their academic performance. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's grades, please don't hesitate to reach out to their teachers via email or contact their counselor. To help your high school student succeed, ask them to share one thing they learned in class each day, encourage them to set a consistent study schedule, create a quiet space for homework, encourage regular communication with teachers, and discuss their goals and challenges. Your support and involvement are vital to their success!

Scholarships

Please remind your student to check their email. Several scholarship opportunities were emailed to all seniors last week and this week by Mrs. Kennedy. Our Lake Oconee Youth Alliance volunteers will be on campus every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm to assist students with scholarship applications, scholarship essays, FAFSA applications, and reading FAFSA reward reports. Please encourage them to take advantage of this awesome opportunity for assistance.

Will your senior need to take the SAT or ACT if they plan to enroll in college next year?

The University System of Georgia (USG) will continue its temporary waiver of test score requirements. With state colleges already test optional, this means no test scores will be

required for admission at 23 of USG’s 26 public colleges and universities during the Academic Year 2025-2026 (Fall 2025, Spring 2026 and Summer 2026). The temporary waiver does not apply to the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Georgia and Georgia College & State University.

For Academic Year 2025-2026, the 23 remaining institutions will have two options for making admissions decisions:

1. [Freshman index](#): Schools can use a formula that includes the student’s high school grade point average and test scores for either the SAT or ACT.
2. Test-optional: Schools can use the student’s grade point average on the required high school curriculum without a standardized test score at the following minimum grade point averages (GPA):

- **3.4 GPA for research universities:** Augusta University and Georgia State University.
- **3.2 GPA for comprehensive universities:** Kennesaw State University, Georgia Southern University, University of West Georgia and Valdosta State University
- **3.0 GPA for state universities:** Albany State University, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Fort Valley State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Middle Georgia State University, Savannah State University and the University of North Georgia.
- **State colleges:** Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Atlanta Metropolitan State College, College of Coastal Georgia, Dalton State College, East Georgia State College, Georgia Gwinnett College, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College and South Georgia State College will continue to be test-optional in accordance with Board of Regents policy.

Test scores will continue to be required to apply for Zell Miller scholarships in accordance with state of Georgia requirements.

SAT / ACT Test Date & Registration Deadline Reminder

| Test Date | Test | Registration Deadline | Late Registration Deadline | Multiple Choice Scores Available |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>October 5, 2024</u> | <u>SA T</u> | <u>September 20, 2024</u> | <u>September 24, 2024</u> | <u>October 18, 2024</u> |

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| <u>October 26, 2024</u> | AC T | <u>September 20, 2024</u> | <u>October 7, 2024</u> | <u>November 5, 2024</u> |
| <u>November 2, 2024</u> | SA T | <u>October 18, 2024</u> | <u>October 22, 2024</u> | <u>November 15, 2024</u> |
| <u>December 7, 2024</u> | SA T | <u>November 22, 2024</u> | <u>November 26, 2024</u> | <u>December 20, 2024</u> |
| <u>December 14, 2024</u> | AC T | <u>November 8, 2024</u> | <u>November 22, 2024</u> | <u>December 24, 2024</u> |

Current Juniors will be required to take the SAT or ACT for admission to some colleges

Starting in the 2026-2027 academic year, several public universities in Georgia will reinstate the SAT or ACT requirement. Augusta University, Georgia State University, Georgia Southern University, and Kennesaw State University will require these test scores starting in fall 2026. The University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Georgia College and State University have already reinstated the requirement. Juniors interested in attending these colleges in the fall of 2026 should take the SAT or ACT at least once before the end of Semester 2 this year.

Contact Us!

We are here to support your child's growth and success. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns and take advantage of the resources we offer to help your student thrive. Together, we can make this a productive and positive year for everyone.

Students with last names A - G contact Ms. Harden. camille.harden@putnam.k12.ga.us

Students with last names H - O contact Mr. Adams. mark.adams@putnam.k12.ga.us

Students with last names P - Z contact Mrs. Kennedy. amy.kennedy@putnam.k12.ga.us