



# SSHS COUNSELING CENTER

## NEWSLETTER

January 2024

### Calendar

**Jan. 11**

IB Program Info Night

**Jan. 16th**

“Finding your Best Fit College” Presentation

**Jan. 31st**

Q2 Ends

**Jan. 22nd-26th**

Midterms

**Jan. 31st**

“Digital SAT...What You Need To Know”  
and  
College Symposium



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### UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

This month, the Counseling Center will be hosting informational presentations with Princeton Review focusing on the college research process and the change over to the digital SAT.

On January 16th, Editor-in-Chief of Princeton Review, Rob Franek, will join us to speak about “Finding Your Best Fit College”. Further information and a link for registration will be distributed in the coming days.

On January 31st, prior to our College Symposium, in which we will have admissions representatives from St. Johns and Binghamton speak about the college admissions process, Princeton Review will also speak about the changes that have been made to the SAT now that it is administered digitally.

### Program Planning Guide

The 2024-2025 Program Planning Guide is now available on the Counseling Center webpage. Please see the guide for important information and to review course descriptions. Course selection for next year will begin the first week of February. Click here to access: [2024-2025 Program Guide](#)

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## MIDTERMS

January 22nd - January 26th  
[Midterm Schedule](#)  
[Midterm Week Bus Schedule](#)

## SAT/ACT INFORMATION

[SAT Registration](#)

[ACT Registration](#)

**Testing Accommodations:** If approved through the College Board (SAT), your SSD number needs to be entered when registering. To request accommodations for the ACT, please email your counselor as per the ACT instructions after you register.

**Fee waivers:** If a student receives Free or Reduced Lunch please reach out to your counselor for a fee waiver.

**Test Prep:** [Methodize Test Prep](#) is a free resource that students can take advantage of!

## ZERO PERIOD WITH THE COUNSELORS

### *Tuesdays in Room 2206*

January 9th - How to create a resume on Naviance

January 16th - SAT/ACT - What's the difference?

January 23rd - MIDTERMS (No session - Good Luck on your exams!)

January 30th - Test optional colleges: What does that mean?

## CLASS NEWS

### 9th Grade

**Course Selection:** Counselors will be visiting Social Studies classes on Friday, February 2nd for freshmen to select their sophomore classes. Be sure to review the [Program Planning Guide](#) to learn more about your choices.

## 10th Grade

**Course Selection:** Counselors will be visiting Social Studies classes on Thursday, February 8th for sophomores to select their junior classes. Be sure to review the [Program Planning Guide](#) to learn more about your choices.

**Parent meetings:** With upcoming course selection, and sophomores having different options for their junior year courses, counselors will be available for meetings with sophomores and their parents during midterm week (January 22nd-January 26). For more information, please [click here](#).

## 11th Grade

**Junior Conferences:** Now being scheduled! Students must meet with their counselor for 10 minutes to review the junior packet surveys that were completed on Naviance to schedule the official conference with their family. The family meeting can be in-person or virtual, depending on your preference. Parents can submit their parent brag sheets on the student's Naviance account or email their responses directly to the counselor.

**Course Selection:** Counselors will be visiting Social Studies classes on Monday, February 12th for juniors to select their senior classes. Be sure to review the [Program Planning Guide](#) to learn more about your choices.

**College visits:** Families are encouraged to explore colleges and set up college visits or virtual opportunities over the course of junior and senior year. Keep in mind that college students are typically on college campuses until mid-May and then return late August. Visiting while students are on campus allows you to see the full picture. A good time to see schools is during the February and Spring breaks. Book your campus tour visit in advance to save your spot!

## 12th Grade

**College Decisions:** Please let your counselor know your ED/EA results. If a student was admitted to their ED school, they will need to withdraw their applications to every other college they applied to by sending an email to admissions or follow the instructions through the school's portal.

**Mid-year grades:** Will be sent out automatically to all colleges in February.

## 12th Grade (cont.)

**Standardized tests:** If you choose to send standardized test scores to the colleges you are applying to, please remember that it is the student's responsibility to do so. If the university/college requires official test scores, students must log into their respective account and pay a fee to send their scores directly from the testing agency to the institution they are applying to. Otherwise, they may self-report their scores directly on their applications.

**Financial Aid:** FAFSA is available now! The [FAFSA](#) is required for any family who wishes to apply for need-based financial aid for college. The FAFSA should be filled out as soon as possible to apply for aid for the 7/1/24-6/30/25 school year on the 2024-2025 form.

Certain schools also require an additional application – the CSS Profile. [Click here for more information.](#) to check participating schools and to access the application.

Families who are seeking state aid can access the [NYS TAP application](#).

HESC (New York State's Financial Aid Agency) - FAFSA and TAP application completion [webinars](#).

The SUNYs also provide multiple Virtual FAFSA Completion Workshops in both English and Spanish. Find details and registration information [click here](#).

