

SENIOR SEGMENTS

September 2023

No. 1

Dear Parents and Students,

Senior Segments is a publication for seniors and their parents. It will include a timetable of important events, scholarship listings, and helpful hints that will assist seniors as they prepare for life after high school.

Senior year is not only very busy, but it is also a very special time for students and their parents. All of the counselors at South Side want to make this adventure into the world of tomorrow as smooth and as efficient as possible. If you have questions, ask them; if you have deadlines, meet them; if you have anxieties and doubts, share them. We are here to help.

12th GRADE PARENT NIGHT/COLLEGE FAIR

September 18, 2023 - 6:45 PM at South Side High School

COLLEGE FAIRS

NACAC Virtual College Fairs - September, October and November - www.nacacfairs.org

NCA Fall College Expo - Adelphi University, October 3, 2023 - 5:30 PM

NCAA STUDENT-ATHLETE WORKSHOP WEBINAR

October 4, 2023 - 7:00 PM, at SSHS. Visit NCAA online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net or eligibilitycenter.org for information and registration. You also need to send in your SAT and/or ACT scores using the code "9999." Seniors should come to The Counseling Center to sign a transcript release form so your official transcript can be sent to NCAA at the end of the school year.

FINANCIAL AID

Most schools want you to complete the FAFSA financial aid form which will be available online to be submitted after October 1st. In addition, some schools require the school profile which will be sent by The Counseling Center.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

November 8, 2023 - 6:15 PM at South Side High School

COLLEGE REPS

Many college representatives will be scheduling information sessions throughout the fall. We will list these visits in Naviance (under colleges/visits) as we receive the details. These are great opportunities for you to gather information from the colleges that interest you. Consult Naviance for dates and times and listen for information on the daily morning announcements. Consult bulletin board outside the Counseling Center for additional information about college open houses.

ALUMNI DAY

In December, the Counseling Center will be hosting Alumni Day. We will be welcoming back recent South Side High School graduates to share their first-year college experiences with the current seniors as they begin their own college journeys. Details to follow.

COLLEGE BOOK

This valuable guide provides information and statistics on the class of 2023. It will help you in your own college search. We hope you remember its value when we ask your permission to include you in next year's book. The circulation of the College Book will end if significant numbers refuse to allow data to be included. The College Book is \$5 and can be obtained in The Counseling Center.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- All students must register on Naviance Family Connection.
- Common application - available on-line at apply.commonapp.org. All students MUST register with Common App even if they won't be applying to college that way. Be sure to match your Naviance account to your Common App. Account.
- SUNY application may be used for SUNY schools.
- List four colleges on SAT registration, send score report.
- If you cannot afford the non-refundable application fee, see your counselor for a fee waiver.

RECOMMENDATIONS - By now you should have given your teachers your Request for Letter of Recommendation form. You will then need to tell your counselor who you asked when you complete the "transcript release form". Be organized. Make sure teachers and counselors are given plenty of time to prepare letters of recommendation and transcripts. When you ask someone (other than your counselor or a teacher) to write a letter of recommendation for you, please give him/her ample time.

OBLIGATIONS VS. RECOMMENDATIONS

It becomes difficult for counselors and teachers to write letters of recommendation describing your responsibility and maturity if you owe an obligation to the school for missing books or equipment. We suggest that you settle your school affairs before bringing in your application requests in order to avoid an embarrassing situation.

EARLY DECISION - EARLY ACTION APPLICATIONS - PLEASE SCHEDULE YOUR MEETING WITH YOUR COUNSELOR BY OCTOBER 1st. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION ARE ALSO DUE BY OCTOBER 1st IN THE COUNSELING CENTER.

ALL OTHER APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE IN THE COUNSELING CENTER TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO EACH DEADLINE.

PROCEDURE FOR BRINGING IN APPLICATIONS:

You must make an appointment with your counselor each time you are ready to submit

- . 1st time application review must be a full-period appointment.
- . Never leave any materials on a desk (ie, secretaries, counselors).
- . Complete a transcript release form for both paper and on-line applications. Include teachers who will be writing recommendations for you.
- . Application/materials will be sent only when complete with teacher recommendations.

MIDTERM GRADES - are sent to all your colleges from The Counseling Center.

You must remember to send your SAT/ACT scores to colleges directly from the CollegeBoard or ACT. Similarly, AP and IB scores must be sent directly from the appropriate testing organization as well. BE AWARE OF DEADLINES!!

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

LOOKING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

Have you heard about the thousands of scholarship dollars available to college-bound seniors? It's true; students may get free money for college based on their academic record, talents, gender, and more. Contact college financial aid offices or check college websites for listings of merit or need based awards at a particular school in which you may be interested. Visit Naviance and click the Scholarships drop-down or research college planning resources available to students below:

Cappex.com	Collegeboard.org	ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html	fastweb.com	finaid.org	nextstudent.com
Raise.me	Salliemae.com	Scholarshippoints.com	Scholarships.com	Studentscholarships.org	Supercollege.com

Local scholarships awarded by members or organizations of our own community will be listed in the March edition of this publication.

Applying for scholarships can be frustrating. If you do not get a response, you may find that the deadline has passed or that there is no longer funding for the scholarship, etc. Remember that students who are not able to get scholarships often are able to get need-based financial aid. Your son or daughter will have a better chance of being awarded a scholarship at a college or university where he/she is in the top 25%. Always check to see if financial aid and scholarship awards are renewable. Scholarship searches that charge a fee are generally not worth the money. We recommend that you save your money and spend time taking advantage of the free scholarship searches.

ARE COLLEGE VISITS LEGAL?

Please notify the Attendance Office in advance with a note from your parents. Obtain documentation from the college admissions office to provide proof that you were there. The absence will become a legal absence and will not count towards jeopardy. However, students interested in doing an ASSESS project in the spring will still need to meet the overall class attendance requirement.

INTERVIEW TIPS

When admissions representatives interview you, they want you to express your individuality and describe the characteristics that set you apart from the other students. Reflect on your high school years and what you consider to be the highlights. For example, what activities have you been involved in for a substantial amount of time? Which ones helped you to develop your social skills and leadership capabilities? Rather than share an extensive list of short-lived activities, concentrate on one or two organizations in which you held significant responsibilities or played a major role. Be prepared to discuss how you first became interested in these activities and how they may be related to activities you would want to pursue in college. You may also want to discuss other experiences that are relevant, such as a job or an internship you held, volunteer work within your community, travel, etc.

RESEARCH THE COLLEGE PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW:

One reason you're interviewing at a college is to learn more about it, so you're not expected to know every facet of the institution. It is important, however, to discuss why you wish to be admitted to a particular college. Also speak with your counselor who should be able to give you more specific information about the college. In addition, on the internet, visit the college's website, which will introduce you to its current faculty and administration and give you a visual idea of the college's physical facility. Seek the opinions of friends or relatives who attend the college and those of the college's alumni. By researching the college prior to your visit, you will be able to ask insightful questions.

THE APPLICATION ESSAY - From the College Perspective

No other part of your college application process is so undefined, as the essay. Think first about the purpose served by the essay. One purpose obviously is to give us a sample of your writing. Liberal Arts colleges place a premium on strong writing skills. We look for a mastery of the mechanics of writing (grammar, syntax, and organization) as well as for fluency and originality. A two-page essay gives us a taste of the maturity of your thinking and writing and of your readiness for a competitive liberal arts program.

A second reason for the essay is for you to share something of yourself which may not be reflected in your academic record or in your recommendations. This is the time to recount a powerful experience or a significant relationship - tutoring a disabled youngster, discovering a passion for medieval art, building a school house in Appalachia, serving on the school board - which has changed your perspective or challenged your beliefs. Don't merely give us a chronology of your bicycle trip through France; explain how your responses to the culture altered your perceptions of your own country and what you learned about yourself. One applicant shared his urban upbringing by taking us with him on a daybreak run through the city streets. Another sent a journal she kept while she was living as an exchange student with a Greek Family. One young woman explained how her desire to become a doctor had been motivated by her living with a chronically ill sibling. Another applicant told how playing on a varsity team helped him to harness his otherwise undisciplined energies.

There is no formula or format for a "perfect" essay, but it is probably one of the most carefully considered and influential part of your application. Make a thoughtful choice of topic. Write with energy and sensitivity; be concise and well-organized.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT IB/AP EXAMS

Seniors in IB or AP courses must take the appropriate exam in May. Having recently completed another administration of International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement exams, we wish to offer some suggestions early in the year.

Many of our students receive recognition from colleges as a result of their superior scores on these exams. This acknowledgment may take the form of college credits for a single test, the approval to skip over a prerequisite and move on to more advanced course work, or waiver of a requirement which may present the ability to substitute an elective of your choice. Any credits awarded to you may ultimately save expensive tuition dollars. If enough credits are earned, the college may even grant you advanced standing. This means you could graduate in fewer than four years. It is your responsibility to inquire about the colleges' policies on advanced standing when you apply. Visit IBO.org for the University Policy Index containing college web addresses and contact phone numbers.

Students should plan for the exams for which they will sit in May. You may seek your teacher's advice if you are considering taking an AP exam in a particular IB subject in addition to the IB exam. We will make the exam schedules available to you so that you can avoid conflicts whenever possible. Your performance may be adversely affected by taking several exams on the same day or by taking an excessive number of exams overall.

AP EXAM FEE - A payment of \$103 (per exam) through your My School Bucks account is due by January 26, 2024.

Finally, we advise you to take advanced courses at South Side seriously, so that you may perform successfully on the exams this May. The greater effort you put in now will translate to a greater achievement in college even if you decide to repeat the course once you're there.

2023 SAT TEST DATES - www.collegeboard.org

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE DEADLINE - FEE APPLIES
Oct. 7 (given at SSHS)	Sept. 7	Sept. 26
Nov. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 24
Dec. 2	Nov. 2	Nov. 21

2023 ACT TEST DATES - www.act.org

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE DEADLINE - FEE APPLIES
Oct. 28	Sept. 22	Oct. 6
Dec. 9	Nov. 3	Nov. 17

South Side High School - school code is 334885 for the SAT and ACT. State and County is 36059.

Test Center code for South Side is 33-822. The nearest test location is Baldwin (test center code 189180).

NOTE: Students often indicate the wrong test center code and then face an additional charge to change the test center. Be careful when completing the registration form.

Inform your counselor of all college admission decisions. Your final transcript will be sent to the college you're attending.