

## Preparing for College--Juniors

PSAT-Wednesday, October 17, 2007

SAT-Saturday, January 26, 2008

**Grades/Course Selection Matters**—The courses you are taking and the grades that you make this year are SUPER important to schools. The Junior year grades are the LAST grades that appear on your transcript when you are applying next Fall. Most schools will not see your Fall term Senior grades unless they request them OR if you apply after Thanksgiving (most of you will apply before Thanksgiving).

**Recommendations Matter**—Some of you will start asking teachers THIS spring for letter of recommendation. Schools like Wake Forest have an Early Decision I program and the deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Now is the time to cultivate relationships with your teachers. Most of you will ask for two teachers to write recommendations. Teachers have the right to say no...and some do say no. Think about your relationship with your teachers...do you turn in your homework on time? Do you participate in class or are you the kid sitting in the back falling asleep or cracking jokes? Teachers talk to each other----don't get a bad reputation---be polite—pay attention—and most importantly Don't Miss Class.

**Research, Research, Research**—Now is the time to send away for college information (When you fill out SAT registration this week...make sure to answer the inside information—colleges get your name and interests and you get placed on mailing lists). Talk to seniors—where are they going—where did they visit. Talk to siblings, friends, family members about schools. Visit college websites. [WWW.Collegeboard.com](http://WWW.Collegeboard.com) has a great site. You can register your information and do mini college searches.

**Activities Matter**—The number of extracurricular/community service activities you are involved is less important than the quality of these activities. Schools would much rather see that you have selected three or four activities and made significant contributions than have a laundry list of activities that you joined but didn't contribute. Example--- leadership in athletics...being named captain...volunteering for finals (and actually helping)...be creative...if we don't have something you want...help start something!

**Testing Matters**—Meet registration deadlines. *You will take the SAT on Saturday, January 26.* You will have an opportunity to do a college prep class this spring and will take the SAT again on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Many of you will need to take SAT IIs in June (at home center).

**Make an appointment with Mrs. Koudelka/Mrs. Culbreth**—We are here to help you through this process. We have college guides/resources available for you and will help you identify your interests and create a list of schools that will match your interests and academic profile.

