

(REALLY) IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SENIORS!!!!!!

This is VERY important information about your senior year. Please read it carefully, share it with your family, and reference it often for details/dates/deadlines!

Please also make a habit of checking the guidance webpage regularly and reading the daily announcements for important and time sensitive information about admissions/military rep. visits, scholarships, testing deadlines, and programming for seniors. Links to this information can be found at <http://sbhs.sbschools.net/>

❖ YOUR TRANSCRIPT:

We have enclosed a copy of your transcript so that you can review it together with your family to make sure the high school's graduation requirements have been met. Please refer to the Student Handbook and the 2009-2010 Programs of Study (available on the school's website) to review the credits required in each curriculum area. Counselors make every effort to review the credits of their seniors, but ultimately it is **THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE NECESSARY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET.**

Starting with the class of 2008, SBHS no longer calculates specific class rank. Via the school profile we do report the range of a class' GPA, thus allowing college admissions officers to better understand our grading patterns and how we compute the GPA. For more information on academic distinction, please refer to the Student Handbook.

COUNSELOR E-MAIL ADDRESSES/PHONE EXTENSIONS:

Halina Gangi	hgangi@sbschools.net	652-7062
Karen Grace	kgrace@sbschools.net	652-7064
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❖ JUMP START: INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR SENIORS:

We know that the application process can be stressful, and deadlines, especially for Early Action/Decision programs, come up quickly! In an effort to serve seniors better, the guidance office is offering 5 information sessions to help you get started. If you are applying with a specific November deadline, please attend one of the first 3 sessions in addition to setting up your senior appointment. (A green flyer regarding the details of these sessions was sent home with schedules in August)

For seniors with a November early action/early decision application deadline:

Tuesday, September 1 at 1 pm

Wednesday, September 9 at 3:30 pm

Friday, September 18 at 7:30 am

For seniors with college application deadlines AFTER November:

Tuesday, October 6 at 12:00 pm

Tuesday, October 13 at 12:00 pm

Please e-mail Nikki St.Mary (nstmary@sbschools.net) to save your spot in one of these sessions

❖ **SENIOR GUIDANCE NIGHT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS:
THE COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS**

Wednesday, September 16th, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the AUDITORIUM, SBHS

This important meeting for students and parents/guardians will provide an exchange of information on the college application process as well as an explanation of how the guidance office helps students facilitate the college application process.

❖ **YOUR SENIOR APPOINTMENT:**

All seniors are expected to schedule a senior appointment with us **by the December break**. Students who **know** they have a November EA/ED application deadline can come to the guidance office to schedule that appointment beginning Thursday, September 17th. Students with regular application deadlines may make their senior appointments after Oct. 9th. Senior appointments should be scheduled at least 3 in-session school weeks prior to a student's first deadline. If you have a question about the timing of your senior appointment in relation to a deadline for a particular college, please contact your counselor. Students are welcome to invite parents/guardians to attend this meeting. **It is the student's responsibility to come to the guidance office to make this appointment.**

❖ **A WORD ABOUT DEADLINES:**

In the process of applying to college, there are several **important** guidelines to keep in mind. **The student** is responsible for mailing applications to colleges **by the due date** unless the college specifically requests that they be mailed from our office with the transcript. For **each** application that is sent, a transcript release request (pink form available in the Guidance Office) must be signed by the parent (or by an 18 year old senior) and returned to us. **This needs to be done at least 3 in-session school weeks in advance of the time when you would like the transcript to be mailed, so that we can ensure timeliness.**

During the senior appointment with your counselor, you will be given a **SENIOR PACKET** that includes all of the necessary forms that the guidance office requires in order to process a college application. The counselor will hand out senior packets to the student **only** during the senior appointment so that the application process can be clearly explained.

❖ **COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS (SAT & ACT):**

Since most colleges require SAT or ACT results as part of their admissions process, it is recommended that all students planning to attend college take one of these tests, even if they are taking an interim year. Colleges typically require that standardized test results be **sent directly from the testing company to the college.** When students take the SAT I, SAT II or ACT tests, they should have the official results sent directly to the colleges of their choice (most colleges will not accept the scores from the high school). SAT II Subject Tests are given in specific subject areas and are only required at approximately 60 of the most selective colleges. It is the **student's responsibility** to make sure that the appropriate test results are sent. Registration

materials for SAT and ACT are available in the Guidance Office or you can register online (www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org). Students should be mindful of registration deadlines for their desired test date. The testing schedule for both ACT and SAT can be found at the end of this memo, on testing company web sites, and on the guidance web page.

*****Please note that while testing companies will accept paper registrations, they prefer that students register on-line. Be sure to make note of your ID and password when registering online. You will need it for future reference.**

❖ **FEE WAIVERS FOR TESTING AND COLLEGE APPLICATIONS:**

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch are also eligible for fee waivers to take tests such as **SAT, ACT, and AP exams**. Students may also qualify for **waivers for college application fees**. In the mailing you received from the main office over the summer, there was an application for the free or reduced lunch program included. Income guidelines are indicated on the application, so please check to see if you qualify and consider applying even if you don't intend to use the lunch service here at school. You can apply at any time during the school year. **Completed lunch applications should be returned to the Main Office.**

❖ **COUNSELOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:**

During the coming months, counselors will write letters of recommendation for a number of seniors. To write these letters, we ask seniors to gather feedback from teachers, coaches, employers, and/or parents. Counselors then summarize the collected information in a one-page letter that is sent with the student's transcript. We welcome as much input about the individual student as we can get. With this in mind, we invite parents/guardians to submit comments regarding their senior that might give us added insights for our writing. These comments might reflect personality characteristics, unique experiences, or factors that have been important in the student's development. A **Parent Survey** is attached for your convenience. It would be helpful to have these comments returned to us by **mid-October**. You may email the information to your student's counselor or return a hard copy to Peg Adams in the guidance office.

❖ **TEACHER LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:**

If a **separate** teacher letter of recommendation is needed for the student's application, it is his/her responsibility to ask a teacher to write the letter. Typically, a teacher who has had the student in class during the junior or senior year and is teaching a core academic subject writes the recommendation. That letter is confidential and will be **mailed by the teacher** to the colleges the student indicates. **Students should ask teachers at LEAST 3-4 WEEKS PRIOR TO THEIR DEADLINE.** Counselors will discuss the teacher letter of recommendation during the senior appointment.

**PLEASE SAVE
THESE DATES:**

- **COLLEGE FAIR** - The New England Association of College Admissions Counselors College Fair will be held at UVM on **Thursday, September 17 from 6:30-9:00 pm and Friday, September 18 from 9:00-11:00 am.** College representatives from over 220 colleges will be present; we strongly encourage students and their parents attend this College Fair. Many of these reps will be at SBHS during lunch periods on September 17 & 18 (see p. 5 of this mailing for more details, and additional updates will be available for students in the Guidance Office and via the daily announcements).

- **SENIOR NIGHT FOR SENIORS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS** - **Wednesday, September 16th, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.** This will be a discussion on college admission and financial aid, filling out applications, and the procedures used by the SBHS guidance office. Our goal in the coming months is to help each student make wise decisions based on individual goals, aptitudes, interests, and experiences. Because this is a complex process in which each situation is unique, we encourage you to call or make an appointment if you have any questions.

- **EARLY DECISION and EARLY ACTION** - **Many deadlines for early decision and early action are November 1.** Students applying to any college under an early decision or early action admissions deadline **MUST** give all required paperwork to the guidance office by **Friday, October 9th**.

- **FINANCIAL AID NIGHT** - **Tuesday, November 17th, 2009, 6:30 -8:00pm., in the Multi-Purpose Room.** A representative from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) will be at South Burlington High School to explain to students and their families the process for applying for state and federal funds for college.

- **SAT AND ACT DATES** - Registration and student information materials are available in the Guidance Office. **You will need our school's CEEB code to register for these exams. It is 460413.** We recommended that you take these tests as soon as possible. Your college application will not be complete until the college admissions office receives required tests results. **(Note: Colleges do not generally accept test scores sent from the high school. You must request test centers to send scores to the colleges.**

Test Dates **These administrations are at SBHS, but students may take the tests at any testing location.

SAT	<u>Tests</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Late Deadline</u> (Late fee required)
Oct. 10, 2009	SAT I/SAT II	September 9	September 10-23
Nov. 7, 2009	SAT I/SAT II	October 1	October 2-15
Dec. 5, 2009	SAT I/SAT II	October 30	October 31-November 12
Jan. 23, 2010	SAT I/SAT II	December 15	December 16-30
March 13, 2010	SAT I only	February 4	February 5-18
May 1, 2010**	SAT I/SAT II	March 25	March 26-April 8
June 5, 2010**	SAT I/SAT II	April 29	April 30-May 13

(continue reading for ACT dates)

ACT and ACT Writing Assessment

	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Late Deadline</u> (Late fee required)
September 12, 2009 **	August 7	August 8-21
October 24, 2009	September 18	September 19-October 2
December 12, 2009**	November 6	November 7-20
February 6, 2010	January 5	January 6-15
April 10, 2010	March 5	March 6- 19
June 12, 2010	May 7	May 8-21

**These administrations are at SBHS, but students may take the tests at any testing location.

Partial listing of college admissions reps. who will be here in September:

September			
	University of Colorado, Boulder	9/3	12-12:30
	Queens University, Canada	9/8	12-12:30
	Lyndon State College	9/9	12-12:30
	Montana State	9/15	1:25-2
	George Mason	9/16	12:10-12:50
	Becker	9/16	12:10-12:50
	Bishop University	9/17	12-12:30
	MA College of Pharmacy &Health Sciences	9/17	12-12:30
	Nichols College	9/17	12-12:30
	Furman	9/17	12-12:30
	Bridgewater College	9/17	12-12:30
	Hobart Wm Smith	9/17	12-12:30
	Marietta	9/17	12-12:30
	UConn	9/17	12-12:30
	UME Farmington	9/17	12:45-1:15
	University of New Haven	9/17	12:45-1:15
	Emerson	9/17	12:45-1:15
	Marist	9/17	12:45-1:15
	Eastern University, PA	9/17	12:45-1:15
	Davis and Elkins, WV	9/17	12:45-1:15
	Curry College	9/17	12:45-1:15
	Bay Path College	9/17	1:25-2
	Union	9/17	1:25-2
	Hamilton	9/17	1:25-2
	Quinnipiac	9/17	1:25-2
	Gettysburg College	9/18	12-12:30
	Drew University	9/18	12-12:30
	Assumption	9/18	12-12:30
	Wittenberg University	9/18	12-12:30
	Brandeis	9/18	12-12:30
	RIT	9/18	12:45-1:15
	Dean College	9/18	12:45-1:15
	URI	9/18	12:45-1:15
	Lynchburg	9/18	1:25-2
	University at Buffalo	9/18	1:25-2
	SUNY Canton	9/23	1:25-2
	Western New England College	9/28	12-12:30
	University of British Columbia	9/28	12-12:30

