



SVHS Junior Fall Letter 2011



Welcome back Class of 2013!

Junior year marks the start of the **college and career selection process**. There is no better way to learn about a college, university, technical, or trade school than through a campus visit.

- 🍁 Begin creating a list of colleges/careers that interest you. Research whether your careers require college degrees.
- 🍁 Request brochures from colleges and vocational programs (ex: TSTC) that you feel might be a good fit for you
- 🍁 Contact the admissions office and plan a visit. This year juniors are allowed **two** excused absences for college visits (forms are in the Counseling office).
- 🍁 Many campuses have special events that cater to potential future students (ex: Texas State University Bobcat day is Nov 19th, UTSA day is Nov 12th).
- 🍁 Visit our College and Career Center (CCC) and visit with Mr. Hofer for more college, scholarship, and vocational program resources.
- 🍁 The morning announcements and his website are also great resources reminding you of scholarship opportunities, important dates to remember, and upcoming college and career events on campus.

Junior year **grades** play an integral role in the college admission process, so an academic focus is especially important this year. Even if you have not been happy with your grades so far, *it is never too late to improve*.

- 🍁 Remember, if you rank in the top 10% of the senior class, you will receive automatic admission to any Texas public college/university. (Note: submitted application, test scores, and application fee are still required) (UT-Austin has different cut-off)
- 🍁 Also by junior year, you already may have many extracurricular interests. Once again, it is not too late to get involved with SVHS or your community through clubs, community service opportunities, and church affiliations which help build your college/career resume.
- 🍁 Involvement in many activities is not a must, but commitment and leadership in a few select activities is ideal.

Junior year is also the year of **testing**.

- 🍁 It is recommended for juniors to take the SAT and/or ACT in the spring because you have almost completed three years of high school at that point. Since test scores are valid for five years, you may want to consider taking the SAT/ACT even if you are planning to start your career after graduation (plans do change).
- 🍁 In Texas, there are SAT/ACT cut off scores that are dependent on where you are located in your class rank. For example, Texas State requires a minimum score of 20 on the ACT or a score of 920 on the SAT if you are ranked in the top 25% of your class (Note: the minimum scores *increase* the lower your class ranking).
- 🍁 SVHS is a testing site for the **ACT on Oct 22nd & April 14th** and the **SAT on Nov 5th, May 5th, and June 2nd**. Registration must be completed online (www.act.org and www.collegeboard.com) or by mail (packets are available in the CCC).
- 🍁 Juniors will also be taking the **EXIT Level TAKS** test this spring (see dates below). Scoring a 2100 or higher on all subject areas (Math, English, Science, and Social Studies) is still a graduation requirement. Scoring a 2200 or higher on ELA and Math will mean you are TSI compliant and may not have to take remedial coursework at college. If you do not pass a subject area, there are opportunities to retake the test.

ELA: March 7th, 2012

Math: April 25th, 2012

Science: April 26th, 2012

Social Studies: April 27th, 2012

In closing there are many great resources on campus and online help you in your college and career search. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me in the 11th/12th grade student services, via email, or by phone (amanda.pedroza@comalisd.org /830-885-1060).

Sincerely,

Amanda Pedroza, Counselor for the Class of 2013