

JUNIOR NEWS

March 2008

Somerset High School Guidance Department

STUDENT INTERVIEWS

Individual junior interviews have begun and will continue until all juniors have been seen by their counselor. Students and counselors will discuss future plans during these meetings. There is a variety of college, as well as technical school, materials available that counselors can provide. Tasks a family can complete during the spring/summer include college searches and visits. College web sites have available dates of tours and directions to the campus.

SAT REASONING TEST/ SAT SUBJECT TESTS

Juniors should remember that if they are planning to attend a four-year college, they should plan to take the SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I). Some two-year colleges also require the SAT Reasoning Test, as well. It is recommended that students take the SAT (or ACT—see below) during their junior year. This will allow the opportunity to take it again during their senior year. Colleges will use the highest score achieved in each of the three skill areas for admission purposes. All students, whether they are planning to attend college or not, are advised to take these tests.

Juniors will have their first opportunity to take the SAT Reasoning Test at Somerset High School on **Saturday, May 3rd, 2008**. The registration deadline for this test is **April 1, 2008**. Students may register by mail via the registration booklets that are available in the guidance office or register online at **www.collegeboard.com**. Students will receive more information on this via a JUNIOR SAT WORKSHOP, that will be held for them on March 11th during the school day.

Some private four-year colleges require, in addition to the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests (SAT IIs). Students should check the individual college websites or speak with their counselor to see if this is a consideration for them. Subject Test information and registration booklets are also available in the guidance office.

SAT PREPARATION COURSES

The Somerset Community Evening School is sponsoring an SAT Prep course beginning **Saturday, March 8, 2008 through April 26, 2008**. Two morning sessions for Math prep and two sessions for Verbal prep are available. The cost per course is \$45. Please register ASAP in the guidance office. Along with those classes offered here at SHS, there are also workshops available for SAT skill improvement. Bristol Community College offers a workshop for SAT preparation (508-678-2811, ext 2527). Massasoit Community College will also be offering an SAT prep program (508-588-9100, ext 1509). On-line preparation via www.collegeboard.com is also a great option.

ACTs

The **ACT** (American College Test) is an alternative test that is available to prospective college applicants. The SAT is a projective test, which attempts to predict potential for academic success in college, whereas the ACT is a more knowledge-based instrument measuring what you actually know. If you have questions or would like further information about this test, please talk with your guidance counselor.

The ACT will be offered on **April 12, 2008** (registration deadline March 7) and **June 14, 2008** (registration deadline May 9) at local high schools (Somerset High School is not a test site for the ACT). Additional testing dates will be available in the fall of 2008. ACT registration packets are available in the guidance office, or students can go to www.actstudent.org for registration materials and information.

SENIOR YEAR COURSE REGISTRATION

All students should have received a 2008-2009 course request form as well as a 2008-2009 course description book during the workshops held by the guidance counselors. It is important that you review the materials with your parents and obtain their signature prior to turning the form back in to the guidance office. Students should also talk with teachers regarding courses and levels. Reference the student handbook regarding SHS graduation requirements as well as the college entrance requirements in making decisions about senior year courses. Over the next several months, all students will meet individually with their counselor to select their senior year schedule. Please be prepared with a completed and signed course selection sheet.

THE HOMEWORK CLUB

The Homework Club is available to all students in the library after school Mondays through Thursdays from 2:15-3:15 pm. Extra help is offered in five subjects: Mondays-English, Tuesdays-Math, Wednesdays-Science, Thursdays-Social Studies. Foreign Language assistance (Spanish, French, Portuguese) is available on a rotating basis. The list of dates is posted in the guidance office. Students are strongly encouraged to make use of this service.

COLLEGE FAIRS

The National Association for College Admission Counseling will be holding two college fairs in the nearby area. The Boston National College Fair will be held on Tuesday, April 8th (9:00 am-noon, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm) and on Wednesday, April 9th (9:00 am-noon), at the Bayside Expo Center in Boston. The Providence National College Fair will be held on Saturday, April 26th (1:00-4:00 pm) at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Visit www.nacacnet.org for more information.

COLLEGE MAJOR/CAREER EXPLORATION

All high school students who took the 2007 PSAT/NMSQT will receive access to “**My College Quickstart**”, without charge, via the College Board website. This personalized planning kit includes a variety of information such as an SAT study guide and individualized lists of colleges and majors. It also allows access to “**My Road**”, an interactive college and career planning website. Information on accessing the software programs will be included with your score report.

THE FOUNTAINHEAD ESSAY CONTEST

Juniors are eligible to participate in an essay contest (entry deadline is April 25, 2008) about the book, *The Fountainhead*, by Ayn Rand. First prize is \$10,000, and there are numerous other second, third, and finalist monetary awards. Essay topics and details on the contest are available in the guidance office. Please see Ms. Bogie if interested.

MATH AND SCIENCE WORKSHOP FOR JUNIOR GIRLS

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY is offering a day-long program on Saturday, April 19th, for girls with aptitude and interest in math and science to a wide variety of career options by providing hands-on experiences in Rensselaer’s labs and studio classrooms. The registration forms are available in the guidance office and the deadline for submission is March 14, 2008. Great opportunity...and is free of charge!

SUMMER PROGRAMS

There are a number of educational summer programs available at various institutions of higher learning, and even some sponsored by the armed forces. There are deadlines approaching for these, so if interested, please stop by the guidance office and speak with your counselor about these invaluable opportunities.

HELPFUL WEB SITES

www.collegeboard.com- Provides information about SAT and test dates. Also provides information about colleges.

www.collegeview.com- Provides information about financial aid, tips on writing a college application essay and virtual college tours.

www.mefacounselor.org- This is the website for the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority. It contains a variety of helpful information regarding financing a college education as well as links to various websites involved in the financial aid process.

www.fafsa.ed.gov- This site provides info about completing the FAFSA online.

*****Attached you will find a checklist reminder of things to do to help you prepare for the college search process. You may find this helpful as you begin to research potential colleges or majors of study.**

MARCH 2008–AUGUST 2008:

- *Examine educational opportunities available to you and discuss your plans with your parents/guardians.*
- *Investigate career choices and decide on career direction.*
- *Study college admissions requirements and select appropriate courses to meet them. Senior year courses are important to colleges and to your future!*
- *Begin school search by writing for individual school catalogs. If possible, visit schools and visit websites for colleges as well.*
- *Attend local college fairs to examine a wide variety of schools.*
- *Check out the media center which has many resources available for your career exploration.*
- *SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests and ACT are offered in spring 2008. (Somerset High School will offer SAT testing in May of 2008.)*
- *Consider an ACT or SAT preparation workshop.*