

# Junior College Planning



# AGENDA

- Beginning the College Search
- Admission Standards and Senior Courses
- College Visits
- Standardized Testing
- College Essay
- Special Talents
- Financial Aid

# Student-Driven Process

- **Email Address/LinkedIn**

- Students should create a professional email address for college admissions correspondence
- Example: john\_roberts@aol.com

- **Ownership and Responsibility**

- Students should complete their own:
  - Applications
  - Essays
  - Resumes
  - Portfolios



# HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- Complete the *Questionnaire for Parents* and submit to your child's guidance counselor.
- Utilize Family Connection on Naviance website
  - [www.connection.naviance.com/sjhs](http://www.connection.naviance.com/sjhs)
  - Conduct college/career searches with student
- Organize materials
  - College mailings
  - SAT/ACT test registration
  - Test preparation
  - Etc.
- Arrange college visits
- Meet with your child and their counselor



# College Search/Application Process

Student-driven with help from parents

- Where do I begin?

As a family consider:

- Location, size
- Cost
- Public vs. Private
- Program of study

- Use Naviance website Family Connection to conduct college searches.

[www.connection.naviance.com/sjhs](http://www.connection.naviance.com/sjhs)

- Meet with your counselor often



# Admissions Standards

- **What do colleges consider?**

- GPA and grade trend
- Standardized test scores
- Strength of curriculum
- Extracurricular involvement
- Essay
- Recommendation letters (ask in advance)
- Interview (if offered)



# ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM ST JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

- Religion 4 credits (1 credit each year)
- English 4 credits (1 credit each year)
- Science 3 credits
- Mathematics 4 credits
- Social Studies 3.5 credits (this includes 1.5 credits in American History and .50 credit in Civics).
- World Language 2 credits of same language
- Phys. Ed./Health 1 credit (1/2 credit each of the first two years)
- Electives 4.5 credits
- One credit earned from the following during the first two years:
- Computer 610 .50 credit
- Art I, Music I, or Theater I .50 Credit
- [or] Band or Chorus .50 credit
- **Total Credits: 26**

\* Transfer student credit requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

# What classes should I take senior year?

- Most Rigorous Course of Study *appropriate for you* in addition to required English, Civics, Math and Religion courses:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> year of Science
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year of World Language
  - Electives
  - Check with your counselor /college admission counselors on requirements for specific majors
  - Check with your counselor to make sure your courses are NCAA approved if you are a student athlete
- Why?
  - High school is practice for college success
  - Admission criteria includes strength of curriculum



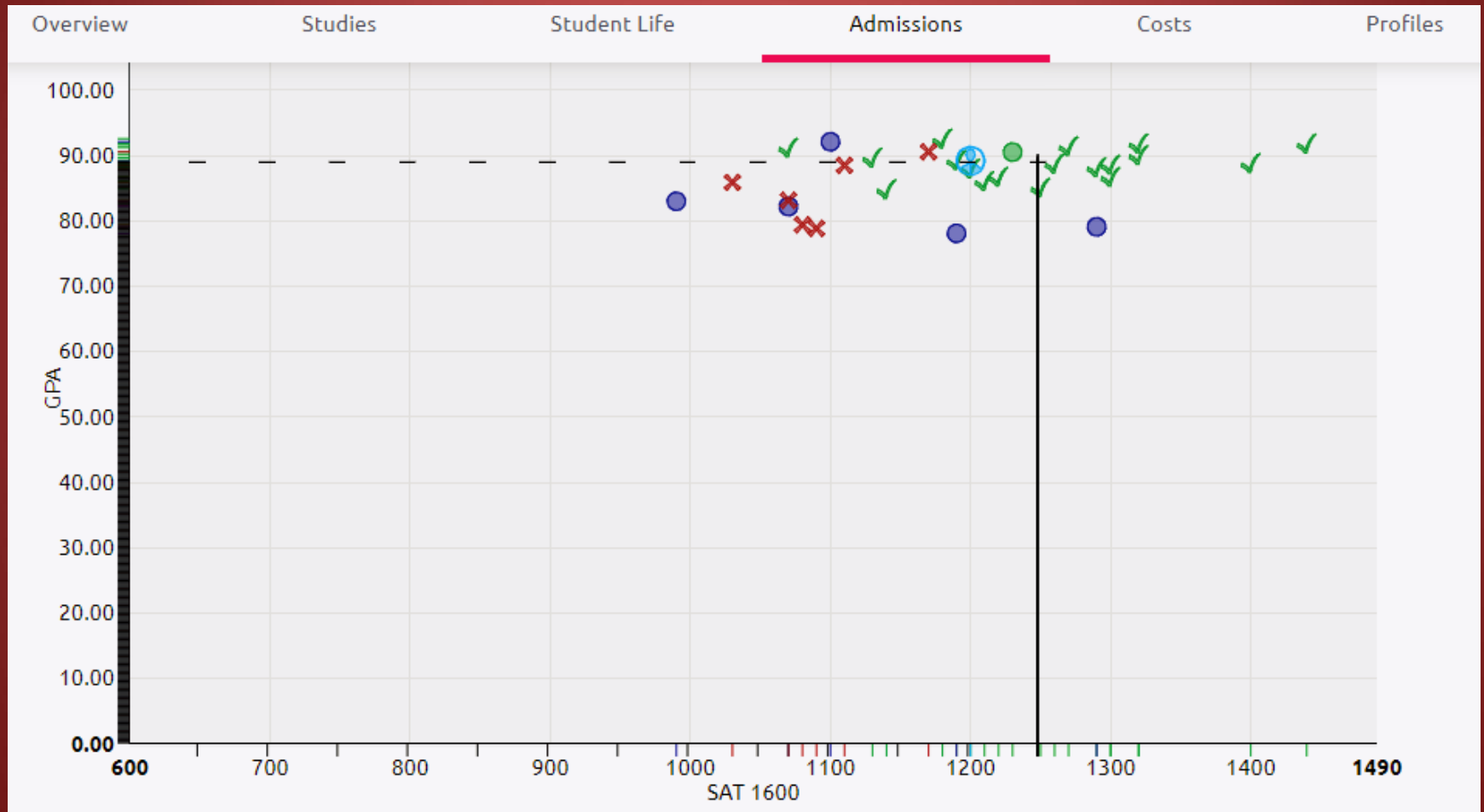


# College List

- **What should my college list look like?**
- **Up to 9 schools on final list**
  - Possible/Reach
  - Probable/Target
  - Likely
- **Admission standards**
  - Use GPA, test scores, required courses to determine likelihood of admission
  - Use graph and statistical information on Naviance



# Naviance Admission Statistics



# College Visits

- Plan to visit now, spring & summer
- Ideally when students are on campus
- Attend open houses
- Set up visits
  - Online
  - By phone
    - Use 1-800 number
- Ask many questions



# College Visits

- **What should I do on a college visit?**
  - Take a tour of campus
  - Attend an information session in the admissions office
  - Sit in on a class
  - Speak with someone in your field of interest
  - Set up an interview (if offered)
  - Stay overnight in a dorm
  - Eat in the cafeteria
  - Visit the surrounding area



# Spring Break

April 7-15

No Classes!!!

College Visit Week

Plan ahead!



# Standardized Tests:

# SAT

- SAT Reasoning Test
  - Tests aptitude
- Mandatory Writing
  - Evidence Based Reading and Writing (800)
  - Math (800)
  - Essay (Optional)



\*SAT Subject tests should be taken by students applying to selective schools that require them

\*\*Check with classroom teacher for advice

More details?

[www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/scores/understanding.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/scores/understanding.html)

# Standardized Tests:

# ACT

- ACT
  - Curriculum-based test
  - Composite Score (36)
  - 4 Sub scores
    - Math
    - Science Reasoning
    - Reading
    - English
- ACT w/ Optional Writing Test
  - Combined English score with essay
  - Essay scored on a 12 point scale

More details? [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

# How do I register?

- Online Registration
  - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
  - [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html)
  - Pay with credit card
- High School Code: 070797
- Determine which test is your best performance; repeat that one in senior year
- Do not send scores until senior year
- Most colleges look at your highest combined scores called “superscore” on the SAT, and your highest composite ACT score (some colleges will superscore ACT)



# Testing Accommodations

- If your child has a documented learning disability and needs accommodations on SAT or ACT, please contact Mrs. Sullivan at [ksullivan@sjcadets.org](mailto:ksullivan@sjcadets.org)
- More information is available on college board and ACT student pages
  - <https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities/eligibility>
  - <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/accommodations.html>

# ACT & SAT 2018 Dates

ACT



SAT

April 14

June 9

July 14

March 10

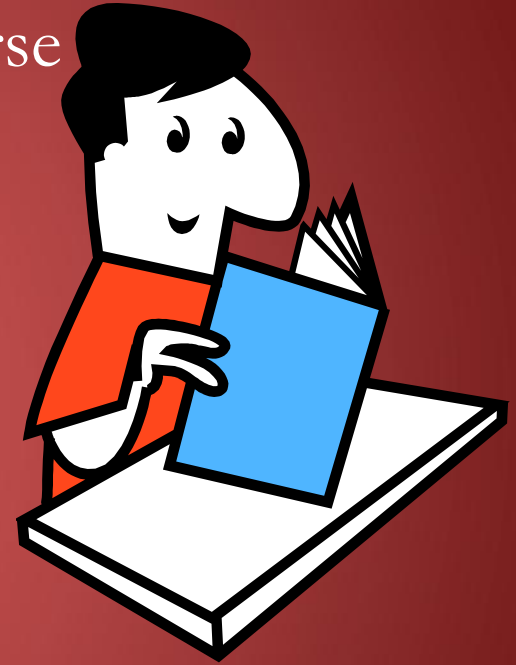
May 5

June 2

High School Code: 070797

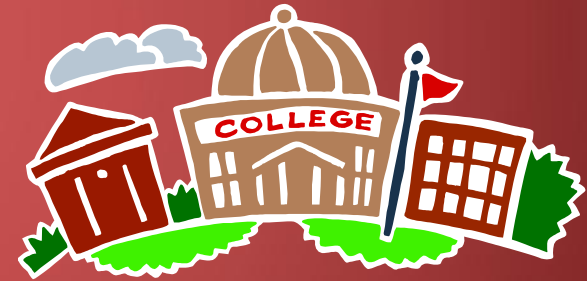
# Test Preparation Options

- St Joseph High School SAT test prep course
- Khan academy free test prep for SAT
- Kaplan or Princeton Review
- Private tutors
- Prepare on your own
  - Free practice tests  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
  - Books, CDs, etc. available for purchase



# Fair Test Colleges

- National Center for Fair & Open Testing
  - Over 1000 SAT/ACT Optional 4-year universities
  - Examples
    - Fairfield University
    - College of the Holy Cross
    - Providence College
- [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org) for a complete list
- Alphabetical
  - By state

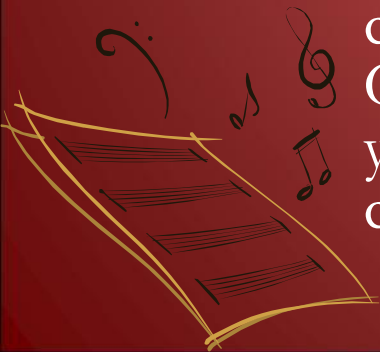


# College Essay

- Students will begin working on their college essay with their junior year English teacher
- Essay will be due as the first assignment in senior year English classes
- Keep graded papers from English classes
- Showcase talents by preparing portfolios
- Summer institute for essay writing offered at SJHS
- Essay tips:
  - <http://apps.carleton.edu/admissions/overview/apply/essay/>
  - [www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/index.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/index.html)

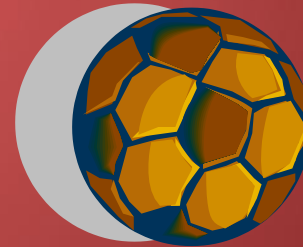
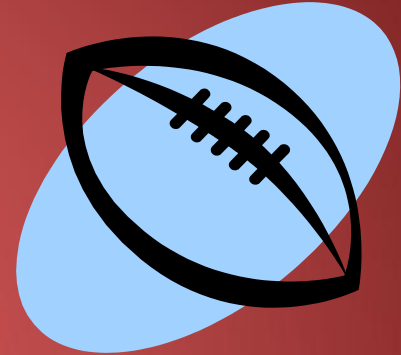
# If your student has a special talent...

- **Art-** then help him/her assemble a portfolio to send to colleges with the application
- **Music-** consider making a recording to send to colleges
- **Writing-** encourage him/her to keep a collection of stories or poems to include with the college application
- **Athletics-** encourage your child to contact college coaches directly requesting information. Consult with your child's coach to determine if your child should create a highlights film for college coaches



# NCAA Clearinghouse

- Student Athletes
  - Interested in playing Division I or II sports at college level
- Send ACT/SAT test scores *directly* to the Clearinghouse. Use code: 9999
- Check with your counselor to make sure all courses are NCAA approved
- [www.eligibilitycenter.net](http://www.eligibilitycenter.net)
- Complete registration online
  - \$70 Fee required
- Request transcripts from Guidance Office *using forms printed during registration*
- Attend our NCAA Clearinghouse Presentation on Tuesday., March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm



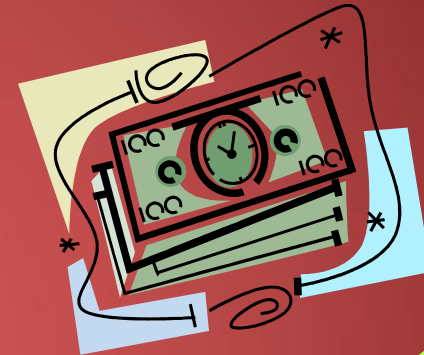
# Get a Head Start on Application Components

- Letters of Recommendation from teachers
  - Begin thinking about which teachers you will ask to write for you and make verbal contact
- Build your resume/portfolios
- Plan your essay
- Meet often with your counselor
- Attend the SJHS College fair: **March 7th**
- Junior College Planning workshops begin January 29<sup>th</sup> in the Guidance Office

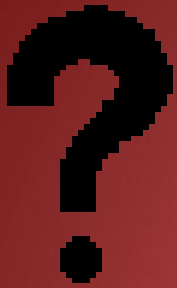


# Financial Aid

- **Financial Aid Night for seniors in October**
- **Internet Resources:**
  - FAFSA [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
  - CSS/Financial Aid Profile  
[www.profileonline.collegeboard.com](http://www.profileonline.collegeboard.com)
  - FastWEB database of 400,000 scholarships  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - ScholarshipExperts.com [www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)
  - The SmartStudent Guide to Financial Aid [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
  - Free scholarship database [www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)



# Questions?



SJHS College Counseling Office

(203) 378-9378

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