



November/December 2015

STUDENTS, PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS!!!

COUNSELORS: MRS. COLLINS (A-FI)

MRS. WESSELS (Fo-La)

MRS. CLORE (Le-Ri)

MR. JACOBSEN (Ro-Z)

MRS. HERRITY (9th)

MRS. RICHEY (PACT)

This newsletter is designed to help make students and parents aware of all of the scholarship opportunities that are available to Kennedy students. Each newsletter will feature a scholarship for students to begin to plan for. Even though students are freshmen and sophomores, there are several scholarships that will require students to plan ahead and be mindful of their coursework and involvement.

Eugene McDermott Scholar (1-2 Kennedy nominees) – University of Texas @ Dallas (an EXCEPTIONAL STEM institution)

Award: Full Ride Scholarship to The University of Texas at Dallas as well as a diverse array of intensive extracurricular experiences, including internships, travel, and cultural enrichment.

Deadline: November 5, 2015 (priority application deadline); January 5, 2016, regular applicant

Website for more information: <http://www.utdallas.edu/mcdermott/>

Eligibility: McDermott Scholars are selected on their promise of being leaders for Dallas, the United States, and the world community during the 21st century. This promise is demonstrated by records of high intellectual achievement, along with evidence of leadership skills, high ethics, and a commitment to full participation in the Program, with all of its privileges and responsibilities. Students who are admitted and have qualifying credentials can also receive in-state tuition!

Required Credentials:

- Admissible to the University of Texas at Dallas
- 32 or higher on the ACT
- Class rank in the top 5%
- Long records of community volunteerism and leadership in school
- Broad and eclectic interests in science, literature and the arts
- Social skills to interact easily with adults as well as peers

FRESHMEN TIPS

- Explore the ACT profile, specifically interests and careers: <http://www.act.org/profile/>
- Find volunteer activities that are good for you and good for the world.
- Become familiar with the standardized tests you need to take as well as practice tests.
- Explore colleges: What kinds of schools would you consider?

SOPHOMORE TIPS

- Look for leadership roles in clubs and activities.
- Start thinking about majors and careers that will help you build a list of potential college choices.
- Make an appointment to talk with your school counselor to ask any questions.
- Strengthen relationships with teachers, counselors and activity advisors. This will help you obtain recommendations for your college application.
- Think about taking SAT subject tests while the curriculum is still fresh in your mind.

College Search Engines

www.cappex.com
www.chegg.com
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
<http://www.collegemajors101.com/>
<http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/>

i have a plan.

I Have A Plan Iowa® is a comprehensive web-based planning tool that assists Iowans as they explore education and career options. I Have A Plan Iowa® has been designated as Iowa's career information system by the Iowa Department of Education. Iowa Code Section 279.61 specifies that all Iowa students must create a career plan in grade 8 and complete the required components in the state-designated career information system in grades 8-12. This legislation went into effect for the school year beginning July 1, 2008.

This year at Kennedy, freshmen were re-introduced to I Have A Plan Iowa by viewing an introductory video of what the site has to offer, as well a reminder on how to access their account. Freshmen students are required to complete what is called the “9th Grade Guideways”. This guideway is designed to help students discover interests and explore related careers, search for careers by required education level, expected income and more, and identify student’s current level of basic skills.

Parents can create their own account on IHAPI. The information available on this site is absolutely phenomenal. Careers, colleges across the United States, financial aid information, scholarships information can be found, and it incorporates a PORTFOLIO for students to store information beginning in 9th grade.

Ms. Herrity will be available for SMART Lunch sessions to help new students create an account, help students navigate the website and to help students complete the required 9th Grade Guideways. These sessions will occur on and off throughout most of year. Listen for announcements!

Below is a link to the website. If you wish to create a parent account, just click the FOR PARENTS logo on the homepage and follow the prompts. Your students should also be able to log in and show you around as well!

<https://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

What is the difference between the ACT and SAT?

<http://www.actstudent.org/faq/actsat.html>

Category	Current ACT	Current SAT	New SAT
Test Fee	\$39.50	\$54.50	\$43.00
	\$56.50 (with writing)		\$54.50 (with essay test)
Components	ACT mathematics test (60 items, 60 minutes)	Mathematics (54 items, 70 minutes)	Math (58 items, 80 minutes)
	ACT reading test (40 items, 35 minutes)	Critical Reading (67 items, 70 minutes)	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
	ACT science test (40 items, 35 minutes)	SAT Writing Test	Reading Test (52 items, 65 minutes)
	ACT English test (75 items, 45 minutes)	Essay (mandatory; 1 prompt, 25 minutes)	Writing and Language Test (44 Items, 35 minutes)
	ACT writing test (optional; 1 prompt, 30 minutes)	Multiple-Choice (49 Items, 60 minutes)	Essay (optional; 1 prompt, 50 minutes)
Important Features	Designed to measure academic achievement in English, mathematics, reading, and science.	Emphasis on general reasoning skills	Continued emphasis on reasoning.
	Scores based on the number of correct answers. No penalty for incorrect answers.	Complex scoring (a point for a correct answer and a deduction for an incorrect answer; blank responses have no impact on scores)	Scores based on the number of correct answers. No penalty for incorrect answers.
	Includes enhanced scoring for reliable college and career planning insights:	Emphasis on vocabulary, often in limited contexts	Greater emphasis on the meaning of words in extended contexts and on how word choice shapes meaning, tone, and impact.
	STEM Score		
	ELA Score		
Score Reporting	ACT Composite Score: 1–36 (average of four test scores)	Scale ranging from 600 to 2400	Scale ranging from 400 to 1600
	ACT English, reading, mathematics, science, writing tests: 1–36	Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Critical Reading; 200 to 800 for Mathematics; 200 to 800 for Writing	Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; 200 to 800 for Math; 2 to 8 on each of three traits for Essay
	STEM Score: 1-36	Essay results scaled to multiple-choice Writing	Essay results reported separately
	ELA Score: 1-36		

4 Important Factors for Selecting Your SAT/ACT Date

Like most things in life, earlier planning for the SAT and ACT will pay off in higher test scores. You don't want to wait until college applications are due in senior year to take your first SAT or ACT - you'll perform nowhere near your best, and you might not get into the schools you were planning to apply to. Beyond the general tip of planning early, you'll need to decide what specific test dates you'll be taking the SAT or ACT. Each test has 6-8 test dates throughout the year. In order of priority, here are the most important factors to think about when determining when you should take the test:

1) Deadlines for College Admissions and Scholarships

The most important factor for determining when you should be taking the SAT or ACT are your personal college admissions deadlines. As we'll explain later, you should begin preparing for the SAT and ACT a year before your first important deadline, and you should make sure to take the tests at least 2 times.

For most students, regular decision application deadlines are in January and February of their senior year, which means taking their last SAT or ACT by December of their senior year of high school. If you're applying in the Early Admissions cycle around November of senior year, your last test date will be the October SAT or ACT. This means beginning to prepare for the SAT and ACT in junior year.

2) Content Readiness and Classes in School

Much of the SAT and ACT tests general concepts that you'll learn in high school, and your scores will be higher once you've taken the classes that cover material on the tests. In particular, the best time to take the SAT or ACT is after you've taken Geometry and Algebra II in school. Both tests heavily feature algebra and geometry, and if you've never encountered these subjects, your knowledge foundation will be weak and you may do poorly on the math section.

As for the reading and writing/English sections, most students will have had enough exposure to English and grammar to form a baseline understanding of the concepts needed for the SAT and ACT. You will need to prep specifically for the SAT and ACT beyond what you've learned in school to excel on these sections.

Now, this doesn't mean that just because you took Algebra II and English classes, you'll do well on the test. The test questions themselves are very different from what you'll encounter in school, and much of SAT and ACT prep involves learning these special types of questions and becoming familiar with the format of the test. But having the underlying content foundation will make you improve much faster.

3) Personal Schedule and Stress

It's best to take the SAT or ACT when you're not stressed about 5 other things in life (if possible). Many high school students struggle with a very busy schedule, balancing schoolwork, extracurriculars, a social life, and test prep. Avoid taking the SAT or ACT when you have a lot of other activities going on. For example, May is especially busy for many students because of AP exams, finals, and end of year extra-curriculars. But for you, March might be a bad time because you're gearing up for state championships for your sport. Students who plan to take the SAT or ACT during busy times like these end up getting very stressed, often don't have enough time to prep, and may end up having a lower-than-expected performance.

It's better to schedule for a test date on either side of a busy period so you have more time in your schedule to prep, and less stress and anxiety. This can make a big difference in your final test scores.

4) Prep Time

For most students, we recommend you try to study at least 40 hours for the SAT or ACT to see a big score improvement. If you can study more than this – 80 - 120 hours - you'll hopefully be rewarded with higher test scores.

If you've already taken the test several times, but don't have time to prep for your next test, you're unlikely to see a big score improvement. This is an unfortunate truth, but without learning more, you won't improve your score.

It's better to schedule the test for a time when you can dedicate focused study time to test prep. For example, many students like scheduling the test after winter break or right after summer so they can take advantage of free time to put in serious study hours.

FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORE SCHOLARSHIPS**\$2,000 CAPTAINU STUDENT-ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP**

Want to be recruited to play a sport in college? Sign up on this website to enter to win a \$2,000 scholarship. Students must be 13 or older to qualify. Four scholarships of \$2,000 each are awarded each year. For more information, visit: <http://www.captainu.com/scholarship>.

ABBOTT AND FENNER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants are pleased to be able to continue with our scholarship program for the 9th year. They will award up to \$1,000 to the winner(s) each year. Students will submit an essay on the topic that appears on the scholarship page of our web site: <http://www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm>. The deadline for this scholarship is June 10, 2016.

COMMON KNOWLEDGE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Compete with other high school students in grades 9 through 12 in online quizzes about general "common knowledge" items, specific academic subjects, books, websites or movies to win scholarships from \$250 to \$2,500. For more information, visit: <http://www.cksf.org/>.

INNOVATION IN EDUCATION MONTHLY SCHOLARSHIP

LA Tutors offers this monthly \$500 scholarship. Any high school or college student can apply. Students must have designed an innovative project that makes a difference in the lives of others (a website, blog, app, fundraising event, etc.) and submit an essay about the project. The deadline is the 20th of each month. For more information, visit: <http://www.latutors123.com/scholarship>

JOHN F. KENNEDY 2016 PROFILE IN COURAGE ESSAY CONTEST

Students in 9-12 grade will write an essay on an act of political courage by a U.S. elected official that occurred during or after 1956. For complete guidelines, visit the Profile in Courage Essay Contest at <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Education/Profile-in-Courage-Essay-Contest.aspx>. Deadline is January 5, 2016

SCHOLARSHIPEXPERTS.COM SCHOLARSHIPS

This awesome scholarship site offers a new scholarship opportunity each month for writing 250-essays on everything from ice cream to zombies. Students age 13 and up can apply. Scholarship amounts range from \$1,500 to \$5,000. For more information, visit: <http://www.latutors123.com/scholarship>.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR

The Veterans of Foreign Wars annually awards three scholarships for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts age 15 or older who have achieved their scouting organization's top rank. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Applications go through a local competition before qualifying for the national competition. For more information, visit: <http://www.vfw.org/Community/Scout-of-the-Year-Scholarship>.

SIEMENS COMPETITION IN MATH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

Win a scholarship for conducting a research project! Each year the Siemens Foundation hosts this scholarship contest. All high school students grades 9 through 12 can participate. High school sophomores can compete in teams of two or three. Prizes range from \$1,000 for regional awards to up to \$100,000 for the national top prize. The deadline is usually in September. For more information, visit: http://www.siemens-foundation.org/en/siemens_competition_archive.htm.

UNITED STATES HISPANIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP

This Chicago-based nonprofit organization offers this scholarship to any student who is a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident or is lawfully authorized to work full-time for a U.S. employer. Grades are part of the criteria. An essay is required. Three scholarships for \$1,000 each are awarded to high school students. Students in grades 9 through 12 can apply. The deadline is typically in April. For more information, visit: <http://www.dennyshungryforeducation.com/>.

U.S. PAN ASIAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SCHOLARSHIP

Top prize is \$3,000 for this scholarship. Applicants must have Asian-Pacific Island heritage and be living in the United States. The scholarship is open to high school students from grades 9 to 12. The deadline is usually in April. For more information, visit: <http://www.dennyshungryforeducation.com/>.

ZINCH \$1,000 WEEKLY SCHOLARSHIP

Register for Zinch.com and submit a three-sentence essay to apply for this site's weekly scholarship contest. All high school students can enter this contest. For more information, visit: <http://www.zinch.com/scholarships/weekly>.