

The Guidance Department

Parent Calendar

The road to college begins with the first day of high school.

September

Freshmen:

This month, your child's teachers will be passing out papers outlining their courses. Ask for them and read them carefully. Many announce tests and projects, list homework and grading procedures, and ask for your signature. Also, it is school policy that every book be covered.

You should know right away that absence – for good reason or not – is academic DEATH in high school. Teachers do not review every day and students who are absent can become very lost very quickly. Your child should get phone numbers of students in every class and, in the event of illness, call them for assignments. Every effort should be made to return to school completely caught up.

Freshman Honor Classes/Sophomores/Juniors:

The PSAT/NSMQT stands for "Preliminary SAT/Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test". It is a standardized test given in October of each year, that provides firsthand practice for the SAT I: Reasoning Test (which is the test most colleges require for admission) and SAT II: Writing Test. The PSAT is designed to help students identify academic strengths and weaknesses in preparation for their last two years of high school. The PSAT also gives all students in Junior year a chance to qualify for The National Merit Scholarship Corporation's scholarship program. The PSAT is a 2-hour test that measures verbal reasoning skills, critical thinking skills, math problem solving skills and writing skills. The fee is \$15 and students must pay this fee before taking the test. In September all students taking the test will receive a packet of valuable information from their guidance counselor. This information contains sample tests and preparation hints. The most important factor in preparing for the

PSAT is to become familiar with the format. Your child should take the practice tests and be sure that he/she understands what the questions ask for. Math and English teachers will also work on sample tests and students will have ample opportunity to ask for help.

Juniors will also be reminded to register for the Foreign Language SAT II if they are considering a college which will require this test for admission. Further information on all standardized college admission tests is available at <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

Seniors:

At this time, Seniors should finalize college choices. They can request college applications, course catalogs and letters of recommendations from teachers. They can register for the October and November SAT or ACT exams, investigate scholarship opportunities, and visit colleges. They can also file the CSS/financial aid profile with the college board at www.collegeboard.com and make revisions to their personal statements. Athletes should complete the NCAA Clearinghouse form online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net or www.ncaa.org. Seniors should begin working on college applications and hand them in to their Senior advisor. Be sure to have your son or daughter include “safe” schools as well as “realistic” schools. Students should visit www.collegeboard.com to practice sample SAT test items, and meet with college representatives who visit Sea. Finally, Seniors can update their personal resume (a list of accomplishments, involvements and work experience).

October

Freshmen:

By now nearly every teacher will have administered several tests/quizzes. Summer Reading Tests will be recorded directly onto the first report card. Your child should be doing homework (written/reading/study) in almost every subject almost every night. Sometime during this month, you may receive a Deficiency Report from a teacher, indicating that your child’s grade is below 70, but the report is **completely optional for teachers**. By the end of this month, the first quarter grades will be computed.

Freshman Honor Classes/Sophomores/Juniors:

The PSAT is given only once a year in October. All of our sophomores, juniors and freshman honor classes are expected to take this test and are automatically registered for it. On the day of the test, all students must know their social security number and bring two #2 pencils and the specified calculator.

Seniors:

Seniors need to adhere to college application processing deadlines. Students should hand in applications to Senior advisors. Early decision/early action applications must be submitted by October 1. Students should register for the December SAT and SAT II's and attend the Big Apple College Fair on Staten Island. Students can take the October SAT I and SAT II exams. We recommend that parents complete the CSS/Financial Aid Profile for colleges that require it.

November

Freshmen/Sophomores:

Report Cards will be distributed this month. Look over your child's card carefully. The "unacceptable" grade(s) will likely remain "unacceptable" unless you and your child take action. Parent/Teacher Night will be the next day so that you, your child, and the teacher can take immediate steps to correct any bad habits.

Juniors:

All foreign language SAT II tests are given this month.

Seniors:

Seniors must finish applications early to meet January deadlines. Application deadlines must be followed. Applications are accepted for processing until the third Monday in November. After that, seniors who miss the deadline must wait until January. However, applications can be mailed by the students themselves or submitted online at any time and the corresponding transcripts requested in January, provided that the student will have already paid any application fees due to the colleges. If not, the colleges will not keep a record of the application and will therefore discard the

transcript when we mail it in January. Obviously, it is in the best interest of the student to have all application materials well organized and sent to the colleges at the same time. If appropriate, students should arrange for college interviews, which can be scheduled after school hours, during vacation time, on school holidays, etc. A college visit is not an “excused” absence. If a student is not physically present in school or otherwise engaged in official school business, that student is absent. Seniors should also take the SAT I or SAT II exams.

December

Freshmen:

The Christmas holiday seems to make this month fly, but beware...January is short! It’s nearly impossible to drastically change a grade once Christmas break begins. Also, you should know that many freshman teachers will assign work to be completed over the holiday week.

Sophomores/Juniors:

The College Board will send the results of the PSAT to our school this month. Your guidance counselor will return the scores and your test booklet to you. It is important for you to review the test booklet questions and your results.

Seniors:

No application or transcript requests can be submitted to the Senior advisors this month. Students can take the SAT I or II exams, continue to explore scholarship opportunities, and request scholarship information from the colleges to which they are applying. Seniors will receive a FAFSA form (for financial aid) in their English classes and can start completing it. However, the FAFSA form cannot be sent out before January 1. Attend a financial aid night at a school in your area. Seniors should also talk with visiting high school alumni about their college experiences.

January

Freshmen/Sophomores:

Sea administers midterm exams in the middle of the month. They are two-hour long tests which cover everything from September to January. Your child's score goes directly onto the next report card. Students who score well on midterms usually start studying immediately after Christmas break ends.

Juniors:

At the end of this month each junior will take the English Regents.

Seniors:

College applications can be submitted to the college advisors. The FAFSA form can be mailed out after January 1. The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be to obtain financial aid. Seniors can also request that their midyear grade reports be sent to colleges. Visit www.collegeboard.com for information about financial aid. Continue to research scholarship opportunities through counselors, libraries, and by contacting colleges directly.

February

Freshmen/Sophomores:

This month's report card will have four columns of numbers on it: first quarter grades, second quarter grades, midterm exam grades, and an average column. The average column will determine honor roll, rank in class, probation, expulsion, etc. A Parent/Teacher night will follow.

Juniors:

Your child's guidance counselor will meet with all juniors concerning SAT/ACT registration and testing. A memo will be distributed with all important information concerning these tests

Seniors:

Seniors should NOT let "Senioritis" get the better of them! Colleges want to see strong second semester grades. Students should

maintain their grades to the very best of their ability. Colleges can rescind their offers of admission if there is a marked decline in a student's grades. College applications can be submitted to the Senior advisors. Seniors need to make sure all necessary materials have been sent to their chosen colleges.

March

Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors:

This is a "business-as-usual" month at Sea.

Seniors:

College applications can still be submitted to the Senior advisors. Seniors need to make sure colleges have received all the materials necessary to make a decision. Seniors can continue to search for scholarship opportunities.

April

Freshmen/Sophomores:

The third marking period usually ends early in April and the two-week Easter break makes this month fly... But finals and Regents exams are right around the corner! Many freshman teachers will assign work to be completed over the holiday.

Juniors:

Juniors take the ACT tests this month. The registration materials list the items each student must bring to the exam. April is also the time for juniors to register for any SAT II tests which colleges may require. (Yes, it's time to start to decide on colleges, so that each student will know the application requirements for the schools they're interested in. No, they're not all the same...)

Seniors:

Students can prepare for May AP exams if applicable. Admission decisions will arrive. Seniors will review college acceptances and perhaps visit their top choices, review financial aid packages, and talk with college financial aid counselors.

May

Freshmen/Sophomores:

Students who score well on the June exams usually begin studying for them sometime around Ascension Thursday.

Juniors:

Juniors take their first SAT test this month. Registration materials list the items to bring to the testing center. Also watch the school calendar for the date of our annual College Fair this month.

Seniors:

Students will take AP exams if applicable. Seniors have to keep their grades up. Seniors will notify the college of their choice of their decision to attend and send a deposit. Seniors can also thank teachers and counselors who wrote recommendations. Students can notify colleges they did not choose, so that they can offer admission to others. Final transcripts will be sent to college of choice (as indicated on the proper guidance form that the student completes and returns to the school) during the summer when the final grades for the entire school are processed. Final transcripts attesting to graduation may be withheld indefinitely for any of the following reasons:

- One or more final failures (conditions for graduation not met)
- Tuition arrears
- Failure to return all state textbooks and library books
- Any financial obligation to the school

Once again, it is in the student's best interest to make sure that all conditions for graduation are met in a timely fashion so that the college of choice will receive the necessary information without delay.

June

Freshmen/Sophomores:

June bursts with academic activity. First, the fourth quarter wraps up. Then students take about a week for school finals. The Regents exams follow. Report cards are issued close to the end of the

month and students are given summer reading lists at the same time. Summer school registration follows the next day. Students must attend summer school for every course or Regents exam they fail.

Juniors:

Students take the SAT II if a prospective college requires it. Any athlete who is hoping to try for an athletic scholarship to college is reminded to register with www.ncaaclearinghouse.net immediately upon returning to school in September.

Seniors:

During the summer, Seniors can work to help pay for college, read and stay ready for college, and attend orientation meetings offered by the college.