



The Husky Compass

The Harrison High School Guidance Department

College Admission

During September and October the Guidance Department hosts a variety of events to assist students and their families with the College Admissions Process (dates listed to the right). During those evening events the process and timetable for college admissions will be reviewed in explicit detail.

We hope you will join us. For now, here are some specific definitions for admission.

Early Decision: Students apply earlier than the regular admissions deadline and typically know their admissions decision by mid-December of their senior year. By applying through early decision, the student agrees to automatically accept the college's offer of

admissions and withdraws their applications from other colleges. Students are asked to apply to only one college via Early Decision.

Early Action: Meant for those students who want to apply early to their first choice colleges but want to be able to compare acceptances and financial aid packages (this is non-binding).

Regular Admission: Standard deadlines that usually fall anywhere from December to early March.



Harrison High School class of 2009 members celebrate their graduation with the traditional cap toss.

Rolling Admission: College has no official deadline. This is a common procedure at public colleges, which continue to review student applications as long as space is available. Many of these schools have suggested deadlines.

Individual student meetings with school counselors will begin this September.

SAT II Subject Tests—What you should know...

Subject Tests (formerly SAT II: Subject Tests) are designed to measure a student's knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, as well as his/her ability to apply that knowledge.

Students take the Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects like English, history, mathematics, science, and language. The tests are independent of any particular textbook or

method of instruction. The tests' content evolves to reflect current trends in high school curricula, but the types of questions change little from year to year.

Many colleges use the Subject Tests for admission, for course placement, and to advise students about college course selection. Used in combination with other

background information (your high school record, scores from other tests like the SAT Reasoning Test, teacher recommendations, etc.), they provide a dependable measure of your academic achievement and are a good predictor of future performance.

Some colleges specify the Subject Tests they require for admission or ...continued on page 4

Upcoming Events at HHS:

First Day of School	Sept. 8
Senior Parent College Orientation, 7:00pm	Sept. 14
1st Quarter Progress Report Period Ends	Oct. 2
Open House, 7:00pm	Sept. 22
PSAT at HHS (Practice SAT)	Oct. 14
College Fair, 12:00-2:30pm	Oct. 20
1st Marking Period Ends	Nov. 6
PLAN Test (Practice ACT)	Nov. 18

Teacher and Counselor Recommendations

- Start early. Your teachers and counselors receive many requests so give them plenty of time.
- Provide your writer all the necessary information, including deadlines.
- Waive your confidentiality rights.
- Select your writers wisely. It is important that your writer knows you.
- Send him/her a thank-you note!



SAT Dates and Deadlines <http://www.collegeboard.com> HHS CEEB/ACT CODE: 332275

Test Date	Test Administered	Registration Dead- line	Late Deadline, added fee
October 10, 2009	SAT and SAT II	September 9, 2009	September 23, 2009
November 7, 2009	SAT and SAT II	October 1, 2009	October 15, 2009
December 5, 2009	SAT and SAT II	October 30, 2009	November 12, 2009
January 23, 2010	SAT and SAT II	December 15, 2009	December 30, 2009
March 13, 2010	SAT only	February 4, 2010	February 18, 2010
May 1, 2010	SAT and SAT II	March 25, 2010	April 8, 2010
June 5, 2010	SAT and SAT II	April 29, 2010	May 13, 2010

The PSAT/NMSQT stands for the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. It also gives students a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship programs. The PSAT/ NMSQT measures critical reading, math problem-solving and writing skills. All Juniors should plan to take the PSAT.

THE PLAN TEST

The PLAN Test (Practice ACT) is offered on Wednesday, November 18 at Harrison High School.

Students register in the Guidance Office. The deadline for registering is October 10. The fee for each test is \$15. Financial aid is available. See your counselor.

All Sophomores should plan to take the PLAN.

All Juniors should plan to take the PSAT.

Students may take both. Please discuss a plan with your counselor.

PSAT/NMSQT **October 14, 2009**

<http://www.collegeboard.com>

The PSAT will be given on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at Harrison High School in the small gymnasium.

Registration begins **Mid-September** in the Guidance Office.

Registration fee is **\$15**. Please make checks payable to **Harrison Central School District**. Deadline for registering is October 2.

Financial Aid is available. Please see your counselor.

ACT Dates and Deadlines <http://www.actstudent.org> HHS CEEB/ACT CODE: 332275

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline, fee added
September 12, 2009	August 7, 2009	August 8–21, 2009
October 24, 2009	September 18, 2009	September 19–October 2, 2009
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009	November 7–20, 2009
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 6–March 19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 8–21, 2010

When should a student take the ACT?

We recommend taking students take their first ACT in spring of junior year. By the end of junior year, most students will have covered the necessary subject material in school. Testing in spring of junior year allows for a possible re-take in fall of senior year.

The ACT is a standardized college entrance examination that measures knowledge and skill through multiple-choice questions covering English, Mathematics, Reading and Science reasoning. Writing is optional.

You receive 12 separate scores:

- One composite
- Four subject scores
- Seven sub-scores

The **composite** score, or scaled, score is the most important. Its range is 1–36. Nearly half of test takers receive scores between 17 and 23.

Please confer with your School Counselor for more advice.

Making the Most of College Visits

Many Colleges Have Open Houses on Columbus Day!

It is never too early to start thinking about colleges of interest to you.

College visits should be comprised of formal and informal actions.

Formal

- Take a campus tour
- Have an interview with an admission officer
- Participate in group information session at the admission office
- Sit in on a class (or two!)
- Talk to a professor (or two) in your chosen major(s)
- Talk to a coach in your chosen sport
- Talk to a student or counselor in the career center
- Spend the night in the dorm with a

current student

Informal

- Read the student newspaper—even the ads
- Try to find other student publications—department newsletters, 'alternative' newspapers, literary reviews
- Eat in the cafeteria
- Ask students why they chose this college
- Wander around the campus by yourself
- Search for your favorite book in the library
- Read the bulletin boards in the student union
- Ask students what they like least about the college

- Browse in the college bookstore
- Read the bulletin boards in the academic department you're interested in
- Eavesdrop on students to hear what they're talking—or complaining—about
- Ask a student what he/she loves about the college
- Surf the Net in the student computer center
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus
- Ask a student what he/she does on weekends
- Listen to the college's radio station
- Try to see a dorm that you didn't see on the tour
- **See if you can imagine yourself at this college**



Naviance: Family Connection

Naviance: Family Connection is a comprehensive tool that assists parents, students and counselors in the college admissions process. Some of the features include:

- **College Lookup.** This research tool provides comprehensive information on thousands of colleges. In addition to general information, extensive data is presented on academics, cost, student body characteristics, and other programs.
- **College Search.** Students can produce a list of colleges that meet specific criteria (e.g., size, cost, location, available majors, etc.)
- **Acceptance History.** This feature shows all colleges to which HHS students have been accepted as well as the number of students who have applied.
- **Scattergrams.** A graphical view of application outcomes (e.g., accepted, denied, waitlisted, etc.) at a

college for recent HHS applicants, using GPA and SAT scores. Students and families can gauge their chances of acceptance by comparing personal GPA/SAT numbers with those of successful applicants (see pg. 4 for a sample scattergram).

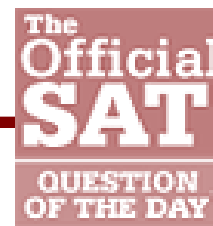
- **Visit Schedule.** As college representatives schedule information sessions at HHS, these are posted online.
- **Resources.** This feature provides a useful link to websites relating to college information, financial aid, test preparation, NCAA eligibility, etc.

Students will participate in learning style inventories in order to better understand personal likes and dislikes. This information can be useful in helping a student to know what path to take in course selection. It should also help students to form career goals.

We will be hosting Naviance introduction workshops. Stay tuned for announcements on when they are being held.

Put your best foot forward.

- Sign up now to take the SAT.
- Most students improve their scores when they take the exam a second time.
- **Sign up for the Official SAT Question of the Day –**
<http://apps.collegeboard.com/qotd/question.do>
- Students can access SAT and ACT study guides, practice questions, practice tests, and receive feedback based on their work by utilizing Naviance's SAT/ACT Test Prep. Speak with your counselor for more information!



SCHOOL COUNSELORS

James A. Ruck, Ed.D. <i>Principal</i> 630.3095 Jennifer Laden Larry P. Mastrotta Assistant Principals 630.3120/630.3119 Christopher D. Miller <i>Supervisor of Guidance</i> 630.3092	Carolyn Chieco 630.3103 Maria Chiochio 630.3105 Shari Heyen 630.3106 Renee Katzenberg 630.3107 Kristy Kiernan 630.3104 Cindy Weng 630.3348
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What do they look at?

Admission officers look at many different factors in reviewing applications.

1. A Rigorous and Challenging Curriculum
2. Grades
3. Standardized Test Scores
4. Extracurricular Activities
5. Application Essay
6. Letters of Recommendation
7. Other Factors (geographic diversity, academic diversity, extracurricular diversity, ethnic/racial diversity, socioeconomic diversity, and age diversity)

Of course, every college is different.

On-Line Resources

Financial Aid College Information

www.finaid.com/parents	www.collegeboard.com
www.studentloan.com	www.ets.org
www.fafsa.ed.gov	www.eduprep.com
www.fastweb.com	www.testprep.com
www.collegenet.com	www.act.org
www.fdncenter.org	www.kaplan.com
www.petersons.com	www.princtetonreview.com



SAT II Subject Tests—What you should know... (continued)

placement; others allow applicants to choose which tests to take.

Subject Tests fall into five general subject areas:

1. English (Literature)
2. History and Social Sciences (US History and World History)
3. Mathematics (Level 1 and Level 2)
4. Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
5. Languages (Chinese, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Latin, and Modern Hebrew)

Most students take Subject Tests toward the end of their junior year or at the beginning of their senior year.

The tests are best taken in May OR June while enrolled in our equivalent AP course. Please consult your counselor prior to registering.

Some colleges require students to take three SAT Subject Tests (usually including mathematics). Many colleges that do not require Subject Test scores will still review them as they can provide a fuller picture

of a student's academic background.

If students are unsure about which Subject Test to take from a subject area, he/she should talk to his/her counselor.

MATHEMATICS SUBJECT TESTING ADVICE

There are two different SAT II Subject Tests in mathematics: Mathematics Level 1 and Mathematics Level 2. Many colleges will want students to take one of the tests. Strong mathematics students will often take both Mathematics 1 and Mathematics 2. Taking either of these tests will bolster a student who is planning to continue mathematics study.

To help students decide which test to take and when to take it, we offer the following advice:

Mathematics Level 1

Students should consider taking this test in May OR June while enrolled in Math B or Algebra II Trigonometry OR beyond.

Mathematics Level 2

Students should consider taking this test in May OR June while enrolled in Pre-Calculus BC or AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC.

We recommend that students consult their counselor prior to registering.

BIOLOGY SUBJECT TESTING ADVICE

Students are enrolled in Living Environment (Biology), which covers Biology content, in 9th grade.

The Biology Subject Test measures a students' understanding of biology at a college prep-level. Since the content of our NYS Living Environment course does not completely align to what students need to know and be able to do on the Biology SAT II, it is likely that a student will encounter some subject matter with which he/she is not familiar. Therefore, this test is best taken in May OR June while enrolled in AP Biology.

However, if a student has recently completed or is nearing completion of Living Environment (Biology) and has done well in his/her Living Environment (Biology) course and has no plans to take AP Biology, then the student should consult his/her teacher, counselor and/or supervisor of science to determine if sitting for the SAT II in Biology is appropriate. The decision to take this SAT II is dependent on each individual student's goals and achievement in the course. We DO NOT recommend registering for this SAT II without consultation.