

ABC'S FOR SENIORS AND PARENTS CLASS OF 2016

Parents:

Please take the time to read this with your child. Keep this on hand to reference throughout the year. It contains many resources for you and your child.

Always visit a college, trade school, etc. before you commit to attending there. You should visit at least 2-3 places so you can compare programs. If you are going on a college visit during the school day, you MUST pick up a College Visit Verification form from the Main Office prior to your visit. This form must be signed by a college representative and returned to the Main Office.

Be aware of deadlines. Most schools have an application deadline and a financial aid deadline. Also remember scholarship, SAT/ACT registration, and other deadlines.

CSS PROFILE Form is an institutional financial aid form. Some colleges, usually private, require this form in addition to the FAFSA form. Check with your college to see if this form is required for you. For more information and an on-line application, visit www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/scholarships-and-aid/8374.html

Don't take OCP until you have completed your applications, resume, graduation project, researched scholarship information, etc. Many seniors say they are very busy as an excuse for not getting things done. Study halls are an ideal time to get things completed.

Excel in your academics. The more you challenge yourself and the better your grades – the more opportunities you have for being accepted to your first college choice, being accepted to an Honors program, receiving scholarships, etc.

Financial Aid Night is Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Sayre High School. Our guest speaker is Marla Kane from the PHEAA Regional Office. FAFSA forms cannot be filled out until after January 1st of the senior year, since all financial aid will be based on the 2015 year. PHEAA – The Pa. Higher Education Assistance Agency is the State Agency for higher education (570) 323-7001. FAFSA – Need analysis form used to determine eligibility for student aid.

FAFSA information and form – www.fafsa.ed.gov

Guidance Counselor will be talking to all seniors during English class in September. I will discuss the process for sending out transcripts and answering any questions. Students will also be told to schedule a senior interview in the Guidance Office before the end of October. (Please check with your child to make sure they have done this.) If parents would like to meet with me regarding your child's future plans, please call to schedule an appointment (888-2190).

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Have good communication all year with your teachers. You do not want to find yourself in jeopardy of failing a required class or your graduation project that will stop you from graduating.

Involve yourself in school activities. This is your last year of high school.

Judgment. Use good judgment both in and out of school. Don't jeopardize your goals because of bad judgment. Admissions offices and coaches do check social media sites.

Keep your grades up. Many people think senior grades do not matter. Actually, it is just the opposite. Some schools may hold your acceptance decision until they see your mid-year grades. Most schools will require you to request that your final grades be sent from the Guidance Office. You must request this from the Guidance Office in writing; otherwise, the Guidance Office will not send your final grades.

Listen to announcements each morning and check your e-mail regularly. Scholarship information, college and military visits, and other important information will be announced and/or e-mailed to you.

Make sure you check the scholarship folder in the Guidance Office regularly.

NCAA forms should be filled out at the end of your junior year if you plan to play a sport in college and if your college requires this form. You can find more information and can register online at – www.ncaa.org/student-athletes

Organization is important. Make sure you read application and scholarship information carefully. You may not be considered if even one piece of information is missing.

Procrastinating will limit your options. Once you've decided which colleges your child is applying to, visit and complete applications ASAP. Some programs fill up early.

Quit being late to school and having numerous absences. You will not be able to reach your highest potential academically if you are not in class.

Recommendation letters are important! Think of people to ask for letters (teachers, school counselor, employer, church representative). Ask them soon, **you should give someone a minimum of two weeks' notice to write a letter.** It is rude and unrealistic to expect someone to write you a letter in a day. Letters will be recommended or required for college and scholarship applications.

See Mrs. Richmond regularly to ask questions, help with applications, resumes, scholarships, etc. Parents, call me with any questions (888-2190) or e-mail me at srichmond@sayresd.org. Also, make an appointment to meet with Mrs. Horton from the Career Development Council. She is in the Guidance Office once a week and she sets up job shadowing experiences and career-related field trips.

Take the time to thoroughly research colleges. Prioritize what's important to you – location, academic rigor, size, extracurricular activities, cost, etc. Your program of study should be your #1 priority.

Use the Guidance Office and its resources. We have scholarship, career, and resume information, as well as computer access.

Volunteer!! This does not mean you get paid for working or doing something because it counts for a project or club. It does mean giving of yourself and your time to help someone else, even for just a few hours a week. There are a lot of scholarships for students who volunteer. It also looks great on applications and makes you feel good about helping someone. Also, it may give you exposure to a career(s) that may be of interest to you.

Work toward your goals. All dreams and goals require hard work. It will pay off in the end. EXamine all applications you fill out carefully. Do not use two different color pens. Do use black ink. Do not leave blanks. Do take time to fill everything out neatly and carefully. Remember, your application is all they know about you. If it is incomplete and sloppy, you will not be taken seriously. On-line applications are preferred by many colleges and fees are sometimes waived for on-line applications.

You should be working on your graduation project. This must be completed, presented, and marked acceptable in order to graduate.

Zero in on having fun with your friends and being very involved at Sayre High School.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ If you visit a college, ask them for an application fee waiver, which means you would not have to pay an application fee. Most college applications require a fee ranging from \$25.00 to \$50.00 per college. This is why it is important to research colleges and narrow them down, then send out your applications. (I would recommend sending 2-4 applications. You should not have to send more than that if you have visited and done your research.)
- ❖ If your child is on a free or reduced lunch, your child may be eligible for a fee waiver for the SAT/ACT and college applications. See Mrs. Richmond for details if you think you are eligible before registering for your SAT/ACT.
- ❖ Your SAT/ACT scores are posted on your transcript and this is acceptable for a majority of colleges. But, some colleges (ie Penn State) will require you to have your scores mailed directly from the testing service (there is a charge). **Sayre HS will not receive your scores if you don't list our school code when registering. If we don't receive them, we can't put them on your transcript. Sayre School Code – 394375.**
- ❖ The **NCAA** must receive ACT/SAT scores directly from the testing center. Enter the NCAA code in the box provided when registering for either test.
- ❖ College applications and financial aid forms can be completed on-line. Remember to request that your “official” high school transcript be sent from the Guidance Office. Otherwise, your application will be considered incomplete.
- ❖ **Remember to check your school e-mail account regularly. You will get e-mails from the Guidance Office throughout the year.**

OVER -----

Anticipated 2015-16 SAT/ACT SCHEDULE

<u>SAT</u>							
<u>Test Dates</u>	10/03/15	11/07/15	12/05/15	01/23/16	03/05/16	05/07/16	06/04/16
	The SAT will be offered at Sayre High School on all of the above test dates.						

<u>ACT</u>				
<u>Test Dates</u>	09/12/15	10/24/15	12/12/15	02/06/16
	04/09/16	06/11/16		

Deadlines for registering for these tests are over one month before each test date. You must register before the deadline or a late fee will be charged. Look at the web sites below for registration deadlines.

If you have a disability, paperwork can be filled out to request accommodations for testing. It should be filed 6-8 weeks in advance of the test.

Web Sites

www.collegeboard.com -- register for SAT, test prep, scholarship search, college planning
www.act.org – register for ACT, test prep, career & college planning, & financial aid info.
www.careercruising.com (Password is sayre,richmond) – interest inventory, college match, career info.
www.fastweb.com -- scholarship search
www.educationplanner.com – study skill tools, career assessment, choosing school & paying for school
www.pacareerzone.org – Assess yourself, budget your life, explore job families.

Before deciding to take the SAT, ACT or both, students should take a practice test for each, which can be found on the web sites.

SAT/ACT COMPARISON

	<u>ACT</u>	<u>SAT</u>
Fee	\$38.00 (Basic Registration w/o writing) \$54.50 (Basic Registration w/writing)	\$54.50 w/essay (Oct. – Jan.) \$43.00 Students may register without the essay starting March 2016)
Content	Curriculum Based English, Math, Reading, Science, Reasoning Writing (Optional)	Measures Critical Reading, Math, Writing
Scoring	Scores based on number of correct answers, no penalty for guessing	Multiple Choice questions – 1 pt for each correct answer, & ¼ pt subtracted for each wrong answer. Other questions score differently.
Testing Time	2 hours 55 minutes 30 minutes (optional writing)	3 hours 45 minutes

Almost all colleges in the United States accept both tests.
 The re-designed SAT will be offered beginning March 2016. Visit www.collegeboard.com to get information on the changes.

GUIDANCE WEBSITE

--Visit www.sayresd.org Click on High School, then Guidance Office for information on SAT/ACT, Careers, Colleges, Scholarships, Financial Aid, and other news from the Guidance Office.

-- **CHECK YOUR E-MAIL REGULARLY!** You will receive MANY e-mails from the Guidance Office throughout the year.

-- Make sure your student account is up and running. See the Tech Dept. if you are having any problems.

ATTENTION PARENTS!

If you want to be included in all of the senior e-mails that I send, please complete the form below and return it to the Guidance Office by **Monday, September 28, 2015.**

-----Cut Here and Return Below Section-----

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

Parent E-Mail _____

Parent Signature _____