



Carroll Senior High School



Junior Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2012

www.southlakecarroll.edu

A Test Plan for Juniors



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Junior year is the *Year of the Test*. Taking the PSAT helps you be more prepared for the real thing. As soon as students receive their results from the PSAT, they should begin to work out a plan for admissions test preparation. Often, students ask if they should take a test prep course. For many students, taking a test prep course increases their confidence and familiarity with the SAT and/or ACT test format. Most prep courses last about eight to ten weeks; if you choose to participate in a prep program, begin early enough to have adequate time to prepare for the exam. Ideally, the prep class should be completed within one week of your planned test date. You'll need to plan for test prep by first determining which tests you'll need to take, and when you wish to take them. Other students prefer to practice on their own schedule. This is an individual decision.

For those of you choosing the SAT, you'll probably want to take the Reasoning Test (formerly known as the SAT I) twice. It's best if you can do this during your junior year. One option would be to sit for the exam early in the spring semester and then again in May or June (CSHS is a test site in January and May). Students taking AP exams in May will probably also want to take the Subject Tests (SAT II) in June. Check the tests required by the colleges you're considering in order to select the correct Subject Exams. Some selective

colleges require three subject exams, others ask for only two, and some, like the University of California colleges, require two exams in different subject areas. Thus, you would not select two history exams, choosing instead history and, perhaps, literature.

Not taking AP exams or no plans to take the Subject Tests? Then consider taking the Reasoning Test in March and May or in May and June. Although we're aware that many students (especially those who don't prepare ahead) take these exams in senior year, you'll have a much happier senior year if you complete required tests this spring. One added benefit is the opportunity to retest in the fall if you're not happy with your exam results. So reduce your level of senior stress by completing your admissions test requirements this year.

**CSHS is a test site for the
January 28nd, May 5th, and
June 2nd SAT test dates and
for the February 11th and
April 14th ACT test dates.**



The Myth of the Well-Rounded Student

A persistent myth in college admissions states that “colleges are looking for well-rounded students.” And students, seeking college acceptance, happily join numerous clubs and activities hoping to appear “well-rounded”. But this is a myth; the truth is that admissions committees try to build a well-rounded *class*. Such a class is made up of students with a variety of interests - jocks, artists, scientists, newspaper writers, computer nerds, politicians.

It's best to choose your high school activities by following your interests, not with an eye to impressing an admissions officer. Some students find their interests early - music, or sports, or writing may be early passions that you can further develop during high school. For others, the first two years of high school are a time to explore a number of activities - join several clubs, write for the newspaper, try team sports, do anything that catches your interest but still

allows you to have time for your primary job - getting a strong education. Reduce the number of activities as you progress through high school, concentrating on those few which really interest you. The goal here is to gradually take on more positions of responsibility and leadership. Extracurricular activities should allow you to sharpen your organizational skills and improve your people to people skills. In choosing activities, go for depth rather than breath. And keep in mind that unless you're the star player of your state-ranked sports team, extracurricular activities will not make up for mediocre grades and test scores. So, follow your passion, while keeping balance in your life.



A Winter Start on Summer Plans

Here we are, talking about summer plans in the dead of winter. Too early, you say; not at all. Planning your summer now will help you to make the most of your time off from school. Summer is the ideal time for an in-depth exploration of your favorite subject, a job-shadowing experience, or an internship opportunity. You can try out life as a college student on one of hundreds of college campuses here and abroad, or make a difference in the world by participating in a community service project. If you must earn money for upcoming expenses, begin your job search now.

College courses taken at local junior colleges or universities can enhance your educational resume while providing you with the opportunity for more intensive study of a single subject. Participation in one of the college-based residential summer programs for high school students offer similar features along

with the opportunity to experience college life. Click on www.petersons.com for their summer opportunity search engine.

Get a first-hand look at a possible career through a job-shadowing or internship program. Call now to inquire about opportunities for paid or unpaid internships at local radio or TV stations, hospitals, doctors' and dentists' offices, child care centers, state attorney's office, or retail establishments. Check with your high school's guidance or career placement office for more options.

www.volunteer.com or www.unitedplanet.org can help you to find a community service project. If you're interested in nature or the environment, check out www.thesca.org, the website of the Student Conservation Association. Whatever you do, plan now to make your summer memorable.



ANNOUNCEMENTS...

PSAT score reports were distributed before the holiday break. For more general information on PSATs and how to read your student's score, check out the College Board website www.collegeboard.com/psattools

"Monday Matinees" in AP Art History in February!

Juniors! Interested in AP Art History?? Not sure?? Join Mr. Johnston after school on any Monday in February for fun & informational "Monday Matinees!" at 3:30 PM in CSH Room 121. We'll be showcasing interesting art and architecture videos (30-50 minutes long), and talking briefly about the course before we begin. What better way to scope out this unique course than to go to the "source", see the classroom, and talk to the teacher! Hope to see you there!

MANDATORY Spring NHS Meeting Set for Thursday (B-Day), February 9th!

Please make plans to attend one of these important meetings about your spring in NHS on **Thursday, February 9th AT 7:30 IN THE SAC, AT 1:10 IN THE CSH AUDITORIUM, OR AT 3:30 IN THE CSH SAC!** You only need to attend one of these informational sessions - be sure to sign in to verify your attendance! Details on hours deadlines, junior officer elections and senior scholarships will be presented by your officers, so be sure to get all the info you need to protect your membership!



Campus Chats

Campus Chats give students the opportunity to actually sit and meet with college admissions officers and recruiters. Students gain first-hand knowledge of the admissions process. The chats are held during lunch in the College and Career Center. The dates and colleges are posted near the SAC, on-line, and reminder announcements are given before lunch.

1/19	Texas A&M	College and Career Center
2/10	University of Alabama	SAC
2/10	University of Arkansas	SAC
2/10	University of Kentucky	SAC
2/16	DuVall's School of Cosmetology	SAC

National Honor Society Yearbook Photo Date Set!

All members of CSH NHS are expected to join us for this annual large photo in the CSH gym at 1:10 PM on Friday (B-Day), January 20th! Wear any new or old NHS t-shirt, or just come as you are. Seniors will report to the home side of the gym, while junior members report to the visitor stands. The NHS Honor Senate and NHS Officer pics will be taken immediately following, so don't leave if you serve in a leadership position! This will be our only chance to get your photo in for the year, so don't miss out - plan ahead!

COLLEGE WORKSHOP

March 22, 2012 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. CSHS

FINANCIAL AID SEMINAR

CSHS SAC

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Workshop Sessions:

University admission representatives will present detailed information about the admission process, scholarship opportunities, campus life, and much more. Parents and students are invited to attend.

Four presentation sessions are offered:

Session #1	6:30 – 7:00
Session #2	7:00 – 7:30
Session #3	7:30 – 8:00
Session #4	8:00 – 8:30

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SOUTHLAKE



www.sparknow.org

COMMUNITY-WIDE S.P.A.R.K. EVENT
 JANUARY 24TH - 7PM CARROLL SENIOR HS AUDITORIUM
Your Teens Deserve This Knowledge!

NATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKER
KATHLEEN BATY

www.safetychick.com

Author, Journalist & Key Note Speaker was the victim of a kidnap attempt at knife point by an obsessive stalker.

All Parents and Teens (7th-12th Grade) are invited.
 Date Violence, Personal Safety, Stalking
 Travel Safety & College Safety

This program is being offered at
NO CHARGE, due to the generosity
 of our great community sponsors

**LEARN HOW
 To Recognize,
 Prevent & Protect Yourself**



SOUTHLAKE
 BAPTIST CHURCH

CARROLL
 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Any Questions, Contact
 Laura K. Hill - 817-797-0782
 lhill@downeypublishing.com



AP TESTING IS COMING!



Reasons to take an AP exam

- Earn college credit while in high school
- Save on college tuition fees and books
- May help qualify you for some of your requirements for Distinguished Achievement Plan

Exam fee

- \$91 per exam (the state of Texas has discontinued its program that applied a \$30 subsidy per exam, so the cost has increased.)
- Free/Reduced Lunch Fee is \$27 per exam. See your counselor if you feel you qualify for this reduced fee.

AP Exam Registration

- Register online at www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/442963
- The registration site can also be accessed through the CSHS/CHS webpage.
- Print a copy of the registration form for your records
- AP exams require online payment
- If you have any questions regarding registration, contact Lisa.Neid@southlakecarroll.edu

Payment

- Debit/Credit Card or pay by mail with check, cashier's check or money order. Payment stubs given on registration site will provide thorough directions if you choose to mail your payment.
- Keep your payment stubs.
- No refunds will be issued after Friday, March 23 when registration closes.

Important Dates to Remember

- January 17 AP exam registration opens online
- March 11 Last day to register before late fee
- March 12 Late fee of \$10 per exam begins
- March 23 Registration closes at 4:00 p.m.
- April 17 **Mandatory** AP pre-administration session at 11:00 in the CHS cafeteria for any **Freshman or Sophomore** registered for an AP exam.
- April 18 **Mandatory** AP pre-administration session at 1:05 in the CSHS

auditorium for any **Junior or Senior** registered for an AP exam.

You will bubble your answer sheets with required information (@ 30 minutes). Bring a #2 pencil and something to write on. You will not be allowed to take an AP exam without attending a pre-administration session. Parents do not need to attend these sessions.

BRING A SACK LUNCH TO YOUR SESSION. You will not have time to wait in line for your food on pre-administration day.

Test Times

- Morning sessions: 8:00 - 12:00
- Afternoon sessions: 12:00 - 4:00

Bring your #2 pencils, black or dark blue pen, and calculator if required to the testing room. **NO CELL PHONES ARE ALLOWED IN TESTING ROOMS!**

<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Morning Session-8:00</u>	<u>Afternoon Session-Noon</u>
May 7	Chemistry Environmental Science	Psychology
May 8	Computer Science A Spanish Language	Art History
May 9	Calculus AB, BC	Chinese Language and Culture
May 10	English Literature	Japanese Language and Culture Latin: Vergil
May 11	German Language United States History	European History Studio Art-(portfolios due)

<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Morning Session-8:00</u>	<u>Afternoon Session-Noon</u>
May 14	Biology Music Theory	Physics B Physics C: Mechanics/E&M
May 15	U.S. Gov. & Politics	Comparative Gov. & Politics French Language and Culture
May 16	English Lang. & Comp.	Statistics
May 17	Macroeconomics World History	Italian Language and Culture Microeconomics
May 18	Human Geography Spanish Literature	

Junior Calendar of Events

January 10-12	Semester Exams
January 13	Student Holiday/Staff Work Day
January 16	Student/Staff Holiday
January 17	Spring Semester Begins AP Registration opens online
January 24	SPARK meeting 7PM—CSHS auditorium
January 31	Transition Fair 6:30-8:30—CSHS SAC
January 28	SAT given at CSHS www.collegeboard.com
February 11	ACT given at CSHS www.actstudent.org
March 11	Last day to register for AP exams before late fees
March 22	College Workshop 5:30-8:30—CSHS SAC ~With Financial Aide Seminar 5:30-6:30

GO DRAGONS!!!

