



Junior Meeting The Search for The Perfect College

Mrs. Lori Cobb

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Juniors, please sit with your parent(s).
Make sure to pick up Junior Packet in the back.



Ring Blessing

- Bishop Raica will bless rings on January 31st (Tentative).
- Balfour is here to take orders for rings.
- Students can purchase from other vendors or have a family ring blessed.
- Students wear their rings when they are blessed.



Disclaimer:

- *Some examples are general & will not apply to every college.*
- *Please read emails from the school, especially Mrs. Cobb. They could be very important.*
- *All dates are always subject to change.*



Naviance & X2VOL

- *Make sure to update password*
- *Search for colleges & request transcripts senior year*
- *New students will get their code to log into Naviance & X2VOL in Theology*



Junior Packet

- Transcript & Transcript Request
- School Profile
- Transcript Check-Off
- College Visit (2 Junior year & 3 Senior year)
- Timeline Online in Naviance
- ACT/SAT Test Dates
- PSAT is Going Digital
- Info – ACT Prep (Will be emailed this year)
- Get The Most Out of A Campus Visit



Transcript & School Profile

- Check to make sure items are correct on transcript
 - Name
 - Address
 - Credits
- **Hours of Service – No longer on transcript. Check your X2VOL or speak with Mrs. Wieter. You are able to print activity log to submit for scholarships for service.**
- Check graduation requirements 28.5
- Copy of profile included with transcript to all colleges
- **ACT/SAT Tests are not displayed on transcript**
- All transcript requests will go through Naviance
- We are a non-ranking high school
- We are on a 4.5 scale

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD				
READING	1	2	3	4
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	A			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	A			
SOCIAL STUDIES	C			
ART	B			
MUSIC	B			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	A	A	C	C

Attendance: Present **B**, Absent 1, Tardy 2

Grade Average: 2.5

Legend: A = Excellent, B = Good, C = Satisfactory, X = Needs Improvement, U = Unacceptable, I = Incomplete

Student: _____ Grade: _____



To Think About

- Clean-up social media sites – Instagram, Twitter, etc...
- Email addresses - choose an appropriate email name - do not use hotbikinimomma@ymail.com or cooldude@gmail.com
- Do not be afraid to email college reps
- Name used on testing information & applications needs to remain consistent
- Start organizing college information (Parents are great with helping organizing your info)
- Use Naviance to help with college search
- Take advantage of college admissions reps visits & local college fairs





Service Hours

- **Need 100 hours by end of 1st semester Senior Year**
- You need at least 50 hours and a plan for obtaining the rest if you are applying for membership to the National Honor Society
- If less than 100
 - Loss of Sr. privileges
 - Will not walk at graduation
- Service hours show a pattern of your likes and interests; they tell colleges/universities something about you
- Many scholarships/awards are directly related to service
- Community Service Hours are prorated based on years attending JP II
- 75% of your service hours before you return to school in your Senior year to have a Senior privilege.



National Honor Society

- Bylaws are in place and used to select its members – Mrs. Anderson
- GPA criteria: 3.75 (*change to 3.9 for Class of 2026)
- Students complete an application
- Need to have at least 50 hours (entered into X2VOL) of service completed with a plan for obtaining the remaining hours by end of 1st semester
- Watch demerits! There will be a stronger emphasis on character this year as well as GPA!
- Invitation to apply will be issued in mid-January 2023



PSAT

- October 24th.
- May need to split the start times for all students testing.
- Check your emails next week for more details on reserving a computer if you have a Chromebook.
- Test is digital and student will need to use their laptop. Cannot use a chromebook
- All juniors are tested in the same area of school; in classrooms of about 15-16 students
- January 11th (tentative) PSAT Sophomores/Juniors Parent Meeting
- Prepare for the SAT®
- Enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program & Other Scholarships
- See which AP® courses you might be ready for
- Get admission and financial aid information from colleges through Student Service Search



Beware of Shiny Envelopes!!

- Juniors often receive many invites or envelopes from various colleges, leadership opportunities, college summer experiences, etc...
 - From Various Colleges
 - Leadership Camps/Conferences Invites
 - National High School Scholars

When in doubt, check out the NASSP website to find out if programs are legit. www.nassp.org



Leadership & Extracurriculars

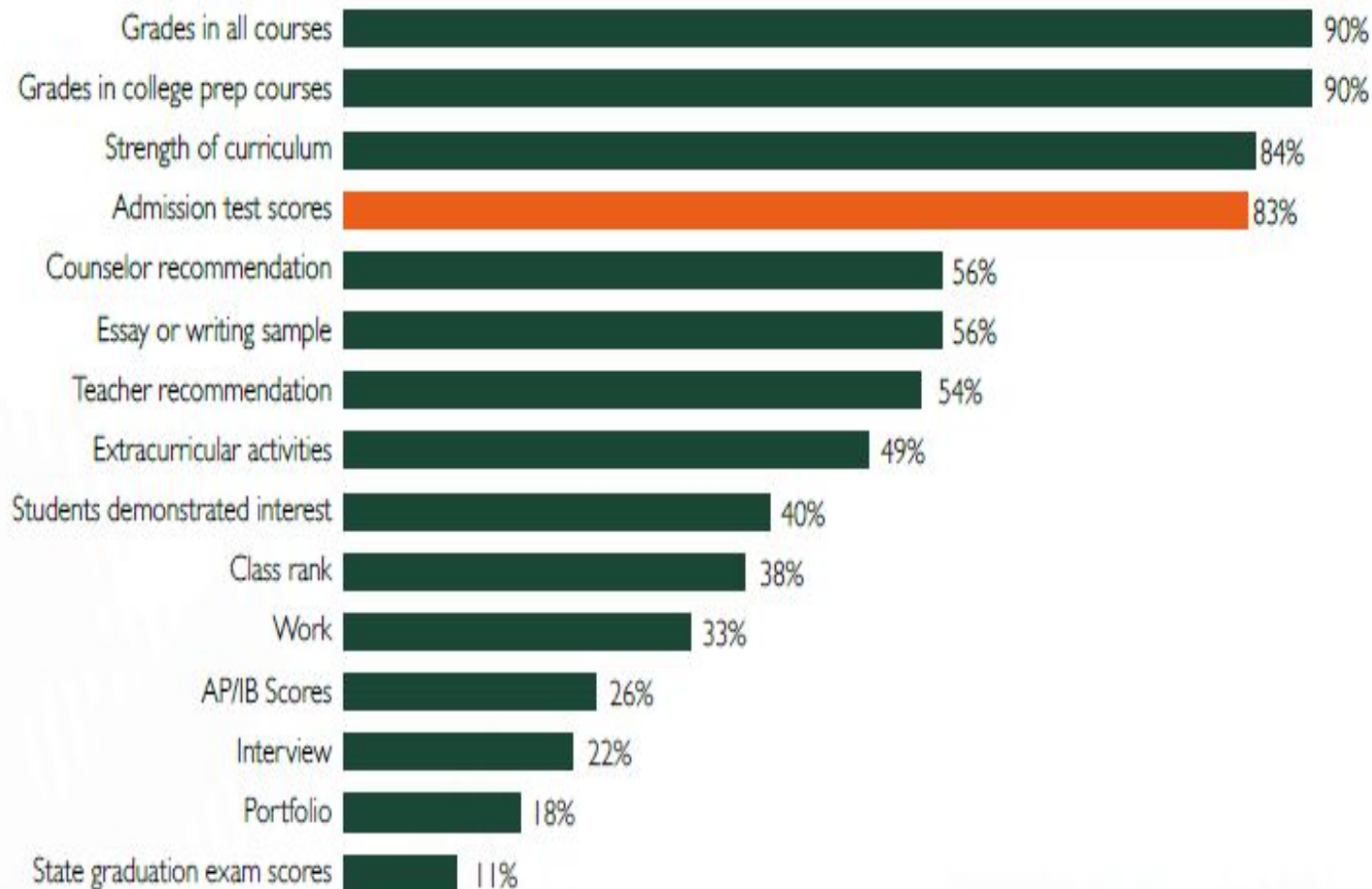
Junior Year

- Academic teams (math team, NHS, debate club, etc.)
- Arts (theater, band, choir, dance, etc.)
- Clubs
- Athletic teams
- Community service/volunteering
- Employment (after school jobs, internships, etc.)
- Peer tutoring
- Political organizations (model U.N., alliance of students of color, international relations club, etc.)
- Publications (school newspaper, literary magazine, yearbook, etc.)
- House leadership

School Name	Applicants	Admitted	Enrolled	Acceptance Rate	Admission Yield
Brown University	50,649	2,532	1,696	5.00%	66.98%
Columbia University	60,879	2,435	1,558	4.00%	63.98%
Cornell University	69,195	4,844	3,294	7.00%	68.00%
Dartmouth College	28,336	1,700	1,054	6.00%	62.00%
Duke University	50,016	3,001	1,651	6.00%	55.01%
Harvard University	61,221	1,837	1,525	3.00%	83.02%
Johns Hopkins University	37,844	2,649	1,351	7.00%	51.00%
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	33,767	1,351	1,148	4.00%	84.97%
Princeton University	38,019	2,281	1,574	6.00%	69.00%
Stanford University	56,378	2,255	1,894	4.00%	83.99%
University of Notre Dame	26,509	3,446	2,068	13.00%	60.01%
University of Pennsylvania	54,588	3,821	2,598	7.00%	67.99%
Vanderbilt University	46,377	3,246	1,688	7.00%	52.00%
Yale University	50,060	2,503	1,702	5.00%	68.00%

ADMISSION FACTORS

Percentage of Colleges Reporting “Considerable or Moderate Importance”





How to Select a College – Where to Begin?

- Near or Far?
- Big or Small?
- Hot or Cold?
- Public or Private?
- 2 year or 4 year?
- Selective, Somewhat Selective, or Not Very Selective



College Search is the Focus of the Junior year

- Visit websites of Colleges & Universities
- Two excused absences your Junior year
- Your most valuable resource now is Naviance



Other Online Tools

- Naviance, College, & University Websites are your BEST resource for learning more about a school
- College Factual - www.collegefactual.com
- Take a Virtual College Tour - www.youvisit.com
- College Board – www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- CollegeView – www.collegeview.com
- College Forums – www.collegeconfidential.com



Things to Consider

- Be careful using college ranking lists – it should be guide
- Don't let friends influence your college choices
- Try not to limit yourself to one college choice for applications
- Visit the college
- Who is initiating the college search?



College Rep Visits at JP2

Please make sure to stop by to visit with college representatives either before or after school or during Falcon Flight outside the MPR.



College Campus Visits

- Turn in college absent form to Counseling Office
- Juniors have two college visits
- Must make-up any worked missed
- Have a list of questions
 - Use the Campus Visit Checklist
 - College Workbook in Naviance Student in links
- Try to stop by financial aid/scholarship office for more info.
- Some colleges have Saturday group tours



When do I take my ACT/SAT

- **Everyone should take at least one test their Junior year!!**
- Security measures are in place (Must upload a picture, must have admission ticket, & ID when arriving at test center)
- JP II is not a test center
- For test accommodations, must have copies of diagnosis on file; current up to three years
- For fee waivers, please see Mrs. Cobb
- For accommodations on the ACT/SAT speak with Ms. Cobb

	SAT	ACT
Why Take It	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
Test Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing & Language • Math 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Math • Reading • Science Reasoning Essay (Optional)
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) • 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Algebra I & II • Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis 	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arithmetic • Algebra I & II • Geometry, Trigonometry, and Probability & Statistics
Calculator Policy	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Essays	None	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

**Send scores to state schools now.
We do not send tests scores on transcripts senior year.
The essay is no longer available on the SAT.**



Make sure to enter your high school
when you register for the ACT/SAT

CEEB Code 011-483



Advantages of Test Prep

- **Admission in to College**
- **Scholarships**
- **Local ACT/SAT Prep Classes:**
 - Achievement Plus - 2005 Gallatin St SW, Huntsville, AL 35801 (256) 539-8910 (3 prep classes offered at JP2)
 - NGENIUS - (256) 325-0441
 - North Alabama Center of Educational Excellence
 - Rocket City Learning - 1540 Hughes Road, #11, Madison, Huntsville, AL, 35758, 256-251-5447
 - The Learning Team—Grove Academy - 301 Longwood Dr. SW, Huntsville, AL 35801 (256) 924-6028
- **Online Prep**
 - March2Success - <https://www.march2success.com/>
 - Khan Academy – Free with your PSAT scores
<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/new-sat-tips-planning/new-sat-how-to-prepare/a/full-length-psat-nmsqt>
 - KAPLAN - ACT Prep
<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/act-kaplan.html>



How to Avoid Running Out of Time on the SAT/ACT

Consider applying these time-management techniques to maximize your score on the SAT or ACT:

- Dedicate just 60 seconds to each math question.
- Skim passages and question stems first, then reread as needed.
- Go with your gut on the language sections.



Test Optional Colleges

The **National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest)** works to end the misuses and flaws of standardized testing and to ensure that evaluation of students, teachers and schools is fair, open, valid and educationally beneficial.

Many colleges are test optional since the pandemic - <https://www.fairtest.org/>



AP Classes

- CHECK WITH COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY FOR ITS POLICY ON CREDIT FOR AP CLASSES (SEE CATALOG or WEBSITE)
- WHAT SCORE IS REQUIRED
 - GENERAL CURRICULUM
 - HONORS COLLEGE/PROGRAM
- HOW IS CREDIT AWARDED
 - ACTUAL CREDIT HOURS
 - PREREQUISITE FOR HIGHER LEVEL COURSES
- CLEP EXAMS FOR ADDITIONAL COLLEGE CREDITS
- CONSIDER POTENTIAL DANGER IN SKIPPING THAT COLLEGE COURSE



AP Credit Policy Search

Find colleges and universities that offer credit or placement for AP scores. Begin your search by entering the name of the institution below. For the most up-to-date AP credit policy information, be sure to check the institution's website.

Find a college's credit policy

Please enter at least two characters to view a preliminary list of matches. Click Search to see a complete list of results. The number in parentheses is the school's College Board code.

Have your AP Exam scores sent to a college or university.

[Send your scores](#)

Explore scholarships

[Visit Big Future](#)

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies>

Use the college's website to get the most accurate information.



Dual Enrollment Opportunities

We have a Dual Enrollment agreement with the following colleges:

- University of Alabama Early College
- University of Alabama in Huntsville
- Calhoun Community College

Scholarships & Financial Aid



- Need to frankly discuss with your student about affordability
- Online tools can help
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.finaid.com
 - www.collegeboard.com
 - www.act.org
 - Use Naviance Scholarship Search Tool !!!!!
- Check out scholarship board, it is a great resource for colleges that offer scholarships.





NCAA/NAIA

- Start registration by end of Junior year
- Will send transcript end of Junior year to NCAA/NAIA

For any NCAA/NAIA question come see Mrs. Cobb or Mr. McManus



Types of Colleges & Universities



Public

vs

Private

- Funded by local and state governments (your taxes!)
- Offer lower tuition rates than private colleges for students who reside in the state where the college is located

Example:

University of Alabama

Total Cost = \$33,452

Direct/Indirect Cost

- Funding is mainly through tuition, fees and private sources.
- Private donations can sometimes provide generous financial aid packages

Example:

Birmingham Southern College

Total Cost = \$37,050

Direct/Indirect Cost

Vanderbilt University Direct/Indirect Cost Cost \$89,590

2024-2025 Freshman In-State Academic Scholarships

Test Scores	ACT	21	22-24	25-27	28	29	30-35	36
	SAT	1060-1090	1100-1190	1200-1300	1310-1340	1350-1380	1390-1590	1600
High School GPA	4.0+	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$4,850	\$6,500	\$7,300	TUITION	TUITION*
	3.50 - 3.99	\$2,050	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$6,325	\$6,325	TUITION	TUITION
	3.00 - 3.49	\$2,050	\$2,050	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$4,475	\$4,475

UAH Presidential*	UAH Academic Excellence	UAH Academic Merit	UAH Academic Recognition
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*Covers one year of university housing at a regular room rate.

Please note, this chart represents scholarship opportunities for the 2024-2025 academic year. Scholarship offerings are reviewed each academic year and are subject to change.



Community Colleges

- Offer associate's degrees designed to transfer to a four year college/university
- Offers associate's degrees and certificates designed to prepare students for a vocational/technical career
- Most schools have open admissions but may have required prerequisites for specific programs.
- Typically public colleges with affordable tuition and options for students to be full or part-time
- Often career driven.



Liberal Arts Colleges

- Offers a broad base of courses in the liberal arts which includes: literature, humanities, languages, mathematics, life sciences
- Offers mostly undergraduate degrees
- Most are private and lead to a four-year bachelor's degree
- Traditionally emphasize interactive instruction
- Have smaller enrollment, class size, and higher student-teacher ratio than universities
- Prepare students for a variety of careers or graduate study



Universities

- Larger schools offering more majors and degrees options than colleges
- Students can obtain bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees
- Tends to be more research based
- Larger classes that may be taught by graduate assistants or TA's
- Contain several colleges within the university such as colleges of liberal arts, engineering, or health sciences.



Art Colleges and Conservatories

- Focus is on visual, performing, and/or creative arts
- Applications may require a portfolio of your work
- Conservatories place an emphasis on practical performance training and experience, not academics.
- Lower number of general education requirements in both the art colleges and conservatories



Military Academies

- Five Academies: Naval, Air Force, Army, Merchant Marines, & Coast Guard
- High standard for admission - physical and academics (Most rigorous courses & grades)
- Must be nominated by a senator, congressman/woman, VP or the President of U.S.
- Military service required upon graduation
- Tuition is free!
- Less freedom than other schools and incorporates physical training and discipline



Special Programs or Accommodations

While colleges and universities in the United States are required by law to offer certain services for students with disabilities, these services only guarantee the bare minimum regarding academic assistance and accommodations.

- Lynn University
- Landmark College
- Beacon College
- West Virginia Wesleyan
- Curry College



Gap Year

What are your gap year options?

- Volunteer Abroad - You can save the world as a volunteer.
- Intern Abroad - Another way to do a gap year is as an intern.
- Study Abroad
- Work Abroad
- Hit the High Seas with Seamester at Sea.
- See Mrs. Cobb about various programs.



What to think about as you explore different types of colleges:

- The pro's and con's of each type of school
- Your learning style and where you will thrive academically
- Graduation rates (four year, six year)
- Job placement - Where are graduates getting jobs and what employers are recruiting at the school?
- Overall, how does each school fit with your goals and needs
- Try to have college list (8-10 schools) ready by the end of Junior year



Student's Role

- Should be initiating the college search
- Should be the ones asking questions at college visits or college fairs
- Should email a thank you to a rep after meeting with them
- Speak with Mrs. Cobb if you need help
- Be proactive!

Parent's Role

- Be supportive, try not to nag
- Help student make a calendar with important dates
- Have that financial discussion now, if you haven't already
- Be careful of forcing your or their siblings alma mater upon your child, it might not be the right fit for them



Tentative - Rising Senior Meeting
May 1, 2024 4:30-5:30 PM MPR
Have a great year - Class of 2025!!

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Sources

- www.act.org & www.collegeboard.org
- Lynn O'Shaughnessy
- www.thecollegesolution.com
- NACAC - www.nacacnet.org
- Naviance - <http://connection.naviance.com/pjp>