



I'm a senior – What in the world should I be doing?

- **SAT and ACT** – College-bound seniors should sign up to take the SAT or ACT. Any 2 or 4-year college application is going to require a score from one of the two college-entrance exams. Students planning on attending a technical college or military do not need an SAT or ACT score. It is strongly suggested that students take the October, November or December administration of either test. This allows time for a student to take the test again in the spring if he or she needs to increase a score.
Register online for SAT: www.collegeboard.org, Cost is \$46.00 (no writing), \$60.00 (with writing)
Register online for ACT: www.actstudent.org, Cost is \$46.00 (no writing), \$62.50 (with writing)
Fee waivers are available for students who qualify. See the counseling office for more details.
- **College visits** – It is highly recommended that students and parents visit the schools of their choice before making a final decision. Students are allowed 3 excused absences per year to take a college visit as long as they complete a college visit form. College visit forms can be picked up in the counseling office. We have a week of fall break (Oct. 9-13) that might be a good time to schedule a visit. If you contact the college admissions office before your visit, they will usually be able to set up a tour and a meeting with an admissions counselor.
- **College applications**- Every college sets their own application deadline. Those deadlines can be found on the college websites. The recommended time to begin submitting applications is sometime before or during the Thanksgiving holidays. It is recommended also, if possible, for students to apply to their top 3 college choices. Applications are available or can be accessed through the college websites. Application fees usually range from \$30 to \$60. Application fee waivers are available for students who have used a fee waiver for the SAT. We will be having an Apply to College Day activity for all interested seniors on November 16th. On this day each student will be given time to come to a computer lab during school to fill out at least one college application. SHS Counseling Office staff as well as representatives from various colleges will be on hand to help students complete their applications. Some colleges may waive their application fees on that day, but most will not, so it will be necessary for students to have a debit or credit card available to use for the fees.
- **Scholarships** – Any scholarship information received by the SHS counseling office will be posted on our website. Most of the local scholarship information comes available in the spring. Online searches and scholarship websites like www.fastweb.com or www.tuitionfundingsources.com are ways to find scholarship programs available throughout the country. Most all colleges and universities have institutional scholarship money available for students who apply. That is why it is important for students to apply as early as possible. Normally, once the institutional money is all awarded, it is gone. If a student is planning on attending a college or university in the state of Georgia and they meet the minimum requirements, the student may qualify for the HOPE scholarship or Zell Miller scholarship program. All of the HOPE and Zell Miller requirement information can be found at www.gafutures.org. Students can also access their current HOPE GPA if they create an account on GA Futures.
- **Financial Aid** – To qualify for federal or state financial aid, students will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is an online application available at www.fafsa.gov. The FAFSA for students beginning college in 2018 will open on October 1, 2017. The FAFSA will require the student's and parents' 2016 tax information. Completing the FAFSA also covers the application for state aid including the HOPE scholarship program.