



# Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

## Somerville High School Counseling Department

81 Highland Avenue · Somerville, MA 02143

November 2017

Dear Students and Families,

Now that your Junior Year at Somerville High School is underway, we would like to share some resources with you. You will soon begin actively planning for your life after high school. Whether your goals are to attend a four-year college or university or a two-year community college, enlist in the military, or start your career right away, we're here to support you.

We've created this resource, your Junior Packet, with information and resources to help you with the college and career planning process. We know that this much information can be overwhelming so below is a suggested guide to when and how to use the resources in this packet.

### How to Use the Resources your Junior Packet

#### **November/December:**

Get Connected! Update your contact information using this document in your packet:

- How to Stay Connected with SHS College & Career Planning ..... Page 2*

#### **December/January:**

If your student took the PSAT this year, their scores will be available on the College Board website in December. Use the following documents to help them understand their PSAT score and use it to create an SAT Prep Plan.

- PSAT Scores ..... Page 3*
- Khan Academy SAT Prep..... Separate link online*
- SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and ACT ..... Page 4*
- SAT Prep: Kaplan course registration form ..... Page 5*
- SAT Prep: Let's Get Ready registration information..... Separate link online*

#### **Ongoing:**

Check out these resources when you are ready sometime this winter or spring!

- SHS College and Career Planning Meetings..... Page 6*  
Read this for information on meetings available to you and your student at SHS.
- Post Secondary Visit Form..... Page 7*  
Did you know that SHS students are allowed two Post Secondary Visits in their junior and senior years? These visits can be college tours, job shadows, interviews, etc. Just follow the instructions on this form!

- Please note: This information and resources in this packet are also available on our website at: <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/CollegeProcess>
- We have provided information in multiple languages when possible. For other resources, we encourage you to use Google translate on our website or contact your counselor for assistance.

## How to Stay Connected with SHS College & Career Planning

- ❖ **Update Your Email in Naviance:** Naviance is the system that students will be using for college/career planning and college applications. Families are encouraged to create an account on Naviance to stay connected.

To activate your parent/guardian account, follow these steps:

- ✓ Go to [connection.naviance.com/somervillehigh](http://connection.naviance.com/somervillehigh)
- ✓ Click "I Need to Register"
- ✓ Enter your registration code: *Note: this your 5-digit Aspen X2 password.*
- ✓ Complete your profile by entering your email address and choosing a password. Then, accept the terms of service, and complete your registration.

- ❖ **Join our Remind Group:** Remind is a program that allows us to send text messages to you. We've started a College & Career Group that you should join so you don't miss opportunities or deadlines!

To join the College & Career Remind Group:

- ✓ Go to [remind.com/join/dcg763](http://remind.com/join/dcg763) to join our group

**OR**

- ✓ Text @dcg763 to the number 81010 (message rates apply).

- ❖ **Check Out Our Website:** Go to <http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/schools/somerville-high-school/counseling-college-career> for more resources and information!

- ❖ **Mark Your Calendars:** SHS is proud to offer a number of events for families in the college and career planning process.

- ✓ *April 7, 2018 - College and Career Day:* On this day, we offer multiple workshops on topics related to college and career. Everything from vocational training to gap years to SAT prep and financial aid is covered. Interpreters, childcare, and refreshments are provided! Stay tuned for more information.
- ✓ *September 2018 – Post Secondary Planning Night:* An event for seniors and families about the details of senior year college and career planning.
- ✓ *October 2018 – Post Secondary Fair:* Come talk with representatives from over 80 colleges, post secondary organizations, unions, and gap year programs.

- ❖ **Reach out and ask for help:** The SHS School Counseling Team is here to help! Please don't hesitate to reach out and ask for help:

*Justin LaBerge*, Beacon House School Counselor, x6127 [jlaberge@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:jlaberge@k12.somerville.ma.us)

*Jeremy Rischall*, Elm House School Counselor, x6129 [jrischall@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:jrischall@k12.somerville.ma.us)

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*Barbara Favaloro*, School Counseling Secretary, x6120, [bfavaloro@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:bfavaloro@k12.somerville.ma.us)

## PSAT Scores

If you took the PSAT at Somerville High School, you can get your scores in two ways. Your counselor will have a paper copy of the Score Report for you in late December. OR you can get your scores online at [studentscores.collegeboard.org](https://studentscores.collegeboard.org)



### **Online PSAT Score Reports**

1. Go to [studentreports.collegeboard.org](https://studentreports.collegeboard.org)
2. Log in to your account or create an account if necessary. Then, log in.
3. Select "PSAT/NMSQT Scores." If that isn't an option, choose "Missing Scores" to locate your scores.
4. Explore your score reports, explanations of how you did, predictions on how you'll do on the SAT, and suggestions for what to work on. Talk to your counselor if you need help understanding your scores.



### *Free SAT Prep with Khan Academy*

You can use your PSAT scores to get FREE, customized SAT prep at [Khanacademy.org](https://khanacademy.org). Follow these instructions for free SAT prep!

1. Go to [satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org)
2. Create an account
3. Choose "Sign in to collegeboard.org and send your test results to Khan Academy." This allows Khan Academy to determine which skills you need to work on the most to create a practice plan that is customized just for you.
4. If you did not take the PSAT, you can still do free SAT prep on Khan Academy, just choose the second option when you sign in to start your first diagnostic test.

## **SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and ACT**

*What they are, when to take them, and how to study for them!*

**SAT** – [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org)

- Take the SAT 2-3 times between January of 11<sup>th</sup> grade and December of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch get two fee waivers for the SAT. Taking the test a third time is often unnecessary. Consult with your counselor if you think you want to do this.
- The SAT is offered March, May, June, August, October, November, and December
- Your preparation plan should begin at least 8-10 weeks before your first test. Your Prep Plan may include Khan Academy, Let's Get Ready, Kaplan, self-study, or another program. You must prepare for each test.

**SAT test date #1** – Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_ **Prep plan:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SAT test date #2** – Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_ **Prep plan:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SAT test date #3** – Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_ (if necessary) **Prep plan:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ACT** – [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

- You may choose to take the ACT in addition to or instead of the SAT
- Take the ACT 1-2 times (depending on whether you are also taking the SAT)
- The ACT is offered February, April, June, September, October, December

**ACT test date #1** – Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_ **Prep plan:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ACT test date #2** – Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_ (if necessary) **Prep plan:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SAT Subject Tests** - [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org)

- Subject Tests are required for some (not all) colleges. Do some research on colleges you are interested. It is best to be safe and take two subject tests if you are applying to selective four-year colleges.
- Take at least 2 SAT Subject Tests in your best subjects.
- Take the test soon after completing the class in school in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- You can take 3 SAT Subject Tests in 1 day but it cannot be the same day as the SAT.

**SAT Subject Test #1** – Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
**SAT Subject Test #2** – Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
**SAT Subject Test #3** – Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

### ***SAT Subject Tests offered:***

Literature  
Chemistry  
Physics  
U.S. History  
World History  
Mathematics Level 1

Mathematics Level 2  
French  
German  
Spanish  
Modern Hebrew  
Italian

Latin  
French with Listening  
German with Listening  
Spanish with Listening  
Japanese with Listening  
Korean with Listening



## Kaplan SAT Prep Course Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ LASID: \_\_\_\_\_

The Kaplan SAT Prep Course will be offered this spring in preparation for the May or June SAT. The schedule is below. Attendance is expected at all sessions in order to maximize the benefits of the course. All classes take place at Somerville High School – the room number will be sent to students prior to the beginning of the course. ***This registration form is due to Mrs. Favaloro in Room 220 by February 15, 2018. Instructions for payment are below.***

Day	Date	Topic	Time
Saturday	March 17, 2018	SAT Diagnostic/Course Orient.	9:00 AM – 12:45 PM
Tuesday	March 20, 2018	Classroom Session 1	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	March 27, 2018	Classroom Session 2	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	April 3, 2018	Classroom Session 3	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	April 10, 2018	Classroom Session 4	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Saturday	April 14, 2018	Practice Test	9:00 AM – 12:45 PM
Tuesday	April 24, 2018	Classroom Session 5	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	May 1, 2018	Classroom Session 6	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**By submitting this registration, I commit to attending all classes and practice tests for the course. I agree to complete the online work and/or homework for this course. I understand that if I fail to show up for the first diagnostic test, I forfeit my spot in the class.**

Step 2: Payment: Kaplan SAT Prep usually costs \$749 but SHS is offering it to students at a huge discount! Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch pay \$50. All other students pay \$75. *If any student is concerned about this cost, please talk to Ms. Kessler.* SHS does not want the cost to prevent any student from taking this course.

Step 3: Sign and return form with payment to Mrs. Favaloro in Room 220 before or after school by the due date!

***Due February 15, 2018***

Form and payment received on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)  
Payment amount submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment type submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
*After submitting payment, student should receive and sign a copy of this form:*  
Copy of form received: \_\_\_\_\_ (student signature)

## SHS College and Career Planning Meetings: Group & Individual

Somerville High School is committed to helping every student find a successful post secondary path after leaving SHS. Because of that, we've implemented regular meetings with students to support them. Read below to find out more.

- ❖ **X Block Meetings for Students:** During November X Blocks, juniors attended group meetings to introduce them to the college and career process. We will hold additional junior meetings this spring in March, April, and June. The purpose of these meetings is to share information with students and provide them time during the school day to complete college/career planning. They will continue to have meetings in their senior year as well.
- ❖ **Individual Planning Meetings for Students:** Every junior will have an individual planning meeting with their counselor this year between January and June during the school day. This will be a time for them to talk about their individual goals and plans and for their counselor to provide support in the process. Students will have an additional individual planning meeting in their senior year.
  - In the Junior Individual Planning Meeting, students will receive a **Post Secondary Guide**. This is a guide to help you with many steps in the college/career process. It walks you through tasks on Naviance, College Board, and the Common Application. To view an electronic copy of the guide, go to:  
<http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/CollegeProcess>
- ❖ **College Planning Meetings for Students and/or Families:** If you'd like to have an additional meeting about college planning, Ms. Kessler is available to meet with students and families. You can make an appointment here: <https://shscollegecareer.youcanbook.me>
- ❖ **uAspire Financial Aid Meetings (in senior year):** Students and families will have the opportunity to meet with our financial aid counselor from uAspire. They will assist you in determining how to afford college and how to apply for financial aid.





# Somerville High School

Honor and Progress

## Post Secondary Visit Form

Students are allowed 2 excused absences for post secondary visits per year in their 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade year. Post secondary visits consist of: college visits, meetings with prospective future employers, meetings with military recruiters, etc.

Requirements for Post Secondary Visit:

- Student must be in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Parent/guardian, student, and housemaster signature are required before post secondary visit
- College (or equivalent) representative signature required upon completion of visit
- Student must return completed form to House Secretary after visit

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

College/Post Secondary Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, student and parent/guardian agree to the following:

- Students are expected to consult with teachers prior to their absence to get and submit missing work in a timely manner.
- Absence is considered unexcused until form is returned with signature from college/post secondary site representative

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Housemaster Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **To be completed by representative from post secondary site:**

By signing below, I agree that the student listed above completed a post secondary visit at our site.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number or email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_