

SJHS Senior Information 2016-2017

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

→ Senior Pictures

Gentry Photography will be here on **September 29 and 30** to take formal senior pictures. This picture will go in the yearbook, as well as local newspapers around graduation time. You will have the option to purchase this picture, but sitting for the picture itself is **free**. If you had your senior pictures taken over the summer by a different photographer, your portrait must meet certain specifications and be turned into Mrs. Wilkins by **December 16**. Please see Mrs. Wilkins in room 113 for additional information.

→ Cap and Gown Information

Jostens will hold a meeting with all seniors in **November**. Information packets will be given out at this meeting. You must order your cap and gown (and any additional items, including announcements) by **December 1** to receive group pricing. Jostens will return to school in late November to pick up order forms, or you may order everything online at www.jostens.com.

→ Yearbook

Cost of a yearbook is \$50. Deadline to order is April 29.

→ Senior T-Shirt

Orders will be taken in October. Cost is usually around \$15.

→ Homecoming Dance

Will be September 24, cost will be \$5 per person or \$8 per couple and it will be held at SJHS.

→ Financial Aid Night

Will be held on **October 24** at 6 p.m. in the SJHS library to help walk parents and students through the financial aid process for college.

→ Senior Trip

Seniors will vote on the location of the senior trip in **October**. The trip will be in late **April** or **early May**, and usually costs around \$70, depending on location.

→ Prom

Will be held in **May 13** at American Celebration on Parade. Cost is usually around \$24 a couple.

→ Senior Survey

In **May** a senior survey will be mailed home to be completed and returned to Guidance. This will allow us to send your Final Transcript to your college!

→ Awards Assembly

Will be held in late **May** in the old gym at SJHS. Many scholarships and awards will be given at this assembly. Parents are welcome to attend. Seniors will march into the assembly wearing caps and gowns.

→ Baccalaureate

A service planned by the Senior Governing Council for the Sunday before graduation. Parents will receive information from those organizing the event.

→ Graduation

The graduation date will be officially announced in early spring. Seniors will receive additional information about graduation practices, times, dates, etc. after that time.

****As soon as we become aware of specific dates and details of these events, we will give that information to seniors. A letter will be sent home in April to seniors detailing the end of the year events.**

Facebook

We have an SJHS Guidance Facebook page where we post important information, be sure to be our "Friend" to get all of our updates.

Public Portal

SCPS has the capability to provide online access to your student's current grades and attendance. Contact the attendance office to get your student's specific login information. Your **School Messenger** contact information may also be managed through the portal!

Career Coach

We are fortunate to have a career coach from Lord Fairfax Community College in the Guidance Department! Our career coach is Mr. Andrew Lowder and he will be working with students on Wednesday and Thursday each week.

Important College Information

Applications

- Most college applications are available online at the college's website.
- Things that may be required:
 - Application fee
 - Personal Statement/Essay
 - Teacher/Counselor Recommendation
 - SAT/ACT Test Scores
 - Transcript

SAT/ACT Scores

- At least one is **required** for most **four year** colleges; check college websites to see exactly what is required.
- **Two year** college do **not** require SAT/ACT, they will administer a placement test instead.
- SJHS administers the SAT in October
- Cost for SAT is \$45 without essay, \$57 with essay
- Cost for ACT is \$42.50 without writing, \$58.50 with writing
 - ⇒ If a student receives free or reduced lunch at SJHS, he/she is eligible for a fee waiver for both tests
- Registration deadline for each test is usually about one month before the test date
 - ⇒ Register at www.collegeboard.org for SAT, www.actstudent.org for ACT
 - ⇒ Our High School Code is 471480
 - ⇒ Most colleges require test scores to be sent directly from the testing agency, and will **not** accept them from the high school. Use the websites above to send your scores to each college to which you are applying

Personal Statement

- Look at the essay prompt on the application and start writing the essay early! Print it out and ask teachers or Mrs. Miller to proofread before you submit!

Teacher Recommendations

- Be sure to ask someone who knows you well and will write a favorable letter of recommendation for you

- ASK them to write a letter, and remember to say PLEASE! Give the writer at least **2-4 weeks** to complete the letter – the more time you give, the more detailed the letter will be
- When asking for a letter, be sure to include a resume – a list of your activities and accomplishments – so the recommender knows what to write about!

Counselor Recommendation

- Follow the same instructions for the teacher recommendation!
- Mrs. Miller has a student information sheet that is required to be completed before she will write a letter of recommendation. It is available in the Guidance Office.

Transcripts

- Every college will require a transcript to be sent directly from SJHS before they will make an admission decision
- Transcript request forms are available in Guidance, and must be submitted **5 school days** before the application deadline

Scholarships and Financial Aid

- There is a scholarship notebook in the Guidance Office that is updated weekly as new scholarships become available.
- Scholarship Information is also put on the SJHS Guidance website.
- Many scholarship organizations require applications to be filled out online, but if it requires a paper application, it will be available in the scholarship notebook in Guidance.
- Be sure to adhere to all deadlines; scholarship applications will **NOT** be accepted late!
- The FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) can be filled out starting **October 1**. This is the form you need to fill out to qualify for grants, federal aid, and loans. We will host a financial aid night on October 24 to help walk students and parents through the Financial Aid process.