



February, 2012

Dear Junior Students and Parents:

Now that the second semester of the junior year is underway, it is time to begin thinking seriously about the college selection process and the timing of college entrance tests. I plan to meet individually with all juniors in the coming weeks, and we will work on the following three primary tasks:

1) Establish a timetable for taking (and registering for) college entrance exams.

As a minimum, all students at Denver JDS need to take either the SAT or the ACT before the end of June 2012, and it is preferred that students take both. Students who plan to apply to certain selective colleges also need to take two SAT Subject exams, usually in math or English and/or one other subject of the student's choice (students in AP American History this year will want to take the American History SAT Subject test in May or June).

Attached is a Test Planning Sheet which all students should complete and return to me by Tuesday February 21st, when we meet next for Advisory.

Preparation for college entrance exams is a matter of individual preference and there are many ways to prepare including private tutors, test preparation classes, and free practice tests online. I'm happy to discuss any of these preparation methods individually. Understanding the organization of the test and working through sample problems is well worthwhile. At the bottom of this e-mail are two links you may find helpful: How do SAT and ACT scores compare, from the Stanley Kaplan website, and a Score Concordance chart from the ACT website.

2) Review the transcript through five high school semesters.

Students need to be aware of their GPA as they compile a college list, as grades may be the most significant factor in college admissions. Students will be given copies of their transcripts to review and keep.

3) Discuss current college interests and plan for exploration of colleges.

Students will begin to establish a list of potential colleges for exploration. As previously mentioned, if you plan to visit colleges in the upcoming months I would be happy to assist with these plans if you would like to discuss.

I look forward to a productive partnership in the months ahead during this exciting time in your lives! As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

Ceci

SAT or ACT from Kaplan Testing:

<http://www.kaptest.com/College/Getting-into-College/About-the-Tests/SAT/sat-vs-act.html>

SAT and ACT Score Comparison Chart:

<http://www.act.org/aap/concordance/>

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