

# Welcome Sophomore & Junior Families

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September 3, 2015

# College Rep Visits at Connelly

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- Students are **HIGHLY** encouraged to attend on campus presentations by college/university reps
- All presentations will be held at either lunch or during conference in **Room 2** unless otherwise announced
- Current list of colleges and universities scheduled to visit posted in my office



- Tri School College Fair Monday October 19<sup>th</sup> @ Servite
- Sophomores & Juniors are highly encouraged to attend

# Seminar & Naviance

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- Sophomore & Junior Seminar on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>
- Naviance → A web-based tool for post-high school planning that reports student statistics and admission decisions for over 3,700 colleges
- Students and families have access to four categories:
  - Colleges
  - Careers
  - About Me
  - My Planner
- Students will receive their Naviance access code and instructional booklet during the seminar

# How Do Colleges Make Decisions?

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- Transcript
- Standardized Tests (SAT, SAT Subjects, ACT)
- Activities/Involvement
- Personal Statement
- Recommendations

# Transcript

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- Reflects Academic Rigor
- Every student at Connelly completes college prep curriculum
- Connelly's graduation requirements are more difficult than the entry requirements for the UC and CSU systems

# GPA

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- UC & CSU systems calculate their own unique GPA using 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> year grades only; only from A-G courses
- Private colleges/universities generally use all four years of high school to calculate GPA
- SENIOR YEAR DOES COUNT

# Standardized Tests

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- SAT Reasoning Test
- ACT with writing
- SAT Subject Tests
- AP Exams



# The New SAT

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- The PSAT/NMSQT & SAT are being redesigned
- First NEW SAT will be administered in March 2016
- A “blue print” of the full SAT will be available before the exam’s first administration
- Free test prep will be available through Khan Academy in coordination with The College Board
  - [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

# New SAT Format

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- Sections: Evidence Based Reading; Math; Essay (offered as optional but ALL students should complete the essay section)
- 3 hours + 50 minutes for essay
- Redesign focuses on supporting answers with evidence, relevant vocab, and math in real world context; designed to test the student's accumulated knowledge rather than memorized facts

# New SAT Scoring

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- 400-1600 point scale; separate score for essay
- Evidence Based Reading & Math scored on a scale from 200-800
- NO penalty for wrong answers

# ACT Format

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- Sections: English, Reading, Mathematics, Science & Writing
- 3 Hours 25 Minutes
- Designed to be based on high school curriculum

# ACT Scoring

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- Each section is scored on a scale from 1-36
- Sections are then averaged to obtain your overall score

# Testing Timeline

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- Sophomores will take the PSAT and should take a diagnostic SAT & ACT
- Juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT
- Juniors should plan to take the SAT and/or ACT with Writing from January-June of this year
- All testing should be completed by December of senior year

# Registering for Tests

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- SAT: Register through The College Board
  - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- ACT: Register through ACT
  - [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
- Register ~6 weeks prior to exam – Check deadlines!

# Retesting

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- No penalty for taking tests multiple times
- Scores tend to improve
- Use SAT Score Choice to choose which scores are sent to schools



# Connelly Curriculum

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- Every Connelly student takes college prep courses
- Students are encouraged to take AP & Honors courses if they are eligible and show promise for succeeding in the course

# Activities & Involvement

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- Better to choose a few activities and make a bigger impact
- Demonstrate leadership, dedication, and commitment
- Examples: clubs, sports, service organizations, dance, music, etc.

# Events to Attend

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- Case Study Event: Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30pm – MUST RSVP to Ms. Wegman for this event; parents welcome!
- PSAT Score Back Night – January
- College Rep Visits
- College Fairs

# Grades are Important!

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- If you are having difficulty in a course, you should immediately:
  - Attend conference
  - Contact the teacher

# Thank you all for coming!

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Please do not hesitate to contact me at  
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