

# WHEATON WARRENVILLE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

August 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

During the junior year in high school, many students and families begin thinking about college admission. This letter contains important information you may need throughout your child's junior year—please keep for your reference. Part of the junior process involves taking tests such as PSAT, ACT and SAT. Student performance on these examinations is one of several factors used in the selection process of four-year colleges and universities. The best preparation for these tests continues to be the completion of a rigorous academic curriculum; however, there is evidence that familiarity with the format and content of these tests can be beneficial to students.

Several organizations in our area offer test preparation courses. Through these courses, students can become familiar with the format and content of the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. The dates, availability, class time and fees vary for each program.

The National Test date for the PSAT is Saturday, October 17. This test is the first step in qualifying for consideration for a National Merit Scholarship. All juniors may take this practice test, but those in the top ten percent of the junior class are strongly encouraged to complete this exam. **Registration will be through the Treasurer's office from September 8 through September 11 at a cost of \$20.** Checks may be made payable to WWS—please include your child's name and ID# on the check. At the time of test registration, students will receive more specific information about the test.

A chart showing the ACT and SAT test and registration dates is included at the end of this letter. Students may take the tests more than once. Colleges will only consider the highest score achieved by a student. Students are encouraged to register for a test in the Spring of Junior year to get the most out of junior courses before sitting for the exam.

To sign up for the ACT or SAT, students may pick up registration material in the Counseling Center or register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). The information includes directions on how to complete the registration form, fees that must be paid, and an envelope for mailing the material directly to the testing company is provided.

Juniors wanting to get a head start on the college search process, may want to consider attending the COD College Fair on Monday, September 28, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Over 200 universities will have representatives at this fair. A list of colleges attending is available at [www.cod.edu](http://www.cod.edu).

In January, all juniors will attend a presentation by the Counseling Department through English classes. After this general presentation, your child's counselor will meet individually with your child to discuss post-secondary plans. Early second semester, tentatively scheduled for January 21, the Counseling Department will host a Junior Parent College Night to help you understand the college process. You will receive additional information regarding the date, time and details for this event.

Finally, it is never too early to begin thinking about the Financial Aid process for college. District 200 will be hosting a Financial Aid Night at Wheaton North on Wednesday, November 4, at 7 p.m. We hope you will be able to attend.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions regarding your son or daughter. The Counseling Center phone number is 630.784.7206.

Sincerely

*Jan Mieure*

Jan E. Mieure, NCC, LPC  
Counseling Department Chair

| <b>ACT Test Date</b> | <b>Registration Deadline</b> | <b>SAT Test Date</b> | <b>Registration Deadline</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| September 12, 2009   | August 7, 2009               | October 10, 2009     | September 9, 2009            |
| October 24, 2009     | September 18, 2009           | November 7, 2009     | October 1, 2009              |
| December 12, 2009    | November 6, 2009             | December 5, 2009     | October 30, 2009             |
| February 6, 2010     | January 5, 2010              | January 23, 2010     | December 15, 2009            |
| April 10, 2010       | March 5, 2010                | March 13, 2010       | February 4, 2010             |
| June 12, 2010        | May 7, 2010                  | May 1, 2010          | March 25, 2010               |
|                      |                              | June 5, 2010         | April 29, 2010               |