

Hello Juniors,

There are a number of new things you should know about applications, financial aid timelines, and testing. Bear in mind that your class will be the first with the new SAT, the new financial aid system and timeline, and the new Coalition application (see below). Many of the specifics have not been fully developed yet. I will keep you informed as I get more information.

Applying for financial aid:

1. You will be able to file a 2017-18 FAFSA (federal financial aid form) beginning on October 1. (Until this year it was not available until January 1.)
2. You will use your 2015 federal tax return to complete the form. (With the system used in past years, you would have needed to rush to present data from your 2016 tax return.)
3. This new system is referred to as PPY (prior, prior year), so now you know what that means when you see or hear it.
4. the federal government website StudentAid.gov is a site for students and parents. It provides detailed information about the FAFSA, the FSA ID, the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, student dependency status, reporting parent information, and what happens after the FAFSA is submitted. Visit **StudentAid.gov/fafsa**.
5. Many private and some public colleges also require a financial aid form called the CSS Profile (available for a fee at collegeboard.org/profile). It will also use PPY and will be available for completion on October 1.
6. It appears that PPY will have its greatest impact on students who apply to colleges that use “early action” or “rolling admission” programs. (Early decision applicants always get a financial aid package in December because early decision agreements are binding, except in circumstances of inability to pay.) Early action and rolling admission applicants will be able to get a financial aid package much earlier than in the past. If you apply under these programs, you may be able to avoid submitting additional applications if you get a satisfactory package from a school you really want to attend. On the other hand, you may still want to wait to see all financial aid awards before making your college choice in April.
7. It appears that PPY will not change the college admissions calendar much if at all. Regular decision applicants (deadlines mostly in January) will likely not hear about admission or financial aid until March.

Standardized Tests:

1. You can register online for the May SAT with no late fee through Wednesday, May 11. See Mrs. Cappelli for a fee waiver if you are on free/reduced lunch.
2. We are now in late registration for the June 11 ACT. Register online at actstudent.org. You can use a fee waiver for the registration fee, but you must pay the late fee.
3. There is another ACT test prep opportunity. Method Test Prep, whose self-paced prep program is free to you, is also offering a six session, eighteen-hour live online class. They have offered you a 50% discount. The class begins this Thursday night. The cost will be \$199.50. Use the code below if you are interested.

<https://classes.methodtestprep.com/classes/430-act-advantage/>.

Enter promo code **HALFOFF** (all caps) 50

4. March SAT scores have been released. Check your account if you took the March test
5. **Also released today were Concordance tables between the new SAT and old SAT and between the new SAT and ACT. I am pasting a table at the end of this e-mail. You will see that scores on the new SAT are quite high compared with the old test. While this information is so new that no colleges have commented on it, it is safe to assume that you should convert scores using the table to see where you fit. For example, the average SAT at UMass (1600 scale, no writing) was 1230 this year. According to the table, it would be 1300 now. Naturally, tables are not reality, but you should know that the new and old SAT scores cannot be viewed as equivalent.**

College Applications:

For complete information about applying to a college, go to its website and read about Admissions.

1. Over 600 colleges accept the Common Application (commonapp.org). It has been in general use for more than fifteen years. You can begin to work on it this summer. If you have time before August 1, you can start it and then roll your data over to the next Common Application, which will open on August 1. It requires you to respond to many short-answer questions, complete a chart on which you list and describe your activities, upload a personal statement (prompts were e-mailed to you in April and are included below) and

if you wish, provide additional information. Many Common Application colleges also require supplemental essays.

2. Beginning this summer, the “Coalition application” will enter the college admissions landscape. The new “Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success (<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/why.html>), formed last fall by over 90 elite public and private colleges and universities, will put their own application online on July 1.
3. The Coalition App essay prompts have been announced (see below). They include one allowing you to write on a topic of your own choice. Consequently, you will be able to use your Common Application essay should you decide to also use the Coalition Application.
4. Almost all members of the Coalition will remain Common Application members. As such, they will be required to accept the Common Application as equal to their own.
5. Because it will be the first year for the Coalition App, you should expect bugs and some frustration in using it. We have already been told that the interface with Naviance will not be working optimally in the first year. Some of the Coalition colleges have decided not to use the Coalition application in its first year.
6. Three public flagship universities –the Universities of Florida, Washington (state not DC) and Maryland, will be “Coalition App exclusive.” If you plan to apply to any of them, you will need to complete the Coalition App. (They were not Common App colleges to begin with.)
7. The Universal Application has been a competing application for some time. ARHS students have never used it!
8. Some colleges use only their own application.

2016-2017 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. *Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it.* If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. *The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success.* Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?

4. *Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.*

5. Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.

Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success

From <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

With so many institutions participating in the Coalition, there are many different admissions guidelines, and schools will treat these general application essays differently in their admissions processes: some schools won't require an essay at all; other schools will require one of the general essays and answers to additional school-specific essay or short answer questions. Please consult the application requirements for each Coalition school in which you are interested.

The prompts for the 2016-17 application year are:

¾ Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

¾ Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.

¾ Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?

¾ What is the hardest part of being a teenager now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?

¾ Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.

CONCORDANCE CHART

New SAT Total Score (400-1600)	Old SAT (1600 scale) Total Score (400-1600)	ACT Composite Score(1-36)
400	400	*
410	410	*
420	410	*
430	420	*
440	430	*
450	430	*
460	440	*
470	450	*
480	450	*
490	460	*
500	470	*
510	470	*
520	480	*
530	490	*
540	490	*
550	500	*
560	510	11
570	510	11
580	520	11
590	530	11
600	540	11
610	540	11
620	550	11

New SAT Total Score (400-1600)	Old SAT (1600 scale) Total Score (400-1600)	ACT Composite Score (1-36)
630	560	12
640	560	12
650	570	12
660	580	12
670	580	12
680	590	12
690	600	12
700	600	12
710	610	12
720	620	13
730	630	13
740	640	13
750	660	13
760	670	14
770	680	14
780	690	14
790	700	14
800	710	14
810	720	15
820	730	15
830	740	15
840	750	15
850	760	15
860	780	16
870	790	16
880	800	16
890	810	16
900	820	17
910	830	17
920	840	17
930	850	17
940	860	18
950	870	18
960	880	18
970	890	18
980	900	19
990	910	19
1000	920	19

New SAT Total Score (400-1600)	Old SAT (1600 scale) Total Score (400-1600)	ACT Composite Score (1-36)
1010	930	19
1020	940	20
1030	950	20
1040	960	20
1050	970	20
1060	980	21
1070	990	21
1080	1000	21
1090	1010	21
1100	1020	22
1110	1030	22
1120	1040	22
1130	1060	23
1140	1070	23
1150	1080	23
1160	1090	24
1170	1100	24
1180	1110	24
1190	1120	24
1200	1130	25
1210	1140	25
1220	1150	25
1230	1160	25
1240	1170	26
1250	1180	26
1260	1190	26
1270	1200	26
1280	1210	27
1290	1220	27
1300	1230	27
1310	1250	28
1320	1260	28
1330	1270	28
1340	1280	28
1350	1290	29
1360	1300	29
1370	1310	29
1380	1320	29

New SAT Total Score (400-1600)	Old SAT (1600 scale) Total Score (400-1600)	ACT Composite Score (1-36)
1390	1330	30
1400	1340	30
1410	1350	30
1420	1370	31
1430	1380	31
1440	1390	31
1450	1400	32
1460	1410	32
1470	1420	32
1480	1430	32
1490	1450	33
1500	1460	33
1510	1470	33
1520	1490	34
1530	1500	34
1540	1510	34
1550	1530	34
1560	1540	35
1570	1560	35
1580	1570	35
1590	1580	35
1600	1600	36

*No data available