



**SENIOR PARENT NIGHT**  
**SEPTEMBER 28, 2016**

**Taking the College Application Process One Step  
at a Time**

# STEP 1:

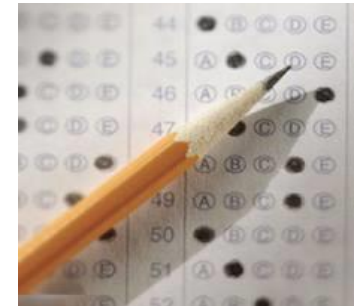
## REGISTER FOR THE SAT AND/OR ACT

- I will meet with each senior individually to ensure that they have registered for the fall SATs and/or ACTs
- During registration, students can sign-up to have their scores sent to 4 colleges for free (\$11 to send additional scores)



# SAT

- Reasoning test meant to assess critical thinking skills and predict college level abilities
- Contains a reading, math, and writing section
- Scores range from 200-800 on each section
  - Perfect Score = 1600
  - 500 is the national average on each section
- Significant criteria for colleges
- Create an account on **www.collegeboard.org** to register



<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline (\$50)</b>	<b>Late Registration Deadline (\$77)</b>
Nov 5	Oct 7	Oct 25
Dec 3	Nov 3	Nov 22



# SAT REDESIGN

- **Changed in March 2016**
- The redesign took effect March 5, 2016
- **Register**
- **What Changed?**
- Optional Essay Question
- No penalty for guessing
- More user-free vocabulary
- [Inside the Test](#)
- The new test is more focused on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education. It will measure:
- What you learn in high school
- What you need to succeed in college



# ACT

- A knowledge based test meant to assess how much information has been retained and learned through high school
- Contains English, Reading, Writing (optional), Math, and Science sections
- ACT composite score ranges from 1-36
  - Composite score is based on scores in each section
  - National average is 21
- Accepted by all 4 year colleges
- Create an account on [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to register



Test Date	Registration Deadline \$35- No Writing Section \$50.50 – With Writing Section	Late Registration Deadline \$57- No Writing Section \$72.50 – With Writing Section
October 22	October 16th	October 30
December 10	November 4	November 18



# TEST PREP

## ○ Free Resources

- Trenton Catholic Academy's SAT course
- Websites
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
  - [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)
  - [www.ineedapencil.com](http://www.ineedapencil.com)
  - Guidance website

## ○ Priced Resources

## ○ See Young Scholar's Handouts

- Test Prep Books ~\$20
- Courses (e.g. Princeton Review, Kaplan, Sylvan) ~\$200-\$500



# NCAA ATHLETICS-

## 16 CORE COURSES IN 4 YEARS

### PLAY 4 SEASONS

- **Div. I**
- 2.3 Core Courses Qualified
- Min. SAT 900/Min. ACT 75 Use Test Center 9999
- Pre-qualified
- Sliding Scale...See [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)



- **Div. II**
- 2.0 Core Courses Qualified
- Min. SAT 820/Min. ACT 68 Use Test Center 9999

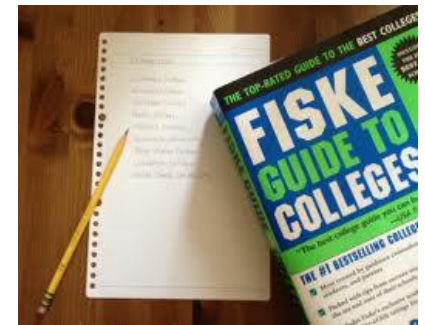


- **Div. III**
- -See Individual Colleges
- Not certified by NCAA



## STEP 2:

### FINALIZING THE COLLEGE LIST



- I will be talking to students individually about their college preferences
  - Location & Size
  - Programs & Activities
  - Academic challenge
  - Admissibility: Reach, Target, Safety ([www.go4college.com](http://www.go4college.com))
  - Personality
  
- College search tool on **[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)**
  
- College visits to TCA
  
- College tours and information sessions





# NAVIANCE

- -Electronically tracks college application process
- -Electronically communicates with colleges
- -Provides scattergrams of acceptances
- Electronically compares and contrasts applicants
- -Electronically career maps
- -Electronically uploads transcripts
- Electronically uploads LOR's
- -Expedites the application process
- -Communicates with Common Application
- -Communicates with NCAA
- -Widely accepted method of applying



## PLEASE NOTE:

- NAVIANCE DOES NOT ELECTRONICALLY SEND SAT'S/ACT's...Students must upload them off their Collegeboard accounts
- -Select view and Send Scores
- Choose College choices
- Click Send
- 4 Free Sends



# FAFSA UPDATE

- On Sept. 14, 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) process that will impact millions of students. Starting with the 2017–18 application cycle, the following changes will be put in place:
- **Students will be able to submit a FAFSA® earlier.** Students will be able to file a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The FAFSA became available January 1 as in previous years.)



# FAFSA CONTINUE

- **Students will use earlier income information.** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.



**CHANGES TO THE FAFSA PROCESS FOR 2017–18**

**SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER:** Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

**USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION:** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU WILL SUBMIT THIS FAFSA	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2015–16	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2016–17	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	2017–18	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	2018–19	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

Federal Student Aid  
AS OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

StudentAid.gov/fafsa

# STEP 3:

## APPLYING



- Aim to have all college applications submitted **BEFORE** Thanksgiving Break (Early Decision by early November)---Note FAFSA CHANGES
  - Common Application
    - [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
    - 670 Colleges and Universities accept it
    - Fill out one application and send to participating colleges/universities along with supplements
    - HBCU-<http://www.eduincoline.com>
  - Individual college applications
    - College websites
    - College fairs
    - Contacting admissions office



# NJ SCHOOLS THAT ACCEPT THE COMMON APPLICATION

1. Caldwell College
2. Centenary College New Jersey
3. The College of New Jersey
4. Drew University
5. Princeton University
6. Ramapo College of New Jersey
7. Richard Stockton College
8. Rider University
9. Rowan University
10. St. Peter's University
11. Seton Hall University
12. Steven's Institute of Technology



# TRANSCRIPTS



- General Transcript Release Form
  - Signed by Parent/Guardian giving Guidance permissions to release transcripts from our office
  - Signed once
- Specific Transcript Release Forms
- First Transcript is free (\$5.00 each add.)
  - Signed by student and/or Parent/Guardian for each specific college or scholarship
    - Where to send document
    - Application Deadline
    - Later uploaded to Naviance/Common App.



# WHEN APPLYING ONLINE, KEEP IN MIND

- Some schools waive the application fee if application is completed online
- Save the application until you are ready to submit (proofreading is important!)
- Print out confirmation page





# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



RECOMMENDED

- Ask teachers, coaches, club advisors who know them well. Ask early!!!
- Complete student profile sheet
- Counselor often asked to write a recommendation as well
- Adult Brag Sheet to help recommenders
  - Accomplishments & Meaningful experiences
  - Positive Qualities
  - Hobbies & Interests



# COLLEGE ESSAY



- Want to give the college an understanding of who you are beyond grades and test scores
  - Tell your story
  - Lessons Learned
  - Positive Qualities
- Writing ability
  - Students were advised on college essay writing in their SAT cycle
  - Have drafts done early
  - English teachers and counselors are willing proof-readers



# STEP 4:

## PAYING FOR COLLEGE



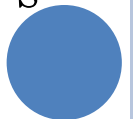
- Scholarships
  - Wide range of scholarships offered
    - Posted on TCA Guidance Website
    - Bulletin board in the cafeteria
  - Students are encouraged to apply throughout the year
- Financial Aid
- Pins are now obsolete---The FSA ID, which consists of a user-created username and password, replaced the PIN effective May, 2015. It allows users to electronically access personal information on Federal Student Aid Web sites as well as electronically sign a FAFSA.
- On the “Login” page:
- Select **Enter your (the student’s) FSA ID** to enter your username and password. Only the student should log in with an FSA ID.
- **Or**
- Select **Enter the student’s information** to enter the student's name, Social Security Number and date of birth. (You may have to enter your FSA ID later in the process).
  - After January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 you can use your PIN number to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - You will receive a report explaining how much financial aid you are entitled to
    - Federal loans and grants
    - State loans, grants, and scholarships
    - CFS intro.



# NJ STARS PROGRAM



- Program coordinated through Mercer County Community College for students who are permanent NJ residents
- Students who graduate in the top 15% (Top 6 students for TCA) of their high school class and demonstrate college readiness will have tuition and fees paid for at MCCC for up to 5 semesters (2.5 years)
  - Student must take 12-18 credits per semester
- NJ STARS II
  - Student must maintain at least a 3.25 GPA while earning their Associate's Degree
  - If meet program requirements, may be eligible to receive an award to transfer to a 4 year institution to earn their Bachelor's
  - Acceptance to a 4 year institution is not guaranteed



## SCHOLARSHIPS SITES

- RESEARCH EARLY DEADLINE DATES RANGE FROM AUGUST TO APRIL
- See Guidance Site
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [www.hesaa.org](http://www.hesaa.org)
- [www.imfirst.org](http://www.imfirst.org)
- [www.financialaidfinder.com](http://www.financialaidfinder.com)

***-Plan to attend the Financial Aid Night TBA  
in TBA January 2016***

***HESAA Representative will be present***



## TCA PARTNERSHIPS

- SHU Tuckman
- Rider STEM Grant/PLW
- Georgian Court University



# TCA SCHOOL CODE

311496

- SAT and ACT registration
  - College Applications
    - FAFSA



# MY CONTACT INFO

Mrs. Lisa A. Ford

[lford@trentoncatholic.org](mailto:lford@trentoncatholic.org)

609-586-3705 ext 130

