



# Guidance Gazette

## SENIOR MEETINGS

Starting after the Labor Day holiday, each counselor will begin calling their seniors down one at a time to discuss planning for the next step after high school. College admission requirements, ACT testing, career options, and graduation requirements are among the topics to be covered. Although not required, it would be beneficial for students to begin making a list of questions they hope to have answered during their meeting.

Additionally, a second appointment will take place this fall with the Guidance department's financial aid secretary to explain the basics of financial aid and scholarship applications. At any time, parents can call or email their student's counselor with questions or even schedule a time to meet.

## COLLEGE CREDIT CLASSES

Students taking college credit classes will receive registration information according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, August 29: **Missouri Baptist University representatives** will visit classrooms to explain the process of applying for college credit through their university.

Guidance Counselors will visit classrooms to share registration materials for college credit through **Saint Louis University and UMSL and Drury**

**Forms for ALL universities are due to Ms. McGill no later than Sept. 11, 2017.**

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

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## ACT VS. SAT

A common question in the Guidance Office is, “Are the ACT and the SAT BOTH required as part of a college application?” And also, “Is one exam preferred over the other by colleges and universities?”

Both the ACT and the SAT fulfill the same testing requirement for college admissions, so there is no need to take both. However, if a student feels as though one test is not showcasing their academics and true ability, they can certainly take both.

Key differences between the two exams:

The ACT is more popular in the Midwestern states. The SAT is more popular on coastal states. However, either should fulfill the testing requirement at a university.

The ACT is comprised of an English, math, reading, and science section. The SAT is comprised of a critical reading, math, and writing section.

The ACT has an optional writing section available for an additional cost. The SAT has a required writing portion.

The ACT is structured so that a student takes exams in the following order: English, math, reading, and science. The SAT, although only covering three areas (critical reading, math, and writing) is broken up into 10 sections. Meaning a student tests on each topic multiple times during the exam.

The ACT is scored out of 36. The SAT is scored out of 2400.

The ACT math section includes math up to trigonometry. The SAT only tests through Algebra II.

The SAT is said to focus more on vocabulary than the ACT.

ACT registration is completed online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). SAT registration is completed online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

For more information on the differences, please contact your counselor.

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

**Finding a College for You:**  
[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
[www.youniversitytv.com](http://www.youniversitytv.com)

**Financial Aid and Scholarships:**  
[www.StudentAid.gov](http://www.StudentAid.gov)  
[www.StLouisGraduates.org](http://www.StLouisGraduates.org)  
[www.StudentScholarships.org](http://www.StudentScholarships.org)  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)  
[www.studentaid2.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid2.ed.gov)

**Federal Government:**  
[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

**State of Missouri:**  
[www.dhe.mo.gov](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)

**ACT:**  
[www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org)

**Free ACT/SAT Prep websites:**  
[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)  
[www.LearningExpressLibrary.com](http://www.LearningExpressLibrary.com)

**Career Exploration:**  
[www.missouriconnections.org](http://www.missouriconnections.org)  
[www.careerinfonet.org](http://www.careerinfonet.org)



If you plan on playing NCAA Division I or II sports in college, you should have completed the NCAA Initial Eligibility form in the 2nd semester of your Junior year. If you have not yet completed this form, please do so ASAP. Go to [www.eligibilitycenter.net](http://www.eligibilitycenter.net).

NCAA now requires prospective athletes to supply ACT or SAT scores to the Clearinghouse directly from the testing agency (ACT or SAT). **Test scores shown on an official high school transcript will no longer be acceptable for NCAA purposes.**

To submit your ACT score directly to the NCAA, go to [www.actstudent.org/scores](http://www.actstudent.org/scores). The ACT code for NCAA is 9999. The cost is \$12.

Additionally, all prospective student athletes intending to enroll in an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first time must complete the **NCAA Amateurism Certification questionnaire**. (Note: If you have already registered, you will need to use your PIN to go back and complete the questionnaire.)



## ACT NEWS

### ACT Registration Information

Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (FZN High School Code: 262483)

You can create your own web account on ACT web site and make changes in your registration.

### Test Dates for 2017-2018

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 9, 2017	August 4, 2017	August 5-18, 2017
October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017	Sept.23-Oct. 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017	November 4-17, 2017
February 10, 2018	January 12, 2018	January 13-19, 2018
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018	March 10-23, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 5-18, 2018
July 14, 2018	June 15, 2018	June 16-22, 2018

#### ACT FEES

Basic Test Fee (no writing).....\$46.00

Basic Test Fee (with writing).....\$62.50

LATE REGISTRATION FEE.....\$29.50

(The total cost for late registration is \$75.50 - no writing)

Fort Zumwalt North High School is a test center for the ACT Test on the following national testing dates:

September 9, 2017

October 28, 2017

December 9, 2017

February 10, 2018

**FZN's Test Center Code is 164420**

## ACT PREP CLASSES

**St. Charles Community College** will offer two ACT preparatory courses during Fall semester 2017. These courses will prepare students for the October 28 and December 9, 2017 ACT tests. SCC has partnered with Cambridge Educational Services, who use the latest versions of the actual ACT tests to create this course. Students will study actual test questions as they develop skills and strategies for taking the ACT.

The first course will take place on seven Thursday nights (6-8:30 pm) September 14 - October 26, 2017.

The second course, also 7 sessions, runs from October 23—December 4 on Monday evenings (6-9pm).

Cost is \$149 and the book must be purchased separately at the SCC bookstore.

For more information or to register, go to:  
[www.stchas.edu/learnforlife](http://www.stchas.edu/learnforlife)

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**Webster University** offers one-day ACT Prep seminars focused on reinforcing writing skills, study techniques and test-taking preparedness. Choose from the following dates:

November 18, 2017

January 20, 2018

March 10, 2018

*All sessions 8am-2:30pm*

- ◆ All written materials will be provided
- ◆ \$50.00 registration fee
- ◆ Bring a calculator, pencil and notebook
- ◆ Lunch will be provided
- ◆ Space is limited to 65 students per session

Register @ [webster.edu/testprep](http://webster.edu/testprep)

**You must register separately for the ACT test @ [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)**

FZN School Code: 262483

## COLLEGE FAIRS

### SCC College Fair

Thursday, September 21

6 - 7:30 pm

SCC College Center Gym

Over 100 regional colleges  
will be represented!

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### National College Fair

@

### Saint Louis University

Sunday, Oct. 22

1 - 4 pm

Simon Recreation Center

To register for both fairs,  
go to:  
[www.gotocollegefairs.com](http://www.gotocollegefairs.com)

You will get a barcode you  
can take to any of the  
automated fairs. Put an  
end to filling out info  
cards at every table.  
Instead, spend your time  
talking with the schools  
and finding out what YOU  
want to know.

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### Fort Zumwalt College Fair

FZ West High School

March, 2018

Watch for details!

## COLLEGE EXPLORATION

### College & Military Visits @ FZN

Colleges, universities and military representatives are visiting FZN this Fall. Seniors are welcome to attend the college visits during the first semester. The schedule will be posted in the Guidance Office, on Parent Portal and on the FZN website. Check with the Guidance Office for the most current updates. **You must sign up in the**



*Check the DEADLINES on all applications!*

### Guidance Office to attend a college visit.

**Are you trying to decide which college is right for you?** Ask yourself these questions:

- Why do you want to go to college?
- How far away from home do you want to be?
- What size of school are you looking for?
- Do you want to be in a small town or big city?
- Do you have the grades/test scores to be admitted?
- What major are you interested in?
- Can you afford it?
- Do you want to play athletics?
- What activities are you interested in?

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**Teacher/Counselor Recommendations:** Allow two weeks notice when requesting a recommendation from your teacher or counselor. Do NOT ask for a last minute letter of recommendation. Many teachers use their personal time to write these letters. Be courteous and let them know you appreciate their effort.

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## FAFSA

[WWW.FAFSA.GOV](http://WWW.FAFSA.GOV)

You must complete and submit the FAFSA to apply for federal student aid for college or career school and for most state and institutional aid. The quickest way to apply is online using the FAFSA on the Web @ [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

Financial aid offices use information from the FAFSA to determine if you are eligible to receive federal student aid from grants, loans and work-study programs. States and schools also use the information from the FAFSA to determine if you qualify for additional aid. So be sure to fill out a FAFSA even if you think you won't qualify for federal aid.

You will be required to use a FSA ID to sign the FAFSA. To create a FSA ID, go to: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

Your FSA ID is used to sign legally binding documents electronically. It has the same legal status as a written signature. Don't give your FSA ID to anyone. Sharing your FSA ID could put you at risk of identity theft. The FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log into the FAFSA.

Starting with the Academic Year 2017-18, the traditional FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) submission date of January 1 changed to October 1. In addition, families will be able to use tax information from the prior year.

The **January 1** start date made it difficult for families to get their tax information gathered in time to complete the application.

By moving the start date up three months to **October 1**, students will have more time to fill out this vital information, they'll have tax information at hand and families will have more time to evaluate the school's financial aid award package.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & VISITING COLLEGE CAMPUSES



### ***Where can I find information on Scholarships?***

#### **In the FZN Guidance Office...**

A list of scholarship opportunities is maintained in the Guidance Office. These are mainly local businesses and civic organizations that offer scholarships to seniors. This list is updated regularly on the FZN website.

Mrs. Loesche will assist you in your research for colleges and funding opportunities. Ultimately, it is YOUR responsibility to do this research and complete the applications.

#### **At your college...**

Visit with the Financial Aid representatives at the colleges you are researching. They will be able to direct you to the scholarships available at their institutions. Also check with the specific department at the college to see if they have department scholarships available.

#### **At your parents' employer...**

Many companies offer scholarships to children of their employees. Have your parents ask their employers if they offer scholarships to graduating Seniors.

#### **At [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.StudentScholarships.org](http://www.StudentScholarships.org)...**

These are national databases of scholarships for high school and college students. Be aware that you are competing with students from all over the United States when you apply for any of these scholarships.

### ***What questions should I ask on a college visit? What information should I collect?***

The purpose of visiting a college is to find out more information about the school. However, to find out the information you want, you may need to ask some questions. If you are stumped on which questions to prepare for the college admissions staff, here is a list to get you started:

- ◆ Verify admission requirements. Do they require or recommend the ACT Writing Test?
- ◆ Discuss your chances for success in certain programs.
- ◆ Find out how to apply.
- ◆ Request a view book and other literature
- ◆ Determine college costs
- ◆ Ask about financial aid opportunities including scholarships, as well as deadlines and forms required.
- ◆ Meet with faculty in the department of your intended major.
- ◆ Find out average class size and retention/graduation rates.
- ◆ Are any classes taught by grad students?
- ◆ Ask about academic requirements/offerings.
- ◆ Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style and academic atmosphere
- ◆ Ask about the job placement record for graduates in the field you might study.
- ◆ Identify career planning services for undergraduates.
- ◆ Tour the campus and check out the residence halls, dining options and library resources.
- ◆ Talk to students about the general academic environment and amount/kind of studying necessary for success.
- ◆ Find out what student activities are available (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) and about campus life and social activities.
- ◆ Investigate transportation options (i.e. where will I go to buy shampoo and how will I get there?)

## FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOPS @ FORT ZUMWALT

### **North High**

Financial Aid/FAFSA Workshop: *Thursday, October 19 @ 6:30pm - Library*

*Seniors and parents are encouraged to complete their own FAFSA. A college financial aid professional will be on hand to answer your specific questions. Bring your 2016 tax information.*

College Planning Workshop: *Tuesday, February 13 @ 6:30pm - Auditorium*

*Juniors, sophomores and parents are welcome to begin planning for college. We will discuss the how to find the college that is right for you .*

*If you are unable to attend one of our North High workshops, you are welcome to attend a similar workshop at another FZ high school.*

### **South High**

College Financial Night: *Tuesday, October 3 @ 6:30pm-Auditorium*

### **East High**

Financial Aid Workshop: *Thursday, September 7 @ 6:30pm-Auditorium*

### **West High**

Financial Aid/FAFSA Night: *Thursday, October 12 @ 7pm-Auditorium*

### **COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

Colleges encourage students to apply on-line. Some may waive the application fee if you apply online. After you have applied online, please stop by the Guidance Office to tell Mrs. Loesche where to send your transcript.

Colleges require your official high school transcript to be sent from your high school. A college cannot process your application without it.

### **NET PRICE CALCULATOR**

All undergraduate institutions that award federal title IV financial aid are required to offer a **net price calculator** that provides students an estimated cost to attend their college.

When viewing college websites, go to **Admissions** and look for the **net price calculator**.

#### **REMINDER:**

*As required by Federal Law, the Fort Zumwalt School District will release the names , addresses and telephone numbers of students to all eligible agencies, including but not limited to, military recruiters and institutions of higher education. Parents/ Guardians or emancipated students may request that this information not be released by contacting the Guidance Office. These lists will be sent, when requested, after September 15.*

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE SIGNS ON LOCKERS

*If you would like to be recognized for your college acceptance, bring a copy of your acceptance letter to Mrs. Loesche in the Guidance office. She will make sure that you get a sign on your locker.*





## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) VS. COLLEGE CREDIT

### College Credit vs. AP (Advanced Placement)

*What is the difference between a college credit class and an AP class?*

*What is the difference between the credit awarded?*

- ◆ College credit classes are taught by North High teachers who have been certified by the colleges that we work with. College credit classes are offered through the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri Baptist University and Saint Louis University. When you choose to take a college credit class, you pay the cooperating university at the beginning of the semester, approximately \$65 per credit hour. The college will award credit for any grade C or higher and a transcript will be available from that university. When a student graduates, he/she will request the college transcript to be sent from the cooperating college to the college they plan to attend.
- ◆ AP classes are taught by the teachers that been certified by CollegeBoard. The classes have a comprehensive, rigorous test at the end of the semester, which cost \$92 per test. The student will send an official report of their score(s) from CollegeBoard to the college they are attending. The score required to obtain credit from the college that a student plans to attend can vary.
- ◆ Several of our classes offer both options, college credit and AP. Students can choose to take advantage of one or both options.
- ◆ Students are NOT REQUIRED to participate in either the college credit or AP options for any of the eligible classes. Any student can take the class and will always receive the weighted grade on their North High transcript.
- ◆ If a student elects to take advantage of college credit or AP, it is the STUDENT'S responsibility to listen to the informational presentations and meet all registration deadlines.

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*By taking advantage of college credit classes and AP classes, you can greatly reduce the overall cost of attending a 4-year university. Tuition at public universities in Missouri averages \$280 per credit hour and tuition at private universities in Missouri can cost from \$760 to \$1300 per credit hour.*

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## College Credit Information

- Automatic registration is 3.0 G.P.A. Students with a 2.5 -2.99 are eligible with letters from their counselor and asst. principal.
- **READ** your bulletin for course #'s, titles, and class offering (which University)
- Fall 2017, you only register for yearlong classes and/or 1<sup>st</sup> semester classes only. Spring 2018 register for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester classes only.
- Deadlines are deadlines!!! Registration process needs to be completed for MO Baptist, SLU, and UMSL by **Monday, September 11, 2017**. Drury University needs to be completed and turned in to McGill by **Monday, September 18, 2017**.
- Remember Mo Baptist – you need an 18 on the English portion of your ACT to take AP Lang and Adv. Comp.
- There are 5 year-long classes that you pay 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester separately. They are West. Civ., AP Chemistry, AP Lang & Comp, AP Lit & Comp, and AP Psychology.

### University Costs:

MO Baptist: Cost is \$65.00/credit hour. Paper registration.

**\*Must have 18 on English portion of ACT to register for English classes through MO Baptist**

SLU: Cost is \$65.00/credit hour. On-line registration only.

UMSL: Cost is \$66.00/credit hour. On-line registration only.

Drury University: Cost is \$70/credit hour. Paper registration. Has to be paid when you register.





*Do you want to use study guides, take practice tests or do research from the comfort of your own home? There is a solution! At Fort Zumwalt North High students, staff and parents have access to our Gale Databases from everywhere with an internet connection. There are 11 different databases available. Each database offers some very unique opportunities for study or for research. The Gale databases are filled with current information and updated on a regular basis.*

*As a leading edtech and digital nonfiction content provider, Gale is committed to delivering authoritative, curriculum-aligned resources to improve student engagement, encourage collaboration, and foster critical thinking.*

### **Access GALE Databases:**

#### From a school computer:

Locate the Gale Databases Icon on your computer and open

Click on North High

Click on Gale testing and education reference center

Find Materials that interest you

#### From Home:

Go to NHS website [nhs.fz.k12.mo.us](http://nhs.fz.k12.mo.us)

Click on Academics

Click on Library

Scroll down to find Gale Databases link

Click on High Schools, then North High

## FIRST SEMESTER TESTING

During first semester there will be a series of tests given to our students. Detailed information for the tests will be given at a later date. Below you will find an overview of the tests that will be administered.

Beginning in mid-September, registration will begin for the October **PSAT**. The PSAT is only given once a year on a nationally set date in October. This year it will be held on Wednesday, October 11th. North High will administer this exam to sophomores and juniors who have registered in advance. Spaces are limited, so students should register to test as soon as they receive notification to do so. The PSAT is offered at no cost to North High students.

Although the PSAT is not a test used in college admissions, many sophomores and juniors take it as preparation and practice for upcoming college admission tests like the ACT and SAT. JUNIORS who score high enough on the exam may be eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

For more information on the PSAT, contact Becky Sieve at [bsieve@fz.k12.mo.us](mailto:bsieve@fz.k12.mo.us).

The ASVAB Career Explorations test is a career planning program designed to explore opportunities through a series of aptitude tests and an interest inventory. This test will be given to a select group of seniors in November.



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*Are you interested in Lewis & Clark Tech School?  
Watch for more information in the October edition  
of the Guidance Gazette.*

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## UPCOMING DATES

### Fall Semester 2017

Saturday, September 9	ACT Test
Monday, September 11	Deadline for ALL College Credit enrollment forms
Thursday, September 21	College Fair @ SCC
Friday, September 22	Deadline to register for the October ACT Test
Thursday, October 19	Financial Aid/FAFSA Workshop at FZN Library - 6:30pm
Sunday, October 22	National College Fair @ Saint Louis University
Saturday, October 28	ACT Test
Friday, November 3	Deadline to register for the December ACT Test
Saturday, December 9	ACT Test

### Spring Semester 2018

Friday, January 12	Deadline to register for the February ACT Test
Saturday, February 10	ACT Test
Tuesday, February 13	College Planning Workshop @ FZN Auditorium -6:30pm
Friday, March 9	Deadline to register for the April ACT Test
Saturday, April 14	ACT Test (Not offered at FZN on this date)
Tuesday, May 1	Senior Awards Night
Friday, May 4	Deadline to register for the June ACT Test
Saturday, May 26	Graduation
Saturday, June 9	ACT Test (Not offered at FZN on this date)
Saturday, July 14	ACT Test

## GUIDANCE STAFF

**Nita McGill**—Counselor (A-Fi)

**Karen Wilson**—Director of Guidance/  
Counselor (FL-LA)

**Amanda Peters**—Counselor (Le-Ri)

**Becky Sieve**—Counselor (Ro-Z)

**Becky Taylor**—Crisis Counselor

**Ann Woods**—Registrar

**Julee Loesche**—Financial Aid Secretary

**Karen Berich**—Guidance Clerk