

Guidance Gazette



ACT TEST FOR ALL JUNIORS

On Tuesday, April 24, all juniors will take the ACT test at North High. This is an official test and the score will be added to the students' transcripts. This score can be sent to colleges for admission purposes. There is no charge to the students for this test. Please encourage your student to do their best, to get rest the night before and eat a good breakfast.

To prepare for the ACT, use the Gale Databases.



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

Click on Academics

Click on Library

Scroll down to find Gale Databases link

Click on High Schools, then North High

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SPRING TESTING

End of Course (EOC) Exams

April 23-27 English II and Biology
 April 30– May 4 Algebra I, Algebra II and Government

AP Exams

To register, bring your exam registration form plus a check or money order for \$94 (payable to FZN) to Ms. McGill, our AP Coordinator. The College Board provides a fee reduction per exam for students with acute financial need. Fee Reduction students take the test at no charge.

If you pay for an AP exam then decide not to take it, you may ask your Coordinator for a refund, but only if you did not begin the exam. Once you begin the exam—that is, once you write on the booklet or answer sheet—you cannot receive a refund.

Deadline to pay for AP test: Monday, March 19, 2018

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Finding a College for You:
www.collegeview.com
www.collegeboard.org
www.collegedata.com
www.youniversitytv.com

Financial Aid and Scholarships:
www.StudentAid.gov
www.StLouisGraduates.org
www.StudentScholarships.org
www.finaid.org
www.fastweb.com
www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
www.studentaid2.ed.gov

Federal Government:
ww.fafsa.gov
www.bls.gov
www.ed.gov

State of Missouri:
www.dhe.mo.gov

ACT:
ACT.org

Free ACT/SAT Prep websites:
www.number2.com
www.LearningExpressLibrary.com

Career Exploration:
www.missouriconnections.org
www.careerinfonet.org

AP Test Dates

May 7, 8am	Chemistry	May 14, 8am	Biology
May 7, 12pm	Psychology	May 14, 8am	Music Theory
May 8, 12pm	Physics	May 15, 8am	Calculus AB
May 8, 12pm	Art History	May 15, 8am	Calculus BC
May 9, 8am	English Literature	May 15, 12pm	Computer Science
May 10, 8am	US Government	May 16, 8am	English Language
May 11	Studio Art due	May 17, 8am	Comparative Govt. & Politics
May 11, 8am	U. S. History	May 17, 8am	World History
		May 17, 12pm	Statistics

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for something fun and educational to do this summer?

Check out the list of summer camp opportunities on the Guidance webpage:



nhs.fz.k12.mo.us ⇨ **Guidance** ⇨ **Summer Opportunities**

Many local and regional colleges host summer enrichment camps for high school students. Some of these are day camps and some are residential camps. The list posted on our website gives a brief description, cost and dates of the various camps. See Mrs. Loesche in Guidance for more information on specific camps.



Register at 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

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>(Late Fee Required)</u>
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)

FZN's Test Center Code is 164420

FIVE THINGS COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICERS LOOK FOR

To get the attention of college admissions officers, your students need to distinguish themselves from other candidates. To increase your student's chances of getting in, their application materials should show:

- 1. A fit between their intentions and the school's program.** They'll need to demonstrate some qualities that show that they know themselves, understand the school and its mission, and have a plan in mind to succeed in school and use their training in their planned career or field.
- 2. A sense of their personality.** Schools want to hear a voice in the application essay. They want to know what your student values and what drives his or her interests. Avoid making laundry lists of achievements or bragging. It tends to create the synthetic sense of someone trying to play up qualities and make an impression.
- 3. The ability to succeed academically or in their planned career.** Their grades, test scores, and letters of recommendation will convey whether they're prepared for a higher education.
- 4. A constructive us of their time outside school.** Your student should show that they pursue their interests when not doing schoolwork. This could mean volunteer or community-related work, a hobby, or clubs and associations joined in school.
- 5. The passion to achieve their goals.** Their essay should show an understanding of how their higher education feeds into their life's goals. It should also show what those goals mean to them.

Rob Davenport with AIE.org

ACT PREP CLASSES

St. Charles Community College will offer ACT preparatory courses during Spring semester 2018. These courses will prepare students for the June 9, & July 14, 2018 tests. Students will study actual test questions as they develop skills and strategies for taking the ACT.

1. Thursdays 4/19 - 5/31 on (6-8:30 pm).

2. Wednesdays 5/23 - 7/11 (6-8:30 pm).

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

****Get \$5 off the class, use discount code PEACHJAR.****

Webster University offers one-day ACT Prep seminars focused on reinforcing writing skills, study techniques and test-taking preparedness.

March 10, 2018

8am-2:30pm

All written materials will be provided

\$50.00 registration fee

Bring a calculator and notebook

Lunch will be provided

Register @ webster.edu/testprep

You must register separately for the ACT test @

www.actstudent.org

FZN School Code:

262483

COLLEGE FAIRS

Fort Zumwalt West

Thursday, March 8
6:30 - 8:00 pm
FZW Gymnasium

MOACAC Spring College Fair

Sunday, April 22
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Maryville University
Simon Athletic Center

To register, go to:
www.strivefair.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.

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**.

COLLEGE EXPLORATION

College & Military Visits

Colleges, universities and military representatives visited FZN this Fall and many will return for another visit during second semester. Seniors AND Juniors are welcome to attend the college visits during second semester. The schedule will be posted in the Guidance Office and on the FZ District website. Check with the Guidance Office for the most current updates. You must sign up in the 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?

Answer these questions for YOURSELF, NOT based on what your friends are doing!



Check the DEADLINES on all applications!

FEDERAL STUDENT AID & FAFSA

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.

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.

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.

Academic Year 2018-19: Submit your FAFSA beginning October 1, 2017. Use income tax info from 2016.

SPRING IS A GREAT TIME FOR A COLLEGE VISIT!

How do I plan and schedule a college visit?

Spring is a great time to visit colleges. If you plan to visit colleges during Spring Break, make sure to check if the college you plan to visit is on break the same week as FZN. You will get a better idea of your “fit” if you visit a college when classes are in session and students are on campus. Timing of your visit is crucial if you’re to get an accurate impression of the school. For example, if you plan your trip around a homecoming weekend or holiday, you probably won’t witness the typical campus atmosphere.



Most colleges offer a variety of opportunities to visit campus. Some offer Open House events where students are invited to visit campus on a specific date. At a college open house, you are more likely to be able to meet representatives from the school’s organizations such as clubs, sororities, fraternities, student government, etc. College websites will post open house dates on their websites under *ADMISSIONS*. Additionally, there is a list of regional college open house events posted on the FZN Counseling website under *COLLEGE OPEN HOUSES*.

Colleges also offer individual personalized campus visits where students can get a campus tour, meet with an Admissions Representative and meet with professors and students from a particular department. Most colleges and universities have an online form on their website to complete for scheduling a campus visit. Other options include contacting the admissions office by phone or e-mail.

If you cannot find time to travel to visit a college, check their website to see if they offer a VIRTUAL tour. www.campustours.com allows you to virtually tour thousands of colleges from your computer.

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?)

CHANGES IMPACTING THE FAFSA

Two major changes to the FAFSA took effect for the 2017-18 school year.

1. The FAFSA will be available earlier (October 1 of the previous year, instead of January 1 of the upcoming school year).
2. The FAFSA will collect income information from an earlier tax year.

Here is a table with a summary of the changes:

When a Student is Attending College (School Year)	When a Student Can Submit a FAFSA	Which Year's Income Information is Required
July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017-June 30, 2019	2016
July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020	October 1, 2018-June 30, 2020	2017
July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021	October 1, 2019-June 30, 2021	2018
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022	October 1, 2020-June 30, 2022	2019

1. **The FAFSA will be available earlier.** Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, applicants are now able to complete a FAFSA as early as October 1 of the previous year.
2. **The FAFSA will require information from an earlier tax year.** Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will report income information from two years prior.

US Department of Education; September 2015

Apply! Apply! Apply for SCHOLARSHIPS! You will not receive a scholarship if you don't apply.

UPCOMING DATES

Spring Semester 2018

Thursday, March 8	Fort Zumwalt District College Fair @ FZ West High
Friday, March 9	Deadline to register for the April ACT Test
Saturday, April 14	ACT Test (Not offered at FZN on this date)
Sunday, April 22	College Fair @ Maryville University
Tuesday, April 24	ACT test for Juniors @ FZN
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



COUNSELING STAFF

Nita McGill—Counselor (A—Fi)

Karen Wilson—Director and Counselor (FL-LA)

Amanda Peters—Counselor (Le—Ri)

Becky Sieve—Counselor (Ro—Z)

Rebecca Taylor—Crisis Counselor

Ann Woods—Registrar

Julee Loesche—Financial Aid Secretary

Karen Berich—Guidance Clerk