

Junior Guidance News

➤➤➤ <http://mps.mpsomaha.org/mshs/academics/guidance/msguid.html>

Junior Year is the Time to VISIT CAMPUS!

Time to visit campus! This time of year is a perfect opportunity to start visiting college campuses. Each school's website will allow you to schedule your visit. If you need any help arranging your visit, stop by and see your counselor. Here are some questions to ask during your visit:

- ◆ How much time do students typically spend on homework?
- ◆ How much writing and reading are expected?
- ◆ What is the average class size of introductory classes?
- ◆ How widely used are teaching assistants on your campus?
- ◆ What is the average class size of upper-division course?
- ◆ What opportunities are there for undergraduate research?
- ◆ How many students participate in undergraduate research?
- ◆ Is there a culminating senior year experience?
- ◆ Do you have an honors college?
- ◆ Do you have a learning community or other freshman experience?
- ◆ What is your average financial aid package?
- ◆ What is the typical breakdown of loans versus grants?
- ◆ What percentage of financial need does the school typically meet?
- ◆ What is the average merit award?
- ◆ What percentage of students receive college grants?
- ◆ What is the average college debt that students leave with?
- ◆ What work-study opportunities are there?

Get more suggestions at <http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/the-college-solution/2010/10/19/36-questions-to-ask-on-a-college-visit>



ACT/SAT TESTING FOR COLLEGE ENTRY

Some juniors have been asking their counselors and advisors "should I take the ACT or SAT now or later?" We encourage ALL college-bound juniors to take the ACT and/or SAT during 2nd semester of their junior year. The reason for waiting until 2nd semester is that a number of the questions used in the ACT or SAT relate to courses that juniors are currently taking. Taking the test earlier in the year means that the student has not had enough of the proper coursework to tackle these tests well. Remember to register early so you can take the test at Millard South. Taking the ACT at your home school is highly recommended. Students who register at the last minute may not get assigned to Millard South. Testing in the 2nd semester of the junior year permits an early introduction to the tests with ample opportunities to re-test later. Over 60% of the Millard students who re-test improved their scores. Colleges & scholarship organizations use the best score. Therefore, there is nothing to lose and everything to gain if you test during 2nd semester, then re-take at least once perhaps more. Becoming familiar with the content and format is one of the best preparations for the test. The registration packet contains a booklet with sample questions. You do not need to register for the April test. Registration packets are available in the Counseling Center or you can register on-line at ACT www.actstudent.org SAT www.collegeboard.com

| ACT | | SAT | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Test Date | Registration Deadline | Test Date | Registration Deadline |
| 12/10/16 | 11/4/16 | 12/03/16 | 11/03/16 |
| 02/11/17 | 01/06/17 | 01/21/17 | 12/21/16 |
| 04/19/17 * | | 03/11/17 | 02/10/17 |
| 06/10/17 | 05/05/17 | 05/06/17 | 04/07/17 |
| *no need to register—this is the Millard test day for all juniors | | 06/03/17 | 05/09/17 |

Free ACT Prep—All students have access to free ACT prep via Naviance. Once you log into Naviance, on the Home Page you will see the link to Naviance TestPrep on the left hand side of the page under 'resources'. This is a great way to prepare for the test!

College Reps Visiting Millard South



A number of colleges & universities send representatives to high schools to visit with prospective students. The representatives that come to Millard South schedule a time in the Counseling Center for interested students to stop and talk with them. You are encouraged to come and listen to what the rep has to say, get materials, and ask questions. Getting to know the rep at some schools can pay off in the form of scholarship dollars or admission to special programs. Before you meet with any visiting college reps you must sign up **IN ADVANCE** on your Naviance account. If you add colleges you are interested in to 'my colleges' on your Naviance page, an email reminder will be sent to you when/if those colleges arrange visits at Millard South.

Juniors . . . start researching colleges. If you narrow your college choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

- ♦ Review *College Profiles* at EducationQuest.org for information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country. If you're interested in an out-of-state school, check out the [Midwest Student Exchange Program](#) to learn about options for discounts on tuition.
- ♦ Meet with college representatives who visit your school, and then visit the websites of the colleges that interest you to learn more about the schools.
- ♦ Once you've narrowed your choices, schedule campus visits. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are still in session.

For more tips, see the [Selecting a College](#) section at EducationQuest.org

Upcoming On-Campus Programs

These are GREAT opportunities to get on campus and learn about all of the opportunities available to you. NOW is the time to start your college planning.



November 4 & November 8



DOANE
COLLEGE

Tiger Overnight - November 6 & November 7
Science Overnight - November 13 & November 14
Theatre Day - November 21



November 19



Performing Arts - November 20