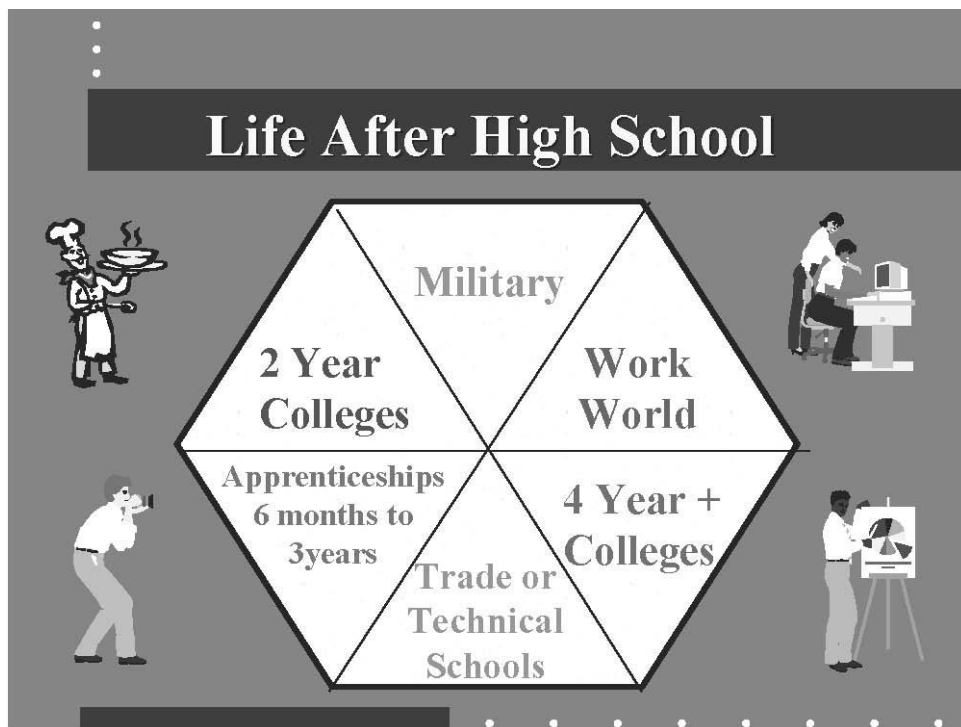


The Junior Year:

Decisions Ahead

2011-2012

Time to Plan...



Time to Get Prepared...

This booklet was created by NEISD counselors for NEISD students and parents.

Table of Contents

Options After High School	3 thru 6
College Application Process/Testing	7 thru 16
Graduation Requirements	17 thru 18
NEISD Rank in Class Policy & GPA	19 thru 20
Sample Résumé	21
Military Academies	22
Helpful Websites	23 thru 24
High School and College Tips	25

NEISD GUIDANCE SERVICES

Mission Statement

The mission of the North East Independent School District Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program, in partnership with parents, school and community, is to provide a system of services which fosters the academic, career, personal, and social development of all students.

Our goal is to empower children to reach their maximum potential and become caring, productive, and responsible citizens.

THE JUNIOR YEAR . . . THE DECISIONS AHEAD

Here you are, having arrived at the beginning of your junior year, with half of high school behind you. During your junior and senior years, you will make decisions that will affect your life for decades to come.

FOUR CHOICES AFTER GRADUATION

You will probably choose one of four options: work, military service, career/trade/technical training or college. Look at each option as it is discussed below and relate it to what you already know about yourself.

1. **WORK** - How can you prepare for it now? You should do some research about job opportunities in the immediate future and for long-range planning. You can learn a great deal about careers by...



- VISITING your school's Career/GO Center to utilize career materials such as The Occupational Outlook Handbook, Interest Inventories, My College QuickStart at: www.collegeboard.com/quick, computerized job descriptions, etc.
- CHECKING the library for the dozens of books about different careers.
- EXPLORING career and educational web sites.
- LOOKING for newspaper/magazine articles about occupations and future trends in employment.
- PARTICIPATING in a CO-OP work program during your senior year.

On-Line Job Searches: Employment Opportunities

www.bls.gov/oco - Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the U.S. Department of Labor's Department of Labor Statistics; provides information about employment in hundreds of occupations; offers detailed discussions of each occupation, including degrees, training, and other qualifications required; provides employment outlook and sources of additional information.

www.ajb.dni.us - America's Job Bank (sponsored by the Department of Labor) listing over 500,000 job opportunities.

www.careers.org - Career Resource Center which includes national and international job opportunities.

www.jobbankusa.com - Career Search providing information on jobs in the military, technology, medical, legal, and other fields.

www.careerbuilder.com - Career Search site providing high school students with a look at real jobs in the real world.

www.monster.com - Parent company of FastWeb providing job and career information, including résumé building information.

www.mapping-your-future.org - Mapping your future includes links to various financial institutions serving as educational funding sponsors.

2. MILITARY SERVICE - Joining the military enables you to serve your country, earn a salary right away, earn your college degree while in the service, or have the government pay for a large part of your college expenses after you leave the service.

If the military service is your best choice after graduation, how can you prepare for it now?

You can...

- **TALK to the recruiters** from the various services. Most branches of the service have recruiters who will visit your campus. Not all services offer the same opportunities. You need to find out what each one offers and what your obligation is in return.
- **TAKE the A.S.V.A.B.** (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test. It may be offered on your campus or you may contact a recruiting office for the next test date. The scores might point the way to surprising opportunities in the service.
- **JOIN the Jr. R.O.T.C.** to begin military training early and have an advantage in rank after you join the service.
- See the military information at the end of this booklet and check with your counselor about specialized military opportunities, such as, the military academies, R.O.T.C. scholarships, the National Guard, and reserve programs. Some of these require preparation during the junior year.



Selective Service Registration

www.sss.gov - All males must register within 30 days of 18th birthday. Those who do not register will **not** be eligible for financial aid.



3. CAREER/TRADE/TECHNICAL TRAINING - Getting additional training after high school usually means that you start work later, but you may also have an advantage over someone without the extra knowledge and skills that you've acquired from additional training. The Texas Common application is at www.applytexas.org

If a career/trade/technical program is your best choice after graduation, how can you prepare for it now? You can...

- ✓ Attend the **NEISD Career Night**. The date and time will be announced at a later date. Area businesses will have representatives available to answer career questions. Your counselor will have the dates and details or check the website: <http://www.neisd.net/curriculum/CurComp/guide/guideindex.html>
- ✓ In addition to doing job research, check out the schools that interest you. This year and again during your senior year, visit with the representatives from Northwest Vista College, Palo Alto College, San Antonio College, St. Philip's College, Northeast Lakeview, and others when they come to your campus.
- ✓ Participate in your campus's career prep and technical programs offered on and off campus.
- ✓ Check out Alamo Community Colleges website: www.accd.edu

4. COLLEGE - The obvious purpose of going to college is to become a more educated and well-rounded person in addition to learning a great deal about one particular field. A college education usually means greater earnings over the span of a lifetime.



If college is your best choice after graduation, how can you prepare for it now?

Take the PSAT, the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, which will be given at your campus in October. This test is a shorter version of the SAT Reasoning Test, one of the two college entrance exams you are encouraged to take this spring. In addition to being the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, the PSAT also gives you the opportunity to see what a college entrance exam is like.

Practice completing sample test items available at...

Testing Information Web Sites (for practice tests or review)

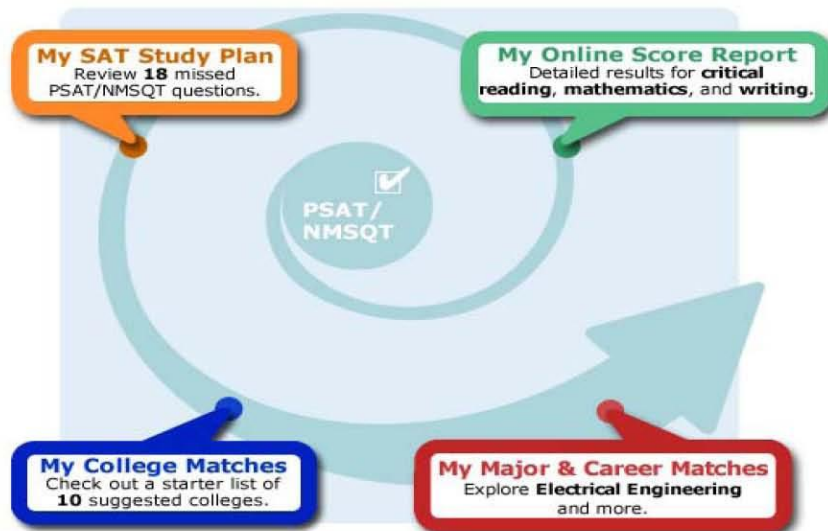
SAT and SAT Subject Tests www.collegeboard.com
ACT www.act.org
THEA www.thea.nesinc.com

Other Testing Study Aides

College Power Prep for SAT and ACT www.powerprep.com
Web ware for SAT tutorials www.testprep.com
Vocabulary words to study www.seldeen.com/sat
Wordsmyth SAT Dictionary of 2,000 words www.wordsmyth.net
SAT prep study www.number2.com

When you receive your PSAT Score Report in January, an access code number (Example code number: E247360700T) will be listed at three places. Use this access code number to find a personalized list of colleges, majors, and careers using “My College QuickStart” at: www.collegeboard.com/quick

My College QuickStart™



A Guided Tour

Next >



Attend NEISD’s College Night with your parents at Blossom Athletic Center in October. Representatives will be available from numerous colleges, military services, and technical schools. You will have an opportunity to visit with several representatives of your choice and will be able to pick up catalogs and materials from others. Use your junior year to research your interests and aptitudes as well as exploring which colleges that might be good choices for you.

Attend Career Night with your parents. The date and time will be announced. Area businesses will have representatives available to answer career questions. Your counselor will have the details.

An agency known as COSTEP sponsors a program which provides free information about financial aid and can be reached at 1-800-949-6371. COSTEP representatives can help you and your parents complete the FAFSA financial aid form. www.costep.org.

Career Search Websites...

www.careers.org - Career Resource Center which includes national and international job opportunities.

www.careerbuilder.com - Career Search site providing high school students with a look at real jobs in the real world.

www.monster.com - Parent company of FastWeb providing job and career information, including résumé building information.

THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE PROCESS

1. GATHERING INFORMATION AND CHOOSING SEVERAL LIKELY SCHOOLS

- ✓ **First**, know yourself as an individual, especially your academic strengths and weaknesses.
- ✓ **Second**, prioritize the things that are most important to you. Consider such things as two-year or four-year college, courses of study offered, degrees awarded, entrance requirements, location, size, type and lifestyle of student body, environment around the college and the average cost.
- ✓ **Third**, remember that choosing a college is a very personal and individual matter.

A college visit is most helpful in making the final decision about which college is best for you.

Many colleges offer special visitation programs for this purpose.

- **Write or call** the admissions office to set up an appointment.
- **Spend a weekend** on campus and visit with a professor, talk with students about how they like the school or visit classes.
- **Tour the campus** - visit with the financial aid officer, admissions counselor, etc.
- **Have a written list** of questions to ask when you get to the campus, so do your homework first.
- **Read the catalog** and know the basic information ahead of time.
- **Check out** the environment around the college.
- **Do you want** to live in a big city or a small college town?
- **Books** that give personal evaluations and college bound tips...

The Insider's Guide to the Colleges, 2008

The New Rules of College Admissions, 2006

Most Frequently Requested Texas College Web Sites

www.utexas.edu - University of Texas at Austin
www.tamu.edu - Texas A & M University
www.aggiecorps.org - Texas A & M University Corp of Cadets
www.utsa.edu - University of Texas at San Antonio
www.accd.edu - Northwest Vista, Palo Alto, St. Philip's, San Antonio Colleges
www.uiw.edu - University of the Incarnate Word
www.stmarys.edu - St. Mary's University
www.ollusa.edu - Our Lady of the Lake University
www.tlu.edu - Texas Lutheran University
www.txstate.edu - Texas State University
www.ttu.edu - Texas Tech University
www.baylor.edu - Baylor University
www.tcu.edu - Texas Christian University
www.blinncol.edu - Blinn College
www.tstc.edu - Texas State Technical College (all campuses)
www.trinity.edu - Trinity University

College Information

www.embark.com - Comprehensive information with good graphics
www.collegeboard.com - Provides services- on-line registration for SAT, AP, financial aid calculators, etc.
www.collegexpress.com - Information about private colleges, including college search and admissions tips
www.collegefortexans.com- Resources for preparing for applying for and funding higher education, including information for military children
www.petersons.com - Publisher of a number of college guides offering information about pre-college programs, test preparation, colleges and universities, financing education, distance learning, careers and vocational /technical education, studying abroad, special schools, and more
www.collegiate.net - Detailed page providing links to university home pages; allows for college searching; gives general information about college admissions, majors, and programs

www.nacac.com College fair news.
www.campustours.com Links to virtual tours of college campuses.
www.miskatonic.net/university/ivy.html Shortcut for selective colleges in the country.
www.yahoo.com/education Allows searching for a home page or following other links to home pages of thousands of colleges and universities, as well as other educational information.
www.review.com Provides SAT/ACT review, a database of the best undergraduate, graduate, medical, law, and business schools, plus hot links to individual college home pages.
www.schoolsintheusa.com College information classified by majors.
www.texasmentor.org College information.
www.wiredscholar.com College information.
www.cprofiles2000.com College information.
www.campussafety.org College security on campus.
www.allcampus.com Provides information about college life (and takes a while to download).
www.black-collegian.com Information on college life and commentary by leading African-American writers.
www.greekpages.com Information regarding sororities and fraternities on campus.
www.ubp.com Links to historically black colleges and universities, fraternities and sororities, and African-American student groups
www.supercollege.com college information

The High School **GO CENTER/CAREER CENTER** is available to all students and parents to assist in career and college preparation. The **GO CENTER/CAREER CENTER** is located in the Counseling Office area and provides students with career/college information, college catalogs, and computers. The **GO CENTER/CAREER CENTER** clerks/personnel are available to assist students with information in career/college searches, college admission, FAFSA, the Apply Texas Common application, and scholarship information. The **GO CENTER/CAREER CENTER** is open from 8:00-4:30 daily.

2. TAKING THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

There are **two** major tests used for college entrance: the **ACT** and the **SAT** Reasoning Test. All colleges in Texas will accept either the ACT or the SAT. Plan to take the ACT or the SAT in the **SPRING** of your **junior year**.

TESTS-TESTS-TESTS

Testing Information Web Sites (for practice tests or review)

SAT and SAT Subject Tests	www.collegeboard.com
ACT	www.act.org
THEA	www.thea.nesinc.com

Other Testing Study Aides

College Power Prep for SAT and ACT	www.powerprep.com
Web ware for SAT tutorials	www.testprep.com
Vocabulary words to study	www.seldeen.com/sat
Wordsmyth SAT Dictionary of 2,000 words	www.wordsmyth.net
SAT prep study site	www.number2.com

TAKS Texas Assessment of Knowledge of Skills

Before a diploma will be awarded, all graduates must demonstrate mastery in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies as measured by the state required TAKS Exit level test.

The 2011-2012 State Assessment Calendar can be found at <http://www.neisd.net/test/documents/DistrictTestingDates2011-2012.pdf>.

Check with your high school campus for TAKS tutoring sessions offered before and after school and on Saturdays.

REGISTERING FOR TESTS

You may register one of two ways.

1. Paper copy--Pick up registration packet(s) for the **ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests** in the Counseling Office. Take the packet home, choose a test center, fill out the registration form, put your check in the envelope, and mail. This method should be reserved for only those students who do not have access to a computer.

2. Online--It is easy to **register online (SAT and SAT Subject Tests www.collegeboard.com or ACT www.act.org)** for your test(s) of choice at the respective web site(s) listed on each testing calendar. You will receive a ticket in the mail for admittance to the test or you may print your ticket if registering online. Your scores will be reported to you four to six weeks after you have taken the test. You may also utilize the computers in the **GO CENTER/CAREER CENTER** to register.

Your strengths determine which test may be better for you to take. You can always take both the ACT and the SAT! Many students do. Colleges will take your highest score from a single test administration for the ACT and the best scores from any test date for the SAT.

ACT

www.act.org

The **ACT** attempts to measure skills closely related to the content of courses in the high school curriculum in four areas; English, math, reading, and science reasoning. It reports those four scores, which are averaged together to form a composite score. Each of the four scores as well as the composite score can range from 0 to 36, with approximately 21 being the national average last year.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	<i>(Late Fee Required)</i>
9/10/2011	8/12/2011	8/13/2011 – 8/26/2011
10/22/2011	9/16/2011	9/17/2011 – 9/30/2011
12/10/2011	11/4/2011	11/5/2011 -11/18/2011
2/11/2012	1/13/2012	1/14/2012 – 1/20/2012
4/14/2012	3/9/2012	3/10/2012 – 3/23/2012
6/9/2012	5/4/2012	5/5/2012 – 5/18/2012

SAT

www.collegeboard.com

The **SAT Reasoning Test** attempts to measure your ability to do college-level work in the critical reading/math/writing areas. The new SAT has changed - the analogies section has been eliminated while critical reading questions have been added, and a writing sample is now required. Each section of the test will be scored using a scale from 200-800. A perfect score will be a 2400.

2011-2012 Test Dates	Test	Registration Deadline (postmark/submit by)	Late Fee applies until:
October 1, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests	September 9, 2011	September 21, 2011
November 5, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests	October 7, 2011	October 21, 2011
December 3, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests	November 8, 2011	November 20, 2011
January 28, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	December 30, 2011	January 13, 2012
March 10, 2012	SAT only	February 10, 2012	February 24, 2012
May 5, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	April 6, 2012	April 20, 2012
June 2, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	May 8, 2012	May 22, 2012

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

www.collegeboard.com

The **SAT Subject Tests** are required by some colleges as a second step in testing and is generally not used for admissions but for placement in the proper levels of freshman course work. Check with your college to determine if you need to take SAT Subject Tests. The SAT Subject Tests measure specific knowledge from specific courses you are supposed to have taken in high school.

THEA

Texas Higher Education Assessment <http://www.thea.nesinc.com/>

Since the fall of 1998, all students must take the THEA prior to enrolling in a Texas public university or college unless they are exempt. Students with below passing scores on any section of the test are required to enroll in a developmental/remedial program each semester until they pass the THEA in all three areas. Students may be exempt based on their scores on the SAT, ACT, and TAKS. HOWEVER, you must check with the college you plan to attend for specifics since exemptions differ from college to college. Registration materials are available in the Counseling Office and the Career Center. See your counselor for additional information.

ASVAB

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery is one of the best aptitude tests available. This test is recommended for any students but especially for those considering any branch of the military as a possible career. However, taking the test does not commit you to any military service. It does offer you great information about your abilities.

AP EXAMS

Advanced Placement

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>

Advanced Placement exams are offered in many content areas for college credit. The test results have no direct impact on college admission. They do demonstrate a student's ability to function at a rigorous college level. Students receiving scores of 3, 4, or 5 "**may**" receive college credit for these courses. Check your college's policy on AP exams.

Registration and testing are done in the spring semester.

CEEB CODES

The **CEEB codes** will be needed for ACT, SAT, AP exams, and college applications.

CHURCHILL	446-273
ISA	446-144
JOHNSON	446-093
LEE	446-203
MACARTHUR	446-132
MADISON	446-154
REAGAN	446-207
ROOSEVELT (DATA & ETA)	446-258

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

NEISD offers numerous dual credit courses. These are courses taken that count for both high school and college credit. These college credits generally transfer to any state public college. Students planning to attend private or out-of-state schools should contact the university advising office.

The Dual Credit Program is a partnership between North East ISD and San Antonio College.

Dual Credit is :

- ✓ a program that allows eligible high school students to earn college credit for certain courses such as English, math, science, and foreign languages. (The offerings vary from campus to campus.)
- ✓ a curriculum that adheres to college level standards. (As with all transferring courses, it is up to the accepting college or university to honor dual credit work.)
- ✓ is free to North East eligible students on their home campus while they are taking high school courses for high school graduation credit.

Expectations of the Dual Credit Program

- Students will complete requirements of both the high school curriculum and the college-level curriculum concurrently.
- Students will honor all enrollment deadlines and requirements.
- Students will contact their college or university of intent for acceptability of transferring credits prior to graduation.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a dual credit program, a North East student must:

- meet one of these requirements:
 - Earn an SAT total score of 1070 or more, with a score of at least 500 each on the critical reading and math portions of the test.
 - Earn an ACT composite score of 23 or more, with a score of at least 19 each on the English and math portions of the test.
 - Take the THEA and meet course eligibility requirements.
- Complete and submit all paperwork:
 - Dual Credit Checklist
 - Consent Form
 - Military Verification Form (only if student's parent is on active military duty)
 - Complete the Texas Common Application at www.applytexas.org if you are a first-time Dual Credit enrollee

• meet the deadline for enrollment !

For more information about the dual credit program, please contact:

TAMI SHAW

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

North East Independent School District

8961 Tesoro Drive

San Antonio, TX 78217

(210) 407-0319

3. APPLYING TO COLLEGE

For most colleges you do not need to apply before your senior year. When you apply, there are usually three things you must have sent to the college before the college will consider you for admission:

1. College entrance test scores - are sent directly from SAT/ACT to the colleges you specify.
2. Application for admission - Most colleges would like students to apply online. If you are applying to **only** Texas public colleges/universities, only one application must be completed: The Texas Common Application, www.applytexas.org. Computers are available in the **GO CENTER/CAREER CENTER**.
3. An official copy of your high school record/transcript.
 - You must have a completed "Transcript Release" form on file.
 - The first transcript sent is free: all others thereafter are \$5.00 each.
 - You may not hand-carry, FAX or overnight an official transcript.

On-Line Application Sites

Apply Texas	www.applytexas.org
College Net's On-line Applications	www.applyweb.com
Peterson's On-line Applications	www.collegequest.com
XAP Applications	www.xap.com
College View's College Search	www.collegeview.com/college/applications
College Application On-line	www.collegeboard.com
College Apps	www.collegeapps.com
Common Application	www.commonapp.org

4. FINANCING COLLEGE \$\$\$\$

Now that you're eager to go to college, how much will it cost and how will you pay for it?

College will cost anywhere from \$2,500 a year at a local state-supported college to as much as \$60,000 a year at a private university. It is important to keep in mind that you **can** afford to go to college somewhere. The keys are to begin early and to understand the process. Although you cannot actually apply for financial aid from the colleges until your senior year, there are some things you can do now.

Determine the total cost of attending each of the colleges that you are considering. You should include tuition and fees; room; board; transportation and trips home; personal expenses such as laundry; insurance; clothing; medical needs; and entertainment.

Look for possible sources of help. Although about ninety per cent of all financial aid comes through the college and can't be applied for yet, there are other sources you can search for during your junior year. The Internet is also a great source of scholarship information. You may also want to enter contests, such as essay-writing contests on various topics that offer valuable prizes to help you pay your way.

Remember: **YOU DO NOT NEED TO PAY ANYONE FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION - IT'S ALL FREE!**

Be aware that at many colleges the payment plan is gradual and can be stretched out over the year.

Understand that the whole process of awarding financial aid for college students undergoes periodic change because of adaptations enacted by Congress. At this point, no one knows for sure exactly what the situation will be for your graduation class.

However, there are some general guidelines to keep in mind as you look ahead:

State-supported colleges are usually the least expensive.

Out-of-state public colleges may charge you out-of-state tuition, which can be very expensive.

Private colleges are usually the most expensive but often have the most financial aid to offer.

UNDER THE FEDERAL GUIDELINES, IT IS THE FAMILY'S OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY WHAT IT CAN AFFORD. To qualify for financial aid, your family will be asked to submit detailed records based on income from January through December, 2012. That means keeping very careful records so that your family's income tax report can be calculated early in February of 2013.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

www.collegenet.com Scholarship search, electronic applications, college search, financial aid info

www.finaid.org Information about student loans, federal programs, scholarship services, etc.

www.ncaa.org/cbsa Student athlete information

www.finaid.org/scholarships/common.phtml Tips on spotting scholarship scams

www.fastweb.com Fill out an application on-line for scholarship search, and receive updates

www.gocollege.com Free scholarship search through database with over 500,000 scholarships

www.loanstar.com One of many banking options for educational funding

www.eduaid.com College financial information and planning

www.scholarships.com Create personal profile to compare with database of over 600,000 scholarships

www.ed.gov/index.jsp Department of Education web site with links to the FAFSA and other student financial aid information in a step-by-step process

www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm U.S. News and World Report offers information about getting into college, finding educational funding, choosing a career, and more

www.collegeview.com Offers in-depth resources about the college admission process, financial aid, and careers; includes a search engine and on-line multimedia presentations featuring hundreds of colleges

www.salliemae.com Calculates future college prices and expected family contribution

www.ed.gov/studentaid Student financial assistance programs

www.nasfaa.org In-depth information from college financial aid officers
www.fafsa.ed.gov Official web site for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
www.wiredscholar.com Sallie Mae (financial institution) information
www.college-scholarships.com Scholarship page updated weekly
www.armyrotc.com Information on the Army ROTC Program
www.afrotc.com Information on the Air Force ROTC Program
www.myfuture.com Overview of military education/career benefits
www.ftc.gov consumer protection – tips on spotting scholarship scams
www.fil.com/molis/scholar.htm scholarships for minorities
www.freschinfo.com/index.html financial aid

Another helpful **FREE** local source of college and financial aid information is **the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation** www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/, as well as the Piper Compendium www.cpa.state.tx.us/scholars/.

Most students who receive financial aid receive a combination of grants, loans, scholarships and work-study programs.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Texas Grant - You may be eligible for a Texas Grant (only if you attend college in Texas) if you graduate from high school having completed the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement Program requirements and you have demonstrated financial need.

TAKS Exit Level Test - A student may not participate in the graduation ceremony unless s/he has completed all of the graduation requirements and passed all parts of the state-mandated TAKS EXIT-LEVEL TEST.

Promotion policy - To be a senior, a student must have:
19+ credits or the ability to enroll in all classes to graduate at end of current school year

NORTH EAST ISD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM		DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM	
SUBJECT AREA	CREDITS	SUBJECT AREA	CREDITS
English	4.0	English	4.0
Communication Applications	.5	Communication Applications	.5
Math	4.0	Math	4.0
Science	4.0	Science	4.0
Social Studies	4.0	Social Studies	4.0
Health	.5	Health	.5
Physical Education	1.5	Physical Education	1.5
Other Languages	2.0	Other Languages	3.0
Fine Arts	1.0	Fine Arts	1.0
Technology Applications	1.0	Technology Applications	1.0
Electives	3.5	Electives	2.5
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	26.0	TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	26.0

TEXAS MINIMUM GRADUATION PLAN

Any student considering graduating on the Minimum Plan must see a counselor. Only students meeting strict criteria during the spring semester of their senior year will be able to select the minimum graduation plan. A waiver acknowledging understanding of the Texas Minimum Graduation Plan must be signed.

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE IN FALL 2009
All students enroll in the Recommended High School or the Distinguished
Achievement Programs

SUBJECT AREA	RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM	DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
ENGLISH	English I, II, III, and IV required. Immigrant students with limited English proficiency may substitute English I SOL and English II SOL for English I and II ONLY.	English I, II, III, and IV required. Immigrant students with limited English proficiency may substitute English I SOL and English II SOL for English I and II ONLY.
MATHEMATICS	Four credits required. The four credits must include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. The 4 th credit must be a state approved math credit.	Four credits required. The four credits must include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. The fourth math credit must be a state-approved math credit and must have an Algebra II prerequisite.
SCIENCE	Four credits required. The four credits must include Biology or Biology AP; Chemistry or Chemistry AP; Physics or Physics AP or Principles of Technology; a 4 th approved science. If IPC is chosen as a 4 th science, it must be completed prior to Chemistry and Physics.	Four credits required. The four credits must include Biology or Biology AP; Chemistry or Chemistry AP; Physics or Physics AP; a 4 th approved science. IPC and Principles of Technology will not count as the 4 th required science credit for the DAP.
SOCIAL STUDIES	Four credits required and must consist of World Geography, World History, US History, US Government and Economics (free enterprise).	Four credits required and must consist of World Geography, World History, US History, US Government and Economics (free enterprise).
LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH	Two credits of the <u>same</u> language. Exploratory Language and culture courses do not meet the Other Languages requirement.	Three credits of the <u>same</u> language. Exploratory Language and culture courses do not meet the Other Languages requirement
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	One and one-half credits are required. The credits may be earned through PE, Athletics, JROTC, Marching Band, Drill Team, Cheerleading, Dance Team or an approved physical activity program conducted on or off campus. See your counselor for specific waiver information.	One and one-half credits are required. The credits may be earned through PE, Athletics, JROTC, Marching Band, Drill Team, Cheerleading, Dance Team or an approved physical activity program conducted on or off campus. See your counselor for specific waiver information.
HEALTH EDUCATION	One-half credit required.	One-half credit required.
SPEECH	One-half credit is required.	One-half credit is required.
TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS	One credit is required and may be selected from the designated courses in Technology Applications or Career Technical.	One credit is required and may be selected from the designated courses in Technology Applications or Career Technical.
FINE ARTS	One credit required and may be selected from courses in the areas of art, music, theatre arts, or dance.	One credit required and may be selected from courses in the areas of art, music, theatre arts, or dance.
ELECTIVES	Three and one-half credits required	Two and one-half credits required

NEISD RANK IN CLASS POLICY

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE IN FALL 2007 AND BEYOND

RANK IN CLASS

What courses count for class rank?

All courses taken in high school through the end of the seventh semester that count for graduation credit will be used to calculate class rank. The highest grades earned in elective courses needed for graduation will be used to calculate class rank.

What courses do not count for class rank? (exceptions)

Those taken:

- More than once
- In middle school
- During summer foreign study
- For pass/fail credit
- With an ARD exemption
- In evening school
- Through credit by exam

Will correspondence courses count for class rank?

For students who entered high school in 2009-10 or prior: No, correspondence courses do not count for class rank.

For students who entered high school in 2010-11 and thereafter: Yes, correspondence courses do count for class rank.

Grade point averages are determined by multiplying each semester grade of a ranked course by a rank factor and computing an average. The rank factor recognizes differences in level of difficulty between Advanced Placement, Pre-Advanced Placement, Regular, and Content Modified coursework. Courses modified as to methodology shall utilize the same rank factor assigned to regular courses.

Course Level	Rank Factor
Advanced Placement (AP) and dual credit AP	1.29
Pre-Advanced Placement, Honors, GT non-AP, and dual credit non-AP	1.15
Regular	1.00
Content Modified	.90

- The weighted grade point average determines the rank in class. The student earning the highest weighted GPA is ranked number one and all others take the following positions in increasing numeric order. Ties in rank will be broken using the most courses taken given a weight of 1.15 and/or 1.29.
- Preliminary unofficial class standing reports will be issued to students following the second and fourth semesters of high school. Official class standing will be issued to students following the sixth and seventh semesters of high school. Class rank is determined using a weighted system that supports academic achievement and rigor. All courses taken in grades 9-12 and required for graduation will be counted. Class rank is

based upon a weighted grade point average.

- Students are designated within a range of their high school class, as follows: top five percent, top ten percent, top quarter, second quarter, third quarter, fourth quarter. The position of each student is reported as “number (___) out of (___) students in graduating class.”

OVERALL GRADE POINT AVERAGE / HONOR GRADUATES

- Students achieving high standards of academic excellence shall be recognized at the graduation ceremony as honor graduates based on the following criteria:
 - Completion of the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Graduation Program.
 - Accumulation of a minimum of 52 semester classes of coursework before graduation.
 - Overall weighted grade point average for all courses taken in high school through the end of the seventh semester is greater than or equal to 90. (The rank factor listed above is used to determine the overall weighted average.)
- Honor graduates meeting the criteria specified above shall be designated as follows:

Honor Graduate Designations	Cumulative Grade Average
Summa Cum Laude	100+
Magna Cum Laude	95-99
Cum Laude	90-94

SAMPLE RÉSUMÉ

JOHN SMART

123 School Road
San Antonio, TX 78258
(210) 123-4567

Birthdate:
Social Security#: 111-22-3333

EDUCATION: Class rank:

Grade Average:

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

Grade

Varsity baseball
1st baseman
All Star team
National Honor Society
Student Gov't Representative
Key Club

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Grade

Church Youth Group
Led Children's Choir ___hours/month
Vacation Bible School Teacher ___hours
Baptist Hospital Volunteer ___hours

HONORS/AP COURSES:

Grade

World History AP

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

Grade

Junior Class President
NHS Treasurer

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Grade

GAP, North Star Mall-
Assist customers, answer phones

HOBBIES & ADDITIONAL INFO:

Grade

Piano lessons
Blue Sharks Swim Team

Military Academies

Many young men and women wish to attend one of the service academies to serve their country as a military officer. The screening process is a rigorous one and begins early. Some senators have a November 1st deadline. If you are interested, you need to see your counselor in the spring of your junior year to begin the necessary testing and paper work. The following addresses are provided for your information:

Army

Director of Admissions
United States Military Academy
606 Thayer Road
West Point, New York 10996-1797
1-800-822-2769
<http://www.usma.edu/>

Coast Guard

Director of Admissions
United States Coast Guard Academy
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, Connecticut 06320-4195
1-800-883-8724 or (860)444-8500
<http://www.cga.edu>

Navy/Marine

Candidate Guidance Office
United States Naval Academy
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5018
1-800-638-9156 or (410)293-4361
<http://www.nadn.navy.mil/>

Merchant Marines

Director of Admissions
United States Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, New York 11024-1699
1-800-732-6267 or (866) 546-4778
<http://www.usmma.edu>

Air Force

Director of Admissions
HQ USAFA/RRS
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
USAF Academy, Colorado 80840-5025
1-800-443-9266 or (719)333-2520
<http://www.usafa.af.mil/>

R.O.T.C. Scholarships

R.O.T.C. scholarships pay young men and women to go to college before they serve four to six years in the military service. Standards for acceptance are very high, and the process of testing and applying must begin early. To receive information about R.O.T.C. opportunities: Call Army 1-800-U.S.A.-R.O.T.C., Navy: 1-800-U.S.A. - N.A.V.Y. or Air Force: 1-800-552-0033.



Helpful Websites

From the College Board's... Internet Guide for College-bound Students The New Rules of College Admissions Octameron's... www.College.edu: On-line Resources for the Cyber-savvy Student

College Information

www.embark.com Comprehensive information with good graphics
www.collegeboard.com Provides services- on-line registration for SAT, AP, financial aid calculators, etc.
www.collegexpress.com Information about private colleges, including college search and admissions tips
www.petersons.com Publisher of a number of college guides offering information about pre-college programs, test preparation, colleges and universities, financing education, distance learning, careers and vocational /technical education, studying abroad, special schools, and more
www.collegiate.net Detailed page providing links to university home pages; allows for college searching; gives general information about college admissions, majors, and programs
www.miskatonic.net/university/ivy.html Shortcut for selective colleges in the country
www.nacac.com College fair news
www.campustours.com Links to virtual tours of college campuses
www.yahoo.com/education Allows searching for a home page or following other links to home pages of thousands of colleges and universities, as well as other educational information
www.review.com Provides SAT/ACT review, a database of the best undergraduate, graduate, medical, law, and business schools, plus hot links to individual college home pages
www.schoolsintheusa.com College information classified by majors
www.texasmentor.org College information
www.wiredscholar.com College information
www.cprofiles2000.com College information
www.campusafety.org College security on campus
www.allcampus.com Provides information about college life (and takes a while to download)
www.black-collegian.com Information on college life and commentary by leading African-American writers
www.greekpages.com Information regarding sororities and fraternities on campus
www.ubp.com Links to historically black colleges and universities, fraternities and sororities, and African-American student group
www.supercollege.com college information

Most Frequently Requested Texas College Web Sites

www.utexas.edu University of Texas at Austin
www.tamu.edu Texas A & M University
www.aggiecorps.org Texas A & M University Corp of Cadets
www.utsa.edu University of Texas at San Antonio
www.accd.edu Northwest Vista, Palo Alto, St. Philip's, San Antonio Colleges
www.uiw.edu University of the Incarnate Word
www.stmarys.edu St. Mary's University
www.ollusa.edu Our Lady of the Lake University
www.tlu.edu Texas Lutheran University
www.txstate.edu Texas State University
www.ttu.edu Texas Tech University
www.baylor.edu Baylor University
www.tcu.edu Texas Christian University
www.blinncol.edu Blinn College
www.tstc.edu Texas State Technical College (all campuses)
www.trinity.edu Trinity University

Scholarships and Financial Aid

www.collegenet.com Scholarship search, electronic applications, college search, links to financial aid information.
www.finaid.org Information about student loans, federal programs, scholarship services, etc.
www.ncaa.org/cbsa Student athlete information.
www.finaid.org/scholarships/common.phtml Tips on spotting scholarship scams.
www.fastweb.com Fill out an application on-line for scholarship search, and review later for updates.
www.gocollege.com Free scholarship search through database with over 500,000 scholarships.
www.loanstar.com One of many banking options for educational funding.

www.educaid.com College financial information and planning.
www.scholarships.com Create personal profile to compare with database of over 600,000 scholarships.
www.ed.gov/index.jsp Department of Education web site with links to the FAFSA and other student financial aid information in a step-by-step process.

Scholarships and Financial Aid continued

www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/eduhome.htm U.S. News and World Report offers information about getting into college, finding educational funding, choosing a career, and more
www.collegeview.com Offers in-depth resources about the college admission process, financial aid, and careers; includes a search engine and on-line multimedia presentations featuring hundreds of colleges
www.salliemae.com Calculates future college prices and expected family contribution.
www.ed.gov/studentaid Student financial assistance programs
www.nasfaa.org In-depth information from college financial aid officers
www.fafsa.ed.gov Official federal student aid web site featuring the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
www.wiredscholar.com Sallie Mae (financial institution) information
www.college-scholarships.com Scholarship page updated weekly
www.armyrotc.com Information on the Army ROTC Program
www.afrotc.com Information on the Air Force ROTC Program
www.myfuture.com Overview of military education/career benefits
www.ftc.gov consumer protection – tips on spotting scholarship scams
www.fil.com/molis/scholar.htm scholarships for minorities
www.freschinfo.com/index.html financial aid

On-Line Application Sites

College Net's On-line Applications www.applyweb.com
Peterson's On-line Applications www.collegequest.com
XAP Applications www.xap.com
College View's College Search www.collegeview.com/college/applications
College Application On-line www.collegeboard.com
College Apps www.collegeapps.com
Common Application www.commonapp.org

Testing Information Web Sites (for practice tests or review)

SAT and SAT Subject Tests www.collegeboard.com
ACT www.act.org
THEA www.tasp.nesinc.com or www.thea.nesinc.com

Other Testing Study Aides

www.powerprep.com College Power Prep for SAT and ACT
www.testprep.com Web ware for SAT tutorials
www.seldeen.com/sat Vocabulary words to study
www.wordsmyth.net Wordsmyth SAT Dictionary of 2,000 words
www.number2.com SAT prep study site

Selective Service Registration

www.sss.gov All males must register within 30 days of 18th birthday. Those who do not register will not be eligible for financial aid.

On-Line Job Searches: Employment Opportunities

www.ajb.dni.us America's Job Bank (Department of Labor) listing over 500,000 job opportunities
www.careers.org Career Resource Center which includes national and international job opportunities
www.jobbankusa.com Career Search providing information on jobs
www.careerbuilder.com Career Search site providing high school students with a look at real jobs in the real world
www.monster.com Parent company of FastWeb providing job and career information, including résumé building information
www.mapping-your-future.org Mapping your future includes links to various financial institutions serving as educational funding sponsors

Help is available when you need it. As long as you start early, listen attentively during counselor visits, read all counselor communications, and meet all deadlines promptly, you will be well prepared.

**High School and College Tips Excerpted for Educational Purposes...
The New Rules of College Admissions edited by Stephen Kramer and Michael London.**

High School Experience	
	Report cards matter most. Colleges like students with passion and commitment. Reputation counts.
WARNING: Poor grades in elective classes are a RED FLAG to admissions officers. They imply a negative attitude and work ethic, and they can change an admissions officer's feelings about an applicant.	

NEW RULE of College Admissions!	
	Twelfth (12th) grade matters - A LOT!
	Being "well-rounded" is no longer a ticket to college. When all else is equal, a child with a deep interest and talent in one area will get in before a well-rounded candidate.
	Demonstrate commitment, energy, responsibility, leadership, and the pursuit of natural interests.
Find Unique Community Activities	
	One of the best things you can do to help your child is to start thinking creatively and doing research to find activities outside of the school system to match your child's interests.
WARNING: One cannot overemphasize the positive value of community activities to a student's extracurricular profile. Colleges want to see students take the initiative outside of school.	

Student's Reputation	
	Your child's reputation, particularly among adults, is the final piece of the high school picture an admissions officer will assess. A student should work to develop a positive reputation to supplement their academic and extracurricular record and profile.
College Selection Questions	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a region of the country you'd like to explore for your future? 2. Do you want to go to school close to home or in a familiar place? 3. How are you comfortable getting to and from school? 4. Are there parts of the country you definitely don't want to go to college? 5. My geographic preference is _____. 6. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is a school's geographic location to your decision? 7. Do you want to be in a setting - urban, suburban, or rural? 8. Do you want to be near nature, out in the country? 9. Would you rather be in an environment where school activities are the main social scene, or do you want to interact with a larger community? 10. Are you interested in community service work in an urban environment, like tutoring in an inner-city school? OR would you be interested in volunteering in a rural area, such as building homes or working with animals? 11. My setting preference is _____. 12. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is a school's setting to your decision? 13. Do you want to be at a college that is smaller or larger than your high school? 14. Do you want to know most of your classmates or feel a bit anonymous? 15. In general, do you want to be in large lecture halls for class or small classrooms with fewer students? 16. Is it important to go to a school with a nationally known sports team? 17. My size preference is _____. 18. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is a school's size to your decision? 19. Do you have a major in mind? 20. Do you want to attend a school with a wide variety of major choices because you are undecided? 21. Do you think any of your hobbies or extracurricular interests might be something you would like to pursue as a career? 22. The major I would like to look for in a college is _____. 23. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is the degree of choice to your decision?

