

SIMSBURY HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
Sophomore Parent Letter

September 6, 2019

Dear Sophomore Parents/Guardians:

As your child embarks on the second year of high school, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the success of his/her ninth grade year. Do you hope for similar progress this year or are some changes/improvements in order? With post high school planning beginning in eleventh grade, now is the time to ensure that academic performance is proceeding in the most positive direction possible in order that all appropriate options will be available to your child upon graduation.

In order to assist you this year, the following events may be of interest:

September 17th – Financial Aid Meeting 7:00-8:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Charles Wareham, an expert in the field of college funding strategies, will provide information about savings, financial aid, and financial planning for college.

October 16th – PSAT School Day This practice test is designed to provide early exposure and preparation for the SAT. College Board has directly linked additional test practice to increase performance on the SAT test. The Simsbury School District requires all sophomores to take the PSAT's at **no cost**. When students receive their scores they will be given a link to Khan Academy which provides individual practice plans to improve their performance on future College Board assessments. Testing begins at 7:30 AM on Wednesday, October 16th.

March 4th & 5th - Sophomore Seminar Counselors will meet with sophomores in small groups to discuss the importance of sophomore year. This program focuses on early career exploration through the administration of "Do What You Are", an interest inventory. The results of the inventory are stored in Naviance and can be accessed by students at home. We encourage you to view this with them to get a sense of their emerging areas of interest. Students will also be given information about the benefits of taking PSAT's this year.

March 30th - Simsbury/Avon College Fair 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Avon High School. This evening college fair will be hosted by Simsbury and Avon High Schools. The event will be at Avon High School. Mark your calendar and plan on attending our joint town extravaganza.

May 11th - Advanced Placement (AP) Biology Exam 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. Students enrolled in AP Biology are being prepared to take the AP Biology Exam. The benefit of taking this exam is to potentially earn college credit. Scores range from 1 to 5 and students need a score of 3 or higher in order to be eligible to earn college credit. Students register for this exam through mypaymentsplus.com. More information will soon be available.

June 6th - SAT Reasoning & Subject Tests. Some sophomores may wish to take the Biology, World History, and/or Math I SAT Subject Tests. This is usually most appropriate for students who are excelling in Level I Biology, World Civilization 2 and/or Algebra 2. Students may complete registration materials online via www.collegeboard.org.

We hope your summer has been a pleasant one and that you and your son/daughter have enjoyed a positive start to an exciting sophomore year. Don't hesitate to call us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jane Ellen Peregrin
Director of School Counseling