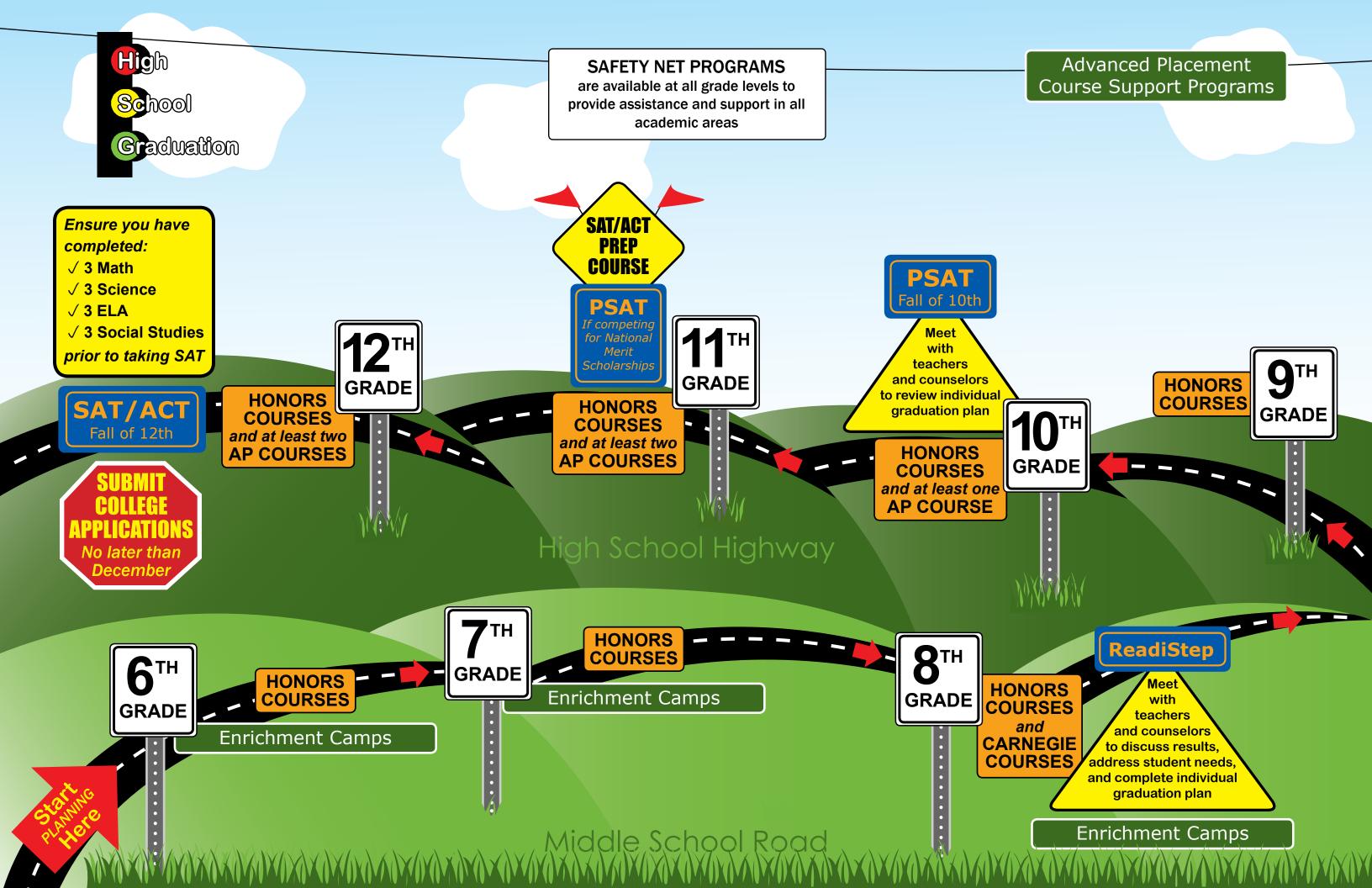


A basic guide for college-bound middle and high school students







Glossary of Terms

ACT (American College Test) – A national college admissions exam that consists of subject area tests in English, math, reading, science, and writing. Top score is 36.

Agenda Book – An organizational tool for students that includes the school handbook, calendar of school events, assignment book, and reference information.

AP (Advanced Placement) – College level classes taught during the high school years. AP classes culminate with a rigorous end-of-the-year exam that is scored on a 1-5 point scale. Some colleges give course credit for scores of 3 or higher.

Carnegie Class – A high school level class for which a student can earn credit toward graduation requirements.

Class Rank – A student's standing based on his or her cumulative grade percent average as compared with that of other members of the class. In a class of 100, the student with the highest grade percent average would be Number 1 and the lowest Number 100.

Core Courses – Refers to Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies coursework. (For college admission standards, Modern/Classical Language credits also are included in the Core Course category.)

Credits/Units – The terms credits and units are used to identify how much each course passed counts toward meeting the 24 credits/units required for graduation from high school.

Elective Courses – Classes that may be selected by the student and are included in the 24 credits required for high school graduation.

Eligibility – Mandatory guidelines for student participation in sports and extracurricular activities. Check with your local school athletic director for details.

Enrichment Camp – A 15-hour program of enrichment classes offered during fall, winter, and summer breaks to high achieving students that meet academic achievement requirements.

EOCT (End of Course Test) – EOCTs measure learning of the statewide curriculum in selected courses to ensure that high academic standards are being met in all Georgia high schools as required by the State Board of Education.

GHSGT (Georgia High School Graduation Tests) – A series of five exit exams that all high school students through 2014 in Georgia must pass to graduate, taken in 11th grade.

GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) – Required for admission to business school. It tests students on verbal skills, quantitative skills (math) and analytical writing skills.

Graduate School – A school that awards advanced academic degrees (i.e. master's degree, Ph.D.) with the general requirement that students must have earned a previous undergraduate (bachelor's) degree.

GRE (Graduate Record Examination) – This exam is for graduate school applicants what the SAT is for college applicants — a standardized test designed by Educational Testing Service to measure knowledge and skills, scored on a 200:800 scale.

Honors Class – A rigorous class at the middle and high school level that is paced faster and covers content deeper.

LSAT (Law School Admission Test) – An examination administered by the Law School Admission Council for prospective law school candidates.

MAT (Miller Analogies Test) – A standardized test used primarily for graduate school admissions in the USA. MAT analogies state a correspondence between two things that are otherwise dissimilar.

Postsecondary – Referring to college or technical college/ institute coursework.

Prerequisites – Courses, test scores, and/or grade level that must be completed before taking the next sequential course, grade, etc.

PLAN – The PLAN is a practice college admissions test similar to the ACT in format.

PSAT (Practice Scholastic Aptitude Test) – A scaled down version of the SAT, taken in 9th or 10th grade to help students prepare for their college entrance exam.

ReadiStep – A middle school assessment to identify academic gaps in preparation for high school.

Safety Net – A specialized program used to address student academic needs in specific areas of weakness.

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) – is a standardized college entrance exam with verbal, math, and writing sections with maximum scores of 800 each.

Transcript – The complete record of all high school courses taken and grades earned. A student's transcript contains his or her cumulative record.



Research

Studies show...



Students who took an AP course and exam significantly outperformed students who took standard high school courses on all college outcomes.

(Hargrove, Godin and Dodd, 2008)



Students who score a 3 or higher on an AP exam are more likely to graduate from college in five years or less compared to non-AP students.

(Dougherty, Mellor and Jian, 2006)



Students who take an AP course and the AP exam earn higher GPAs and more credits in college and are more likely to graduate from college than students who take only the AP course or a non-AP course in the same subject.

(e.g., Hargrove, Godin, & Dodd, 2008; Dougherty, Mellor, & Jian, 2006).

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