



College Counseling Crier

February 2022

Volume 5, Issue 6

Upcoming Standardized Test Dates

ACT Test Dates*

April 2, 2022
Registration deadline:
February 25

June 11, 2022
Registration deadline:
May 6

July 16, 2022
Registration deadline:
June 17

SAT Test Dates*

March 12, 2022
Registration deadline:
February 11

May 7, 2022
Registration deadline:
April 8

June 4, 2022
Registration deadline:
May 5

*If you will be taking these tests with accommodations, please contact [Ms. From](#)

AP Payments – The Time is *Now!*

****If your student is not enrolled in an AP course this year, please disregard this section of the *Crier*****

AP Exams are approaching and will be here before we know it. All students enrolled in AP courses registered for their AP exams in their classrooms this fall.

All students enrolled in AP courses are required to take all of their exams.

If you've not paid, now is the time to pay for those exams. Each costs \$96 and must be paid in full before exam administration in May of this year. For your convenience, a [Diamond Mind site](#), which is linked below, has been created to submit your payments:

<https://forms.diamondmindinc.com/bullisschool/fy22apexams?token=1125228178>

For seniors, there are some critical ramifications to understand. If payment is not received prior to exam administration, the Business Office will place a hold on the student's account, and no graduation tickets will be sent later this year.

If you have any questions about payment, please email or call (301-983-5727) our Administrative Assistant, [Brienne McKay](#). If you have questions about the AP program, please contact [Mrs. Kittel](#), our AP Coordinator, at 301-983-5748 or via email. If you have questions regarding accommodated testing, please contact [Catherine From](#).

A New (and Growing) Normal



The group of colleges and universities that practice test-optional admissions has continued to grow since the start of the pandemic. In a recent *Inside Higher Ed* article, "[Will Test Optional Become the 'New Normal'](#)" editor Scott Jaschik cites the growing

Save the Dates

**Junior Class Meeting
with Steve Becker
(REQUIRED for all
juniors)**

Mon., February 7
Advisory & Flex Time
10:10 – 11:00 am

popularity of what was once thought to be a trend is now becoming a common practice that's here to stay. Even the College Board's vice president of college readiness assessments said that "some students may decide their application is stronger without test scores," but that it's important to "[preserve] a student's choice to submit scores."

The [National Center for Fair and Open Testing \(FairTest\)](#) said that "nearly 80 percent of four-year colleges will not require the SAT or ACT for admissions this year." What's exciting is that the list includes not only private institutions but also state-wide university systems, including Colorado, Illinois, Washington, and the home of the ACT itself – Iowa! Additionally, the "University of California system agreed to make all campus test blind (meaning SAT and ACT scores will not be looked at in making admissions decisions)."

**Sophomore Spring
Expo
(for students and
parents)**

Mon., March 14
6:30 – 8:30 pm

For the most up-to-date test-optional and test blind information, please visit [FairTest](#).

Practice and Preparation for the SAT and ACT

While the importance of standardized testing is diminishing, in some cases, our students can benefit from score submission. We are still encouraging students to take an ACT or SAT and will make appropriate score submission recommendations to each student based on their individual circumstances. Applerouth Test Prep is offering a Free SAT/ACT Practice Testing weekend on February 26 and 27. If you're interested in these proctored mock tests, including strategy sessions, detailed score reports, and a custom study plan, please sign up directly through [Applerouth's site](#).

**Mock Admission
Program
(for students and
parents)**

Wed., April 20
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Sophomore Spring Expo

We invite the sophomore class and their families to join us on **Monday, March 14**, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. for our Sophomore Spring Expo! The college counselors, Assistant Head of Upper School for Academics, Signature Program Directors, Testing Coordinator, and test prep company representatives will host various sessions and be available for questions throughout the evening. We hope you will be able to join us. This event serves to get our sophomores thinking about their next steps at Bullis and beyond. As we get closer to the date, we will share more information about the schedule, break-out sessions.

Mock Admission – Your Chance to Get “In” On An Admission Committee

We are excited to present our Mock Admission program for juniors and their families on **Wednesday, April 20!** Students and families will break up into groups forming admission committees tasked with



reviewing applications for two unique colleges. Each committee will be monitored by one of our admissions colleagues who is fully engrossed in the reading and review process each year. This program is beneficial and eye-opening as the Class of 2023 prepares to enter the college application cycle. We find the evening provides a great perspective and insight as to how a student and their respective application is reviewed in the context of institutional priorities. In the past, we've received rave reviews of this program.

Please save the date; this isn't a program you want to miss!

Summer Scenarios

College and universities around the country offer summer programs for high school students. Due to the pandemic's unpredictable nature, many of these programs were and continue to be provided virtually. These programs are an excellent way for students to get a feel for college life by taking classes and meeting other students around the country who share their interests. We've also found that students can more concretely express their "why" in completing college applications after having a meaningful summer experience.

Please see the [Summer Opportunities](#) section of the College Counseling web page to find these opportunities. Updates are made weekly, so we encourage you to revisit the site regularly. As in the past, we've provided focal groups for a more specific search. If students need help throughout the summer program application process, we in College Counseling are happy to provide guidance and assistance.

February Festivities

To date, our students have submitted **1087** Document Request Forms and applications. Many of our students who applied through Early Decision, Restrictive/Single Choice Early Action, Early Action, and Rolling Admission plans have received their decisions; **328** acceptances have been offered.



As a reminder to our seniors, please let us know of *all* admission decisions.

We want to celebrate with you and provide sound advice and counsel.