

Welcome to  
Sophomore  
Springboard!

Thank you  
for coming!

Student Services Department at  
Conestoga High School



Mute your Microphone

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Sophomore  
Springboard!

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## Agenda

I. Getting College Ready (*transcript, application materials, character, & testing*)

II. Junior Timeline and College Exploration

III. Finding the Right Fit



# Getting College Ready

## Transcript

- GPA – Unweighted vs weighted
- Rigor – At least 5 major courses every year
- Attendance - It counts!
- Involvement – Get engaged

## Other application materials

- College Essay
- Recommendations – 2 junior year teachers and counselor (see handout in chat)
- Testing



# Characteristics that Count

*When writing letters of recommendations for summer programs, internships, volunteer opportunities, and college applications, teachers and counselors are often asked to rate students on the following qualities:*

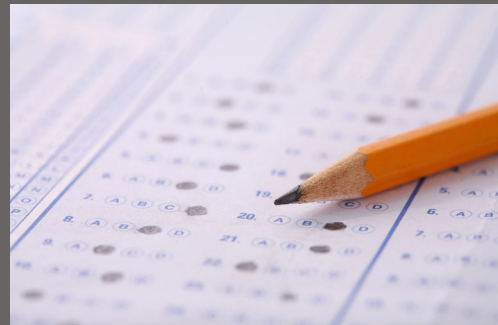
- Academic Achievement
- Intellectual Promise
- Quality of Writing
- Creative Thought
- Productive Discussion
- Faculty Respect
- Disciplined Habits
- Maturity
- Motivation
- Leadership
- Integrity
- Reaction to Setbacks
- Concern for Others
- Self-Confidence
- Initiative

# College Testing

## Tests

- PSAT – October of junior year
- SAT and ACT – Coke vs Pepsi (commonly taken in junior year)
- AP TESTS – Earn college credit

*Your value as a college applicant is not defined by a number on a test. The application process is holistic, and colleges consider a variety of factors when making admissions decisions.*



# College Testing

## How many times should I take the SAT or ACT?

- We typically recommend 2.
- Student scores often go up the second time.
- Super scoring works to students' advantage.
- Students scores level off after taking test 2-3 times.

## What if I do not test well?

- Hundreds of schools no longer require standardized testing.
- If test optional, schools will place more value on other components of your application.

## When should I test?

- Everyone has their own timeline

# College Testing

## AP Exams

- AP tests are taken at the conclusion of an AP course. Colleges may or may not be able to use the scores.
- Typically, if scores are used, the student must score a 3, 4, or 5.
- AP exams are always given during the month of May.

# College Exploration Timeline

## This Summer

- Explore college campuses
- **Types of colleges you could explore:**
  - Liberal Arts
  - Universities
  - HBCU's
  - Women's Colleges
  - Community colleges
- **Military Options:**
  - Enlistment
  - ROTC
  - Military Colleges
  - Military Academies



# College Exploration Timeline

## Fall of Junior Year

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October & develop your testing plan
- Attend college fairs and visits (September – November)
- Attend College Admissions Evening

## Winter of Junior Year

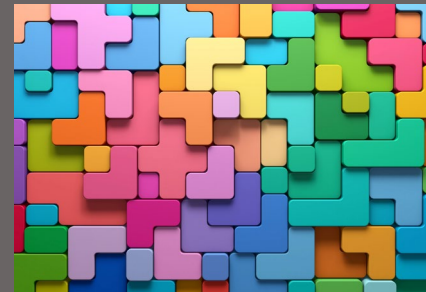
- Individual junior meetings
- Junior college conference (JCC)

# Finding Your Fit

## Factors to consider:

- Close or far?
- Big or small?
- City or suburbs?
- Availability of support services?
- Availability of career resources?
- Housing options?
- Majors?
- Activities?
- Cost? (tuition and room & board)

**Find a personal fit, academic fit, and financial fit.**



Thank You  
for  
Coming!

Q&A

Use Chat  
or  
Raise Hand

