

Harriton Guidance Newsletter

October-November 2007

Harriton Guidance Counselors

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Guidance Calendar

October

- 27 ACT testing
- 30 Registration deadline for SAT I and II on 12/1 (Revised from LMSD calendar!)

November

- 1 Grade 11 College Admission Process presentation, 7:30–9:00 p.m. in the Harriton auditorium
- 2 Registration deadline for ACT on 12/8
- 3 SAT I & II testing
- 5 College Fair Day – 11:45 at Harriton
- 9 End of first quarter
- 16 Report cards issued
- 27 College Fair Day – 11:45 at Harriton
- 29 College Financial Aid Night, 7:30 – 9:00 in the Harriton auditorium

Harriton Guidance Department's Presence on the Web

Check our web page first; it might save you a call or visit. See our newest feature: a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions). It seems like we have a never-ended supply of material for this section! Go to www.lmsd.org and follow the links--schools, high schools, Harriton, guidance department. We also have our own eboard. Go to the Harriton eboard page: <http://www.lmsd.org/eboards/default.php?hh>, and scroll to the guidance link.

Scholarships!

The scholarship list is being continually updated on the eboard. Again, the link is: <http://www.lmsd.org/eboards/default.php?hh> (scroll to the guidance link). Scholarship information is also located in the file cabinet in the Guidance Office and should be checked regularly. Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund information will be available in November. The CSS Profile is required for the Lower Merion Township Scholarship, and seniors can register for the CSS Profile now. The FAFSA, used for all financial aid, cannot be filed until January 1, 2007.

Senior College Admissions Information – Admission Decision Options

(From *The College Handbook* [1999] & the Admissions Practices Comm. of PASSCAC)

Early Decision: Students who apply under Early Decision commit to enroll at the college if admitted and offered a satisfactory financial aid package. Application deadlines are usually in November or December, with a mid- to late-December notification date. Some colleges have two rounds of Early Decision.

Early Action: Students who apply under a college's Early Action plan receive a decision earlier than the standard response date but are not required to enroll at the college or to make a deposit prior to May 1.

Regular Decision: Students apply by a given date in return for a promise of notification by a given date. This option allows colleges and universities to review most of its application before notifying the majority of its candidates.

Rolling Admissions: Students receive an admissions decision as soon as their files are reviewed. Colleges usually do not state deadlines, although they may recommend a date by which files should be complete.

In all options except for Early Decision, applicants will have until May 1 before they need to make a nonrefundable deposit, unless they request a written extension.

SAT I & II Tests

Seniors, there is still time to take SAT's this year! Check your colleges' application deadlines. Juniors who plan to apply for Early Decision, Early Action, or Rolling Decision programs, or to state universities, should take the SAT I & II in their junior year. Students who are doing well in language or science courses should take the SAT II Subject Tests at the end of the course if they do not intend to continue in that academic area in the following year. Many colleges require or request these achievement tests for admission or placement. SAT II Achievement Tests can be taken throughout a student's four years of high school. The remaining dates for this year's SAT I & II are:

Test	Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
SAT I & II	December 1	October 30	November 8
SAT I & II	January 26	December 26	January 4
SAT I	March 1	January 29	February 7
SAT I & II	May 3	April 1	April 10
SAT I & II	June 7	May 6	May 15

College Admission Counselors Offer These Suggestions

Take the toughest courses you can handle in high school, including Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses; schedule a challenging academic senior year. Show that you are ready to do college work. Your grades are important, but even more important are the courses you take. Take the PSAT in your junior year, and earlier if possible, to prepare for the SAT. Most students take the SAT more than once. This gives them the chance to earn their very best scores for admission consideration. Most students find that their scores improve over time. Most colleges use the best scores. Write essays that focus on experiences that make you stand out from the crowd. You are unique. Ask for recommendation letters from teachers who know you and can point out the qualities that make you special. Show off your creativity, initiative, leadership, and other personal qualities. Bring in all aspects of your life, including family, school, work, internships, special courses, special talent, and community service.