Presenters

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STANDARDIZED TESTS

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- SAT Reasoning Test
- ACT
- SAT Subject Test
- TOEFL
- Accuplacer
- ASVAB

Students should practice before they take any of these tests.
Advanced Placement (AP)

- AP courses are college-level courses that students may take in high school. These courses prepare students for AP exams as well as give them the experience of doing college-level work.

- Most students have the opportunity to take advanced placement courses starting in the 11th grade or AP NSL in 10th grade.

- Students will be provided with registration materials for the AP Exam in February.
PSAT/SAT/ACT

• Students who took the PSAT in October received their scores and test booklets in December
• Students reviewed “Preparing for the ACT” or “Preparing for the SAT” in their Social Studies classes
• Both the ACT and SAT tests are accepted by colleges.
• A school may prefer one test
• It is up to students to determine which test will best showcase their abilities and talents
• Student scoreback night at Blair scheduled Tuesday, January 29, 2013
ACT/SAT Next Steps

• **10th Graders**
  - You will take the PSAT again in October 2013.

• **11th Graders**
  - Make plans to take the SAT or ACT at least once before the end of your junior year.
  - Register for the January, March, May, OR June test date
SAT Subject Tests

- SAT Subject Tests™ are offered by the College Board 6 times per year in October, November, December, January, May and June. NOTE: the foreign language tests “with listening” are offered only in November.
- Subject Tests are hour-long, content-based tests that allow you to showcase achievement in specific subject areas where you excel
- Some colleges require or recommend one or more SAT Subject Tests as part of the application – check the school web sites to confirm test requirements
SAT Subject Tests

• Students can take up to 3 SAT Subject tests on one date – but not on the same date as the SAT
• The fee structure is:
  - $23 Basic Subject Test Fee (per registration),
  - $23 Language with Listening Tests (per test),
  - $12 All other Subject Tests (per test)
SAT Subject Tests, cont’d.
Schools that require SAT Subject Tests include:

Amherst College
Barnard College
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Cooper Union (some programs)
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
George Washington University (required of some dual degree programs only)
Georgetown (3 subject tests)
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College

Haverford College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Notre Dame (Indiana Olin College of Engineering)
Pomona College
Princeton University
Rice University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) (some programs)
Stevens Institute of Technology (some programs)
Swarthmore College
Tufts University
University of California
University of Pennsylvania
Vassar College
Free ACT/SAT Prep Opportunities

- Triumph Online is a web based program that will help you prepare for the PSAT, SAT and ACT.
- TCA Prep Study Guide is available through Blair’s web page – media center/student resources.
- Students’ 6-digit ID is their user name and password.
- TERC – online prep for ACT, SAT, selected SAT Subject Tests and AP tests. Details on next slides.

We analyzed the data from our November test takers, and students who took the time to really practice and get ready using the Triumph on-line practice system raised their scores an average of 254 points from what they were predicted to score based on their PSAT data! Some students raised their scores 460 points!
Free Online AP, SAT, and SAT II Test Prep

Peterson practice tests and books through the Blair Media Center databases
Password: blazers

• SAT Subject Test Practice Tests
  – Biology EM
  – Chemistry
  – French
  – Literature
  – Math Level 1 and 2
  – Physics
  – Spanish
  – U.S. History
  – World History

• SAT Subject Test Online Guides
  – SAT II Math
  – SAT II Success Biology E/M
  – SAT II Success Literature
  – Master the SAT Subject Test: Math Levels 1 and 2
  – SAT II Success Physics
  – SAT II Success U.S. History
Free Online AP, SAT, and SAT II Test Prep, cont’d.

Peterson practice tests and books through the Blair Media Center databases
http://www.gale.cengage.com/tlist/TERC.xls
Password: blazers

• **AP Practice Tests:**
  – AP Biology
  – AP Calculus AB and BC
  – AP Chemistry
  – AP English Lang. and Composition
  – AP English Literature and Composition
  – AP European History
  – AP Macroeconomics
  – AP Microeconomics
  – AP Physics B and C
  – AP Psychology
  – AP Spanish
  – AP Statistics
  – AP U.S. History
  – AP US Government and Politics
  – AP World History

• **Online AP Study Guides**
  – AP European History
  – AP World History
  – Master the AP Calculus AB & B
  – Master the AP Chemistry
  – Master the AP English Language & Composition
  – Master the AP English Literature & Composition
  – Master the AP U.S. Government & Politics
  – Master AP U.S. History
SAT Prep Opportunities

• SAT Prep Elective Class (during the school day) -- its free!
• SAT Prep Class @ the George B. Thomas Learning Academy at Montgomery Blair HS
  – Saturdays from 8:30 to 11:00 am, with separate classes for the math and verbal sections. There is also some focus on the writing section.
  – The cost to enroll in the GBTLA is $50.00 and $30.00 for students on Free/Reduced Lunch.
  – Pick up a registration form in the Counseling Office, and return the form and payment to Ms. Tia Scott in the Counseling Office.

• College Board Online SAT Prep
  – Free practice test online
  – The Official SAT Online Course™ -- $69.95 ($10 discount When you buy the Online Course and The Official SAT Study Guide™ together)

• Outside Companies offering SAT Prep
  – Kaplan is offering an after-school SAT prep course at Blair for $300 - a 50% discount - for Blair students 6 weeks prior to the SAT administration.
  http://www.mbhs.edu/newsevents/Announcements/Registration%20form%20sat%20class.pdf
**Next Steps**

**Students Should See Their Counselor**
If they have questions about their PSAT score report or college/career planning, students should feel free to stop by the Counseling Office to see their counselor.
Next Steps: Visit The Career Center

- Information on how to register for the SAT
- College/career planning materials
- Information on the college fair for juniors in April
- College Selection and Guide Books
- Blair Career Notes
- College/Career Inquiry Software including Bridges Interest Inventory
- College/University Brochures
- Computers for College and Career Searches
- Naviance/Family Connections (GET YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY!)
Questions?

• My sophomore/junior received his/her PSAT scores and they were not good. What is the best approach and timeline for preparing for the SAT's next year?

• The Counseling office recommends taking two college admissions tests. Does that mean taking both the SAT and ACT

• What is the best approach and timeline for preparing for the AP exams in May?

• How should students plan for taking the two or three SAT II tests required by many selective colleges?

• Which Blair courses prepare students for specific SAT II tests? The answer is not simply "after an AP." For instance: When to take which level of SAT II Math? Which Bio courses prepare students for which SAT II Bio (there are two different tests)? Which AP English best prepares for the SAT II in English and can it be taken without taking AP English (for instance--by CAP students??). Do students do well after any non-AP courses in taking any SAT IIs? (For instance, Honors Physics or Honors Chem)?