

Get your Junior ready for college!

Now that your student is back in the swing of school, it's time to start planning for college. Part of planning for college includes taking important tests like the PSAT and SAT. In the classroom, the Junior Grammar Program at GCS applies grammar in the SAT format, both in reading and sentence reconstruction. Students also continue to work on composition three days a week. There are other ways to prepare for these tests outside of school that are very helpful as well. Here are a few key things that your student should be doing during their Junior year.

Take the PSAT/NMSQT

Take advantage of the PSAT (Pre Student Aptitude Test). Not only will this test give you an idea of what it is like to take the SAT, you will also be able to identify areas that you might need to brush up on to get the best score on your SAT. Remember that it is only a "practice" test and does not count against you.

Surrey Garden Christian School is an official testing site for the PSAT/NMSQT, which will be on **Saturday, Oct. 17 from 8 – 10:30 a.m. in the Bible Room**. The cost \$15. The registration form is attached to this email. **The deadline to sign up is Monday, Sept. 21.**

GCS Juniors benefit from taking Mock SAT

Students can sign up for a free Mock SAT sponsored by The Princeton Review at the Southeast Regional Library in Gilbert. Students take a full-length mock SAT and receive a detailed analysis on their performance, pinpointing their individual strengths and weaknesses. If you are interested, call 1-800-2REVIEW or visit online at www.princetonreview.com and look under "Free Events."

Sign up for the SAT or ACT

Once you have taken a few practice tests, it is time to take the SAT. A good time to take this test for the first time is in the winter of your Junior year. If your scores are not where you want or need them to be or do not meet the requirement for the college of your choice, you can always take it again in the spring. You can sign up for the SAT Reasoning Test online at www.collegeboard.com.

Christian College Fair

Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Valley Christian High School (6900 W. Galveston St. in Chandler)

More than 40 Christian colleges will be at the Christian College Fair in Chandler for students to take a peek at what they have to offer. Check out colleges like Azusa Pacific University, Northwestern College, Biola University, Calvin College, Wheaton College, Southwestern College, Point Loma Taylor University, Trinity Christian College, The Master's College and more! For more information, go online at www.naccap.org.

College Visits

You should start narrowing down your list of colleges that you would like to attend and visit a few during fall or spring break. If you haven't already, this would be a good time to start at college/career file or notebook.

What else?

This is your last chance to increase your GPA with good grades. Also, continue to volunteer, work, study and participate in extracurricular activities. Colleges are looking at the "whole person," not just test scores.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Mrs. Helm at mhelm12@cox.net. You can also log onto the GCS web site (www.GilbertChristianSchools.org) and select the "High School" tab and "College Prep" for more college prep information.