

Saura Scoop

November 2, 2012

South Stokes

Counseling Department

ACT vs. SAT

All students planning to apply to four-year colleges and universities are strongly encouraged to take the SAT and ACT during their junior year. Both of these tests are accepted as measures of college readiness at virtually all of the colleges and universities in the country. Many students wonder which test is best so below we outline some of the differences between the two tests, as well as some things to consider when choosing which test to take.

- Check to see if the school(s) you plan to apply to have a preferred test
- Most students perform about the same on both tests

SAT	ACT
Tests reasoning ability	Tests knowledge of curriculum
Total testing time 3 hours 45 minutes	Total testing time 3 hours 30 minutes
Essay is 25 minutes and the first test administered	Essay is 30 minutes and is the last test (when registering, the writing portion is optional, however most all schools want writing scores)
Composed of 10 sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 25-minute essay• Six 25-minute sections (mathematics, critical reading and writing)• Two 20-minute sections (mathematics, critical reading and writing)• A 10-minute multiple-choice writing section	Composed of 5 sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• English 75 questions in 45 minutes• Mathematics 60 questions in 60 minutes• Reading 40 questions in 35 minutes• Science 40 questions in 35 minutes that tests how well you can read abstracts, charts, tables, and graphs• Essay 30 minutes

Typically, juniors should take their college entrance tests near the end of the semester in which they take math their junior year. Most all four-year college bound juniors should take one of the tests in May or June of their junior year and again in the early fall of their senior year. Many who take math in the fall of the junior year are also encouraged to take the SAT in December or January. Counselors meet with juniors individually to make specific recommendations for each student. For more information, check out the [South Stokes Counseling Center](http://www.southstokes.k12.nc.us/counseling) website or speak with your school counselor.

<http://www.actstudent.org/> - Information and registration for the ACT

<http://www.collegeboard.org> – Information and registration for the SAT

BootCamps & Test Preparation

Students wanting to make the best scores possible should engage in regular study for college entrance tests. Buy a study book, practice online, or pay for a test-prep class.

www.cap-ed.com

www.princetonreview.com

<http://www.salem.edu/community/cfc/brochure>

Johnna Cheek

Counselor

9th & 11th Grade

E-mail: johnna.cheek@stokes.k12.nc.us

Christina Sawyer

Counselor

10th & 12th Grade

christina.sawyer@stokes.k12.nc.us

Lynn Wright

Secretary

E-mail: lynn.wright@stokes.k12.nc.us

South Stokes High School
1100 South Stokes High Drive
Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Website: southstokes.k12.nc.us
click on Counseling Center

Phone: 336-994-8495 or 994-2995

Fax: 336-994-2608



Salem College Holiday Visit

Any junior girls interested in visiting Salem College for their Holiday Visit on December 7, 2012 should let Mrs. Cheek or Mrs. Sawyer know. This is an excellent opportunity to tour campus, learn about their programs, and meet admissions representatives.



Enrichment Opportunities

Summer Ventures

Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics is a FREE four-week summer program for high school sophomores and juniors who are committed to academic growth and development in science and mathematics. Participants will find that Summer Ventures is *More than just learning...it's Exploring* science and math! Applications are available online at <http://www.summerventures.org> and are due on or before January 31. Admission is competitive for this excellent program and students who are accepted will attend on one of four college campuses in North Carolina. For more information, please see Mrs. Cheek or Mrs. Sawyer.

UNC Chapel Hill Catalyst Conference

Eighty high school students from across the state will be selected to attend a weekend-long exploration of social justice issues affecting both America and the larger world. The workshop strives to transform high school students into catalysts for positive social change and generate a vision of social harmony for the 21st century and beyond. The conference will take place on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill February 22-24, 2013. A \$40 registration fee is required once a student is accepted. Applications are available from Mrs. Cheek and the deadline is Friday, November 9.

Stokes County Sheriff's Office Explorer Program

Young men and women interested in law enforcement should consider joining the Explorers. Students between the ages of 15-20 who are in good academic standing and have good discipline records are eligible to apply. Any student interested in joining this program should let their counselor know as there will likely be an interest session in the near future. For more information about the Stokes County Explorers go to www.co.stokes.nc.us/explorers.

"If you accept the expectations of others, especially negative ones, then you will never change the outcome."

~ Michael Jordan

College Visits

Juniors are encouraged to visit colleges during the spring semester of their junior year or early fall of their senior year. There will be many spring open house opportunities at college and universities. To find out when/how to visit your schools of choice, go to the college's website and look for the Prospective Student or Admissions tabs then look for information about college visits. Most visits to four-year colleges and universities need to be scheduled in advance and registration for a visit can be done online or by phone. If you need assistance scheduling a visit or would like more information, please see Mrs. Cheek.



DATES TO REMEMBER

November 4 – Daylight Saving Time Ends
 November 6 – Teacher Workday
 November 12 – HOLIDAY
 November 12-16 – College Application Week (Seniors)
 November 21 – Early Dismissal
 November 22-23 – HOLIDAYS
 November 28 – PROGRESS REPORTS
 December 21 – End of 1st Semester
 December 22-January 1 HOLIDAYS
 January 2 – Teacher Workday



\$\$\$ MONEY FOR COLLEGE \$\$\$

Profile in Courage Essay Contest

All high school students under the age of 20 whose families are not employees of John Hancock Financial are eligible to apply for this essay contest. Applicants should construct an original, creative essay of 1,000 words or less that demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by John F. Kennedy in *Profiles of Courage*. Specific entry requirements can be found at www.jfklibrary.org or you may pick up a copy from your counselor. Essays must be submitted by January 5, 2013.

Create-A-Greeting-Card Scholarship Contest

Students may win \$10,000 towards their education in this 6th Annual contest. Students must submit a unique photo, piece of artwork, or computer graphic for the front of a greeting card. The student with the best design will win \$10,000. For more information, go to www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm. Submissions are due by January 16, 2013.