



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

Summer, 2009

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Free College Admissions Workshop



Attention parents of rising juniors and seniors....

A+ is hosting a FREE College Admissions Workshop on Tuesday evening, October 6th at 7:30 PM. The workshop will include information about:

- What parents and students need to know about selecting a college.
- Finding the college that is the *right fit* for your child.
- How to deal with all that stress!
- Creating a college application timeline.
- Is the ACT "easier" than the SAT?
- What about taking both the SAT and the ACT?
- Do colleges prefer the SAT to the ACT?
- Should my child take the SAT Subject Tests (formerly SAT II exams)?

The location for the workshop has yet to be determined but will be in the Eastern Montgomery County area. Please call 215-886-9188 or [email](#) to RSVP, or to ask questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

De-stressing the College Application Process



For rising seniors, these last few weeks of summer lend themselves well to taking stock of where you are in the college application process. Starting the process early will help de-stress what can be a hectic senior year as you juggle gathering material for colleges while striving for solid grades and participating in extracurricular activities. Many students describe completing college applications as having an additional class, so the more you can complete before school begins, the better off you will be. Here are some tips for getting a head start:

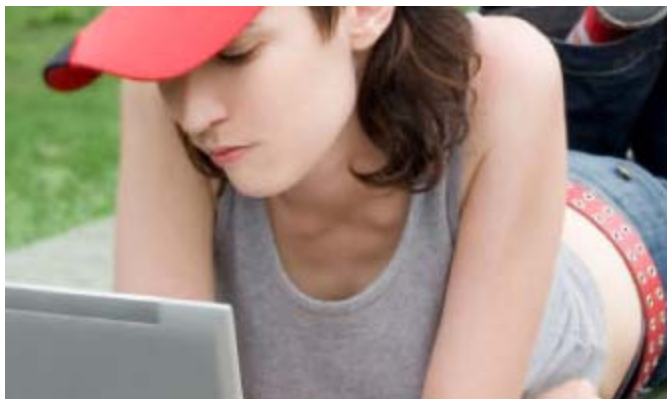
- After researching colleges on-line, visit any colleges that interest you. Although tour information is often posted on the college's website, it is a good idea to call the college to confirm that information since summer schedules often vary from those during the school year and pre-registration is sometimes required or recommended. Ask about visitor parking and how long the tour and information sessions are.
- The Common Application for 2009-2010 became available on July 1st and can be accessed at <https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>. (To familiarize yourself with the process, the site provides a link to a helpful video tutorial on how the on-line system works.) Browse through the application and fill out the basic information first. Then look at the essay options and decide which core essay you will write. Familiarize yourself with the supplemental essays required by the individual colleges. Begin brainstorming ideas and write first drafts.
- Take stock of yourself and your accomplishments. Create an on-line résumé of your activities and jobs, as well as a list of any academic or sports awards. Include anything from 9th grade forward and have a parent review these lists to be sure you don't forget to mention anything important.
- Create a file for each college you are seriously interested in. File away brochures, drafts of essays unique to that school, other requirements (submitting a CD or portfolio, for example) and their deadlines, and any other notes or information you have gathered, perhaps from going on a tour: Did the college have especially small dorm rooms? Does it have amazing sports facilities? Does it have a state-of-the-art computer center? Does the school operate on a semester or quarter basis? What was the name of the head soccer coach? Who is the head of the Romance Languages Department?
- Think about which teachers you would like to ask for letters of recommendation. Although you won't see your teachers until September, approach them early in the school year with your requests.
- Aim to submit some of your applications early, especially to colleges that offer rolling admissions or the non-binding "Early Action" option (NOT to be confused with the binding "Early Decision" option). You will be able to enjoy your senior year more, knowing that you have done so, and you will hear back earlier from those colleges (hopefully, with an offer of admission) than most of your peers!

One final piece of advice to students: enjoy the process and this unique time in your life to consider your past achievements and look ahead to the future! And to parents: try to stay positive, try not to micromanage the process too much, and don't put undue pressure on your child to be admitted to one particular school. A resource that can offer you more detailed advice on de-stressing this process is the book [Less Stress, More Success: A New Approach to Guiding Your Teen Through College Admissions and Beyond](#), by Marilee Jones and Kenneth R. Ginsburg (American Academy of Pediatrics).

Fun & Educational Websites for Children and Teens



As much as we like to encourage our students to read books, the reality is that they spend a lot of time on-line. To make this "screen" time more educational, we suggest the following websites:



www.memowiz.com MemoWiz is a program that makes learning all the vocabulary you need for the new SAT easy and fast. Learning vocabulary can be a boring and tedious process. MemoWiz is designed to make your learning experience as fast, efficient and fun as possible.

Note: For a limited time this new approach to learning SAT or ACT vocabulary is available free to students and friends of A+ Test Prep and Tutoring. You can try out a demo at www.memowiz.com. If you are interested in getting a [full version of this software free](#), just [email](#) us and MemoWiz will provide you with your own personal login.

www.freerice.com This is one of our favorite (and admittedly addictive) websites. Originally designed to test one's knowledge of vocabulary, this unique site which blends philanthropy with learning has been expanded to include subjects such as math

(pre-algebra and multiplication tables), chemistry, geography, art history, foreign languages (French, German, Italian, and Spanish), and more.

www.timeforkids.com This is the electronic counterpart to "Time For Kids," a weekly classroom news magazine with articles on current events that integrate well with social studies, science, and math. There are different editions for grades K-1 (ages 4-7), grades 2-3 (ages 7-10), and grades 4-6 (ages 10-12). The site also has an international section, organized by region, with articles on different countries and cultures around the globe. You can access past issues as well, and you can download teaching resources such as worksheets, printable quizzes, and graphic organizers.

www.whitehouse.gov/kids/news/index.html Get your child interested in government and politics with this very comprehensive site! Your child can track the latest information on a wide range of current events by viewing photos, videos, blogs, proclamations, executive orders, and press releases. There are also sections detailing the history of the White House, the various Presidents and First Ladies, Air Force One, Camp David, White House internships, the Constitution, and the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

www.pbs.org/newshour/extra PBS has supplemented its highly regarded daily newscast, "The Newshour with Jim Lehrer," with this website for students in grades 7-12. Its sections include the U.S., World, Science, Health, and Arts/Media. Special features include "Student Voices" where students submit their own essays, stories, or poems and a "Teacher Center" where detailed lesson plans are supplied and ideas are offered about how to engage students with the news.

Good luck and have fun!

School and Community Partnerships



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring provides One-to-One Test Prep and Academic Subject Tutoring at our two office locations, Jenkintown and North Wales, and at student's homes throughout the [Delaware Valley](#).

We also partner with schools to provide test preparation, remedial reading and math, and [study skills](#) courses to students throughout the region. Courses offered include SAT, ACT, SSAT, and ISEE. For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.

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A+ Test Prep and Tutoring

Thank you for your interest in A+ and our newsletter. Feel free to contact us at 215.886.9188 or on the web at www.aplustutoring.com.

And don't forget to visit the [A+ Blog](#), which is updated weekly with articles relating to a variety of education-related topics including college admissions, test prep, learning disabilities, reading skills, etc.

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