



Sophomore Parent Night

February 25, 2015



Presenters

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Agenda

- Graduation Requirements
- Testing
- MCAS and Koplik Award
- NHS
- SAT/SAT II
- Financial Trends for College
- Moving forward



Sophomore

“The most important thing for a 10th grader to bear in mind is to stay in a challenging curriculum. Colleges expect a student to take four or five academic core classes: English, math, science, social science, and a foreign language.”

- *Bill McClintick*, board president of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

South Shore Charter Public School

English	4 years
Math	4 years
Science	4 years
Social Science	4 years
Spanish	4 years
Workshop	4 years

Additional: Sr Project, Debate,
Community Service, College Courses,
and a College Acceptance

University of Massachusetts System (*minimum course requirement*)

English	4 years
Math	4 years
Science	3 years
Social Science	2 years
Foreign Language	2 years
Electives	2 years

Graduation Requirements



College Course

One of the Graduation Requirements for students at South Shore Charter Public School is to complete 2 college courses with a final grade of 2.0/75%/C*

**Any grade below a 2.0 or 75% or C is not transferable to another school*



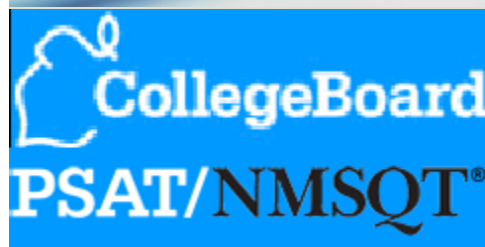
College Course Details

- Course must be pre-approved by Guidance or the Principal
- The course must be 3 credits
- The course must be at an accredited college/university
- SSCPS **does not** budget for books, transportation, or any other charges incurred (late fee, add/drop fee
- SSCPS budgets \$482.00 per course (*budget is based on Quincy College's High School Student rate, 2014-15*)
- Students can take courses at any colleges, but they would be responsible for the difference



GPA (Grade Point Average)

- Grade point average is the final average of all courses in a given academic year.
- Workshop is part of GPA
- Junior Year GPA is VERY important



PSAT, SAT, ACT, Subject Tests ...

All About Testing



PSAT- What does it measure?

This test measures skills in three basic academic areas important for success in college. They are:

- Critical Reading
- Math problem-solving
- Writing skills



ACT vs SAT

- Two distinct types of tests
- Benefits to each – student must determine which test best helps them demonstrate his or her abilities
- SAT is with essay – ACT offers choice about taking essay
- Consult colleges to see if the college is requiring a test with essay

Send all SAT scores to colleges

- Students send scores to colleges before they know their score
- Students can send scores to 4 colleges for free

Choose which scores to send to colleges

- Students wait to view scores before they are sent to colleges
- College Board charges \$11.25 per transaction

Score Choice



SAT II (Subject Tests)

- When and why take Subject Tests
- As close after a course's completion as possible (example: Chemistry, US History)
- Student is advised to speak with the subject teacher for guidance in the subject area regarding curriculum alignment and possible additional outside study for test preparation



General Testing Calendar

- **PSAT:** Grades 9-10 (practice)

Gr 11 NSMQT Qualifier

- **SAT:** Spring of Junior Year (Jan, Mar, May, June)
- **ACT:** Spring of Junior Year (Apr, June)
- **SAT:** Fall of Senior Year (Oct, Nov, Dec)
- **ACT:** Fall of Senior Year
- **Subject Tests:** May, June of Junior Year & Oct, Nov of Senior Year



MCAS Testing

- Massachusetts requirement for HS Diploma
- ELA : March 25-26
- Math: May 12-13
- Students can earn scholarships



John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

-The scholarship covers the tuition portion of the yearly cost at most MA state colleges and universities.

-To continue receiving this scholarship the student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on all college work.

- As of the class of 2017 students are eligible for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship if they score:**
 - at the Advanced performance level in one of the three subject areas**
 - at least Proficient in the other two remaining areas**
 - and they must have a combined score of the three tests in the top 25% of students in the graduating class in their district.**



Koplick Certificate of Mastery

- Qualifying 10th Grade MCAS score
(at least one Advanced and two Advanced or Proficient)
- Two additional academic achievements:
 - AP Exam or SAT Subject Test
 - College Course

National Honor Society

- Students are invited to apply for NHS in the beginning of their Junior Year
- NHS invitation is based on GPA
- Application Process
- Committee Decision
- Induction is school wide event (Nov 2015)



College Trends

“The most important contributor to college success—no matter what college or university, and no matter how talented the student—is the student’s drive to make the most of the opportunities afforded to him or her”





Admission Trends

- Demonstrated interest – visit a school you are interested in; colleges take notice
- Social Media screening is up – 26% of Admissions Officers check student Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter Accounts; 27% of Admissions Google applicants
- Stay involved –Extra-curricular activities are important to college admissions. Stay involved in sports, clubs, hobbies, & work



Moving Forward

- Don't assume that colleges you have never heard of cannot be very good. Many schools have first rate programs.
- This Spring and Summer are great times to start visiting and researching colleges.
- Spring of 2016 will be a Junior Parent Night & Junior Seminar starts in Jan 2016



Moving Forward ...

- Begin talking to your son/daughter about their interests, talents, and abilities with an eye on future planning
- GAP Year, Military, Work, Training & Trade options
- College focus – discuss college in general; Visit 2 colleges for comparison; attend info session;



Financial Trends

MEFA (Mass Educational Finance Authority)

- Great up to date information on college finance by grade level

<http://www.mefa.org/planforcollege/planforcollege.aspx?id=1295>

Other resources:

American Student Assistance

Brockton College Planning Center

34 School St

Brockton MA, 02301

866.891.4716

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m

Final thoughts on Sophomore Year





Questions?

Thank you for coming!