

Seton Guidance Corner

October 24, 2024

Advantages of the Advanced Placement (AP) Program

The AP Program is designed by the College Board to provide motivated and academically prepared high school students with the opportunity to earn college credit and reduce costs. The two components of the program are AP courses and AP exams. Seton does not offer AP courses; however, students have the opportunity to take AP exams with independent study encouraged. AP exams are scored on a 5-point scale, and a score of 3 or higher corresponds to a passing grade in a comparable college course. Many colleges and universities will grant college credit and/or advanced placement for successful AP exam scores (consult individual colleges for their policies). Additionally, earning college credit or advanced placement can allow students more flexibility to double major, study abroad, or graduate early. Participating in the AP Program can also help students stand out in the college admissions process. For additional information, visit <https://setonschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/AP-QA-1.pdf>.

The 2024-25 AP exams will be administered at Seton in May, but the registration deadline is coming up on Tuesday, November 12. For a list of AP exams offered as well as for registration and payment information, visit <https://setonschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/AP-Registration-form-2024-25.pdf>. Contact Mrs. Reyes with questions. (smreyes595@gmail.com, 540-683-1942)

ASVAB for the Juniors – What’s the ASVAB?

The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is part of a Career Exploration Program which offers students the opportunity to identify strengths, interests, and skill levels. The junior class will be taking the test on Tuesday morning, Nov. 5, beginning at 8:20 a.m. in the gym. Students will go to their first period class for attendance/morning announcements then report to the gym. Once ASVAB scores are received, students can visit www.asvabprogram.com/ for additional in-depth career information as well as assessments to determine possible career interests. For more information about the ASVAB, click [here](#).

CLT – An alternative to the SAT and ACT

Classic Learning Test (CLT) is a college entrance exam that provides an alternative to the SAT and ACT and uniquely showcases students’ analytical and critical thinking skills. The test offers assessments that evaluate reading, grammar, and mathematics and provides a comprehensive measure of achievement and aptitude. Unlike other tests that change according to educational or cultural trends, CLT exams emphasize foundational critical thinking skills and are accessible to students from a variety of educational backgrounds. The “classic” in Classic Learning Test refers to the use of classic literature and historical texts for the reading selections on the exams. By engaging students with this meaningful content, CLT exams provide valuable academic insights and pave the way to a college education. In addition, CLT offers a convenient online testing platform and multiple test dates throughout the year. Over 250 Partner Colleges actively recruit CLT test-takers and offer scholarships for a wide range of scores. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.cltexam.com/>. For a list of Partner Colleges, visit <https://www.cltexam.com/colleges/>.

Early Decision vs. Early Action vs. Regular Decision

College-bound seniors will undoubtedly become familiar with the terms Early Decision (ED), Early Action (EA), and Regular Decision (RD). So, what's the difference?

Early Decision is a binding contract between a student and college. If a student is accepted Early Decision, they must enroll at that school and withdraw all other college applications. Therefore, applying to a school Early Decision is not a decision that should be taken lightly. However, applying Early Decision is the strongest possible way to demonstrate interest, and colleges like admitting students who are not only a good fit but are also committed to attending.

Early Action offers students the opportunity to both submit their application and receive their decision early. Unlike Early Decision, however, Early Action is non-binding, which means students are not obliged to enroll if they are accepted. Admission rates for the Early Action round are usually higher than Regular Decision, but not higher than Early Decision. Early Action applicants enjoy an advantage in that they get to compete for more available spots.

Regular Decision, like Early Action, is a non-binding admission plan. Among ED, EA, and RD, Regular Decision usually has the lowest acceptance rates, because it typically has the highest volume of applications of any round, and at the same time, the least number of spots available for students to be admitted. Despite the lower likelihood of admission via this plan, Regular Decision may strategically make sense for some students (i.e. for students who need to improve their GPA or test scores or who need more time for their college search as they narrow down their top choice(s)). (Adapted from https://www.ivywise.com/ivywise-knowledgebase/resources/article/ed-vs-ea-vs-rd-which-college-application-round-is-right-for-you/?utm_source=marketing+email&utm_medium=october+newsletter.)

Upcoming College Visits at Seton

Tuesday, October 29 – Franciscan University (during both lunch periods)

CLT, SAT, and ACT Registration Deadlines Coming Up

CLT Test Date – November 7 (Remotely Proctored)

Registration Deadline – October 31

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for CLT's free practice test.

SAT Test Date – December 7

Registration Deadline – November 22

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free SAT practice test.

ACT Test Date – December 14

Registration Deadline – November 8

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free ACT test prep.

Scholarship Opportunities

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Amount: \$8,000

Deadline: November 1, 2024

<https://www.scholarships.com/scholarships/virginia-museum-of-fine-arts-visual-arts-fellowship#>

Denny's Hungry for Education Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: November 30, 2024

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/26987/dennys-hungry-for-education-scholarship>

Visionary Scholarship

Amount: Up to \$2,500

Deadline: December 1, 2024

<https://scholarships360.org/scholarships/search/visionary-scholarship/>

**Please note, opportunities in the Guidance Corner are not endorsements of the programs. They are shared as options for students and parents to carefully consider.*