

The Sophomore Bulletin

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South Houston High School

I'm a Sophomore... What Will I Do When I Finish High School?

This publication, *The Sophomore Bulletin*, will be published periodically during the 2008-2009 school year. All sophomores are encouraged to read the bulletin and to share them with your parents. If at any time you have questions about information in the bulletin, please see the appropriate counselor.

10-01 to 10-24: Mrs. Capelo
10-25 to 10-26: Mrs. Coon

Special population:

Mrs. Hogan

Sophomores can start planning now for their futures. It is time to begin investigating and researching what your steps will be after high school. Basically, there are four possible plans for your future: enter the work force, join the military, join a technical or vocational program, go to college.

Entering the work force— spend time creating a good resume that features your strengths as well as any skills you may have that set you apart from the other

applicants. In the interview, dress nicely, make eye contact, shake hands, answer questions with honesty and respect. Remember, there may be several other people being considered for the same position. You want them to remember you. Visit some of these website for more information about career choices: www.careervoyages.gov,

www.myfuture.com, and www.careerkey.org

Joining the military— Anyone joining the military must have completed all high school graduation requirements. Each military branch will have its own specific policies and procedures. If you are interested, you would need to contact a local recruiter for more information.

Joining a technical or vocational program—

There are an abundance of technical and vocational schools and programs that will make many promises, as long as you have the money to pay for them. Do your research before signing on the dotted line. Know how much the

entire program will cost through completion; know what your obligations will be upon signing. Remember that many junior colleges such as San Jacinto College offer the same technical programs at less cost.

Ask the junior colleges about their **certification programs**.



Going to College—This category can be divided into junior colleges and universities. **Junior College:** Students who apply to junior colleges are automatically accepted, at most junior colleges, upon successful completion of all high school graduation requirements. These schools do not require you to take an **SAT** for admission; however, students must take the **COMPASS** or **THEA**, which the college uses to determine course readiness and placement. You may, however, still choose to take an **SAT** or **ACT** because certain scholarships require an **SAT** or **ACT** score in order to apply for that scholarship. Students who are not US citizens can also apply to college, but these students must meet certain obligations. **Universities:** You will not actually apply to a university until the beginning of your senior year, but there are things you can do to get ready for that day. Each university has its own specific requirements and prospective students need to visit university websites and research their school’s requirements. When investigating colleges, consider **academics, entrance requirements, location, and cost**. Take notes and make a folder for each college possibility. Feel free to explore the following websites for more information about colleges: **www.collegeboard.com, www.campustours.com, www.act.org, www.students.gov, www.wiredscholar.com, SchoolSoup.com** and **www.collegefortexans.com**. If you are in the **top 10%** of your graduating class, you can be automatically admitted to a **Texas state university** upon successful completion of all graduation requirements and completion of all application procedures required by the university. You would still have to meet all deadlines in order to be considered. This top 10% admission policy might be an incentive to make the best grades possible between now and your senior year. Currently, **students ranked # 1—68 are in the top 10% of the class**. However, this can change each year. Use the timeline listed below as a guide for the road to college.



Do some community service, re-search universities, keep grades up so that you have a good class rank and GPA.

Begin creating a resume to give to teachers, counselor, etc. whom you will ask to write letters of recommendation in your senior year.

Take the PSAT, even if you already took it in the 10th grade. The junior PSAT is the score that colleges look at when considering sending information to potential students.

Take an actual SAT or ACT in the Spring so that you can have a score when you start filling out applications next fall. Also, if you are unhappy with the score, you will still have time to retake the test or take a different test either in the summer or at the very beginning of your senior year. If you receive free or reduced lunch services, you are probably eligible for a fee waiver for the SAT. You must use the fee waiver for the SAT in order to receive a fee waiver for college applications when applying next fall. Also, narrow down your college choices to your top three to five choices. Application fees for universities run about \$50 each, so be selective.

Apply, apply, apply! You will be receiving bulletins that offer a variety of scholarship opportunities for you. You will also need to fill out college applications. If you used a fee waiver for the SAT, you are eligible for a fee waiver for your college application. It is very important to meet all deadlines. Some admissions deadlines are as early as February 1st and some college financial aid deadlines are just as early.

You will need to apply for financial aid by filling out the FAFSA. This form is not available until January of your senior year. This is important for acquiring grants, etc. Avoid senioritis! You still have to graduate and receive a diploma to start college in the fall even if you have already been accepted to a college or university! Stay focused all the way to your dream!



Sophomore Opportunity—Louisiana State University (LSU)—The **School of Architecture and Department of Interior Design** will be offering a one-week career exploration workshop, **June 7-13, 2009**. The fee is **\$500.00**, partial and full scholarships are available and are based upon financial need. This experience is intended to show high school students what design professionals do, what opportunities are available in the field of architecture and interior design, and what skills are required. To apply fill out the application forms and return it with the required 500 word essay and two letters of recommendation. **Please make checks or money order payable to Louisiana State University and on the memo line please write Career Discovery Workshop**. If you are interested stop by an pick up an application from **Mrs. Espinoza** in the Counselor's office. They are due to Mrs. Capelo by **Friday, April 24th**.

Sophomore Opportunity—Prairie View A & M 2009 Summer transportation Institute—is for rising 11th and 12th graders and is sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration through the Texas Department of Transportation. This institute is a **four-week, on-campus** learning opportunity **June 7-July 3, 2009**, for a diverse group of high school students and is designed to enhance awareness of career opportunities that exist in the transportation industry. Approximately **18 students** will receive a scholarship that covers the **ENTIRE COST** of **\$2500** so the program is **FREE** for the selected students. **Applications** are available from **Mrs. Espinoza** in the counseling office and are due to Mrs. Capelo by **Thursday, April 30th**. More information about the program is available online at www.pvamu.edu/sti.

Sophomore Opportunity—Texas A & M University College of Architecture—is hosting **Camp ARCH** this summer from **July 12th to the 18th**. The resident summer camp is designed to give young people who are between **9th and 12th grade** an opportunity to experience the professions of **Architect, Constructor and Visual Designer**. Selected students will experience working together in a studio environment just as professionals would in a design or construction firm. The **50 students** will be housed in dormitories on the **Texas A&M Campus** and will be taught by faculty from the **College of Architecture**. If you are interested in a career in Architecture, Visualization (i.e. video game design, 3D animation, etc), Landscape Architecture or Construction Management stop by an pick up an application from **Mrs. Espinoza** in the Counselors' Office. They are due to Mrs. Capelo by **Monday, May 4th the cost is \$600**. For more information visit <http://camparch.tamu.edu>

Sophomore Opportunity—Close Up Student Summer Academy 2009—6 action-packed days in Washington; A chance to live, learn and socialize with students across the country; A “real world” understanding of why your voice matters in our democracy; and One college credit from the University of Virginia (optional). See Mrs. Espinoza in the counseling office for a fact sheet. For more information visit SummerAcademy@CloseUp.org

Sophomore Opportunity—University of Texas at Austin—The McComb Future Executive Academy (MFEA) is your chance to discover what a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree and a career in business could mean for you. A weeklong on-campus institutes for socially or economically disadvantaged students or those who will be the first in their families to attend college. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.2, a resume, two letters of recommendations, transcripts and a completed application. Apply on line at www.mcombs.utexas.edu/summercamps. For more information , contact Lauren Cove at 512-471-2103 or summercamps@mcombs.utexas.edu