



COUNSELOR CONNECTION

December 2023

9th-11th Grade Score Reports

All PSAT and PreACT test score reports have been mailed home to students and parents. If you would like an electronic copy of your scores, please email Mrs. Poole at annap@bvcs.org to request a PDF version of the report.

Want to know more about what each test score means? Below are links with more information to help you decipher your student's scores!

[PSAT 8/9 \(9th Grade\)](#)

[PreACT \(10th Grade\)](#)

[PSAT/NMSQT \(11th Grade\)](#)

Now that you have a better understanding of your scores, you can begin exploring your options beyond high school graduation. There are many helpful resources available to students to begin this exploration. Below are resources provided by College Board and ACT to assist students in this process.

[ACT College and Career Readiness](#)

[College Board/Big Future College and Career Exploration](#)

Schedule Changes for 2nd Semester

If you already know of a necessary schedule change for 2nd semester, please contact Mrs. Poole at annap@bvcs.org. Students will have up through the first two weeks of second semester to make any necessary changes to their schedules without penalty. However, if you already know of a necessary schedule change now, it can be arranged and updated in FACTS prior to the start of second semester.

PSAT 10: Optional Testing Opportunity for Sophomores

We will be offering the PSAT 10 to sophomores in March 2024. Students will be required to sign up for this optional testing opportunity. More information on date and location will be provided to all 10th grade students soon!

California Scholarship Federation (CSF) Meeting

CSF is a statewide organization that was created to foster pride in high standards of academics while encouraging further education for highly qualified students. Students must academically qualify for 4 out of 6 semesters during their 10th-12th grade years. The fall meeting is open to 11th and 12th grade students.

Date: Wednesday, December 6th

Time: 1:40-2:10 PM

Location: Lion's Lair

If you are interested, you must sign up outside the counseling office so Mrs. Poole can prepare your transcript prior to the meeting.

Boys & Girls State Informational Meeting

American Legion Boys & Girls State (now co-ed) is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high-school students. This is a participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government. American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women only called Girls State.

The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys & Girls State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs. Past Boys & Girls State camps have been hosted at CSU Sacramento in mid-late June. This is open to interested 11th grade students.

Date: Wednesday, December 6th

Time: 2:10-2:30 PM

Location: Lion's Lair

MJC Dual Enrollment

If you are interested in taking a college course through MJC's dual enrollment program, we can help! Students are required to get permission from their high school's counseling department in order to enroll in a college level course. If you would like more information on the process, please contact Mrs. Alavezos or Mrs. Poole to discuss your options.

College Athletics

If you are interested in the opportunity to play sports in college, there are resources available to help!

NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete **NAIA Eligibility Requirements**

It is particularly important to pay attention to the academic requirements for NCAA Division I, Division II, and NAIA to make sure you are on track academically during high school. If you are interested in the possibility of college athletics, contact Mrs. Alavezos and Mrs. Poole to begin those discussions and make sure you are meeting important eligibility requirements.

SAT/ACT Testing

While most colleges are test optional for admissions, we still recommend students take the SAT and/or ACT for scholarship opportunities. Some colleges and universities also utilize test scores for placement purposes within impacted majors. Therefore, it is still helpful to have a score!

We recommend 11th grade students begin taking the SAT/ACT during the spring of their junior year.

Spring SAT Dates

March 9th, 2024 (Registration deadline: February 23rd)

May 4th, 2024 (Registration deadline: April 19th)

June 1st, 2024 (Registration deadline: May 17th)

Spring ACT Dates

February 10th, 2024 (Registration deadline: January 5th)

April 13th, 2024 (Registration deadline: March 8th)

June 8th, 2024 (Registration deadline: May 3rd)

July 13th, 2024 (Registration deadline: June 7th)

College Scholarship Information

The college prep department will have a college scholarship bulletin that will be updated monthly with any new local, state, or national scholarship opportunities.

Here are some [helpful tips](#) from the Federal Student Aid department.

Student Scholarships: <https://studentscholarships.org/>

Scholarships.com: <https://www.scholarships.com/>

Big Future: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships>

College Scholarships: <https://www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid/>

Career One Stop: <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>

FAFSA Updates

By filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you open the door for college grants, work-study programs, federal student loans, and certain state-based aid. While you may think you will not qualify for any help, filling out the FAFSA is the only way to find out.

The FAFSA for the 2024-25 school year will open by December 31st, 2023. This is unique from previous years when the FAFSA opened on October 1st. There are changes and simplifications coming to the new FAFSA which is why the application date has been pushed back this year.

Some of the updates include:

- The previous 108 questions are being reduced down to 35 questions.
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is no longer being used; the new metric is Student Aid Index (SAI).
 - To see an estimate, visit the [aid estimator](#).
 - Most applicants can complete the FAFSA in less than one hour.

College Deadlines:

- You can find the FAFSA deadline for specific schools by looking them up on their websites. Make sure to submit the FAFSA by the college's priority deadline if you're hoping to get as much aid as possible.
- List all colleges you're considering whether you end up applying or not. You can add/remove colleges from your FAFSA list later in the process.

State Deadlines:

- States have their own individual deadlines for the FAFSA.
- Use this page to check for updates for each [state](#).

Federal Deadlines:

- The final deadline for completing the FAFSA for the 2024-2025 school year stretches all the way until June 30th, 2025. Students can still complete the FAFSA during their freshman year of college but this really should be completed during senior year of high school. Even though students can technically submit later, most colleges will require students to already have this completed as part of their enrollment process.