



# Old Steller Yeller

September 2011



**From the Principal**  
**Dale Evern**  
**742-4964**

Hello Steller Parents,

I loved seeing the students on the first day of school this year. They filled the hallways and moved with direction and purpose. Starting the year with intensives seems to have been a positive thing for our students. It was very good to visit the classrooms and various teaching areas around the building and see such positive and meaningful activities taking place.

The All community meeting was a success and I believe most people enjoyed it. The student presentations were interesting and the hardest part of the evening was keeping the students to four-minute presentations. I think that's a good problem to have. I want to thank everyone who helped with the picnic set up, take down, and clean up. ASRC was kind enough to let us use their grill, and they even cleaned it for us when we were done with it.

I am glad we were able to get through registration and students are now in classes. I hope your students were able to sign up for all the classes they wanted. I know not everyone can have the ideal schedule, but I want to thank all of you for your patience and willingness to let the students go through the process. We realize there are conflicts in the schedule and will work hard to resolve lingering issues.

Our Band and Orchestra classes are off to a good start. We have more than twice as many students this year, and both classes sound pretty good to me. This month, we will be starting both Choir and Chinese classes after school. I am still working on Drama, but we will have it. The Parent Group asked me to put together a list of clubs that are available to our students. As soon as that is done, I will send it to the Steller Flash and post it there.

We have several things coming up this month to pay attention to. The ninth of September is picture day, so make sure your students are at their best. We use the pictures to create school ID cards, so make sure your students are there. The 15<sup>th</sup> of September is back to school night. We will have a short gathering in the MPR to kick off the night and get rotation schedules, then we'll start right in with rotating to your students' classes. The evening will be informative and helpful so you know what your students are learning this semester.

September 23 is our first dance of the year. Look for times on the Activity calendar. The following is the policy on dance dress and decorum:

## **Dance Dress Code Reminder**

All participants in a Steller sponsored dance must follow the Anchorage School District dress code {ASD}, as addressed in the Student Handbook.

Students are not allowed to wear clothing (T-shirts, hats, etc) that displays obscenity, profanity, sexual innuendoes; or a picture that promotes or glamorize drugs, tobacco and alcohol, or disrupts student learning and/or the educational process.

This also includes garments with pictures of drugs, tobacco and alcohol or any related paraphernalia. Clothing that allows for indecent exposure is also prohibited. For example: clothing that displays the abdomen/navel, midriff, chest (excessive cleavage), dresses follow the "finger tip rule" which is typically no

more than 4 inches above the knees. And, while in the building **students must keep shoes on at all times!!!**

If a student arrives at the dance with clothing that does not follow the ASD policy he/she will be asked to either: change or leave. Inappropriate attire will not be allowed at the dance.

**Once a student leaves the dance, re-admittance will not be permitted.** Guests from other high schools or persons outside the school [*home school etc*] may attend Steller dances if pre-arranged through the Front Office. Students attending a Steller dance as the guest of a Steller student must be currently enrolled in high/middle school and no older than 18 [*student IDs are required for admission*]. The exception to this will be the Steller proms where the age limit of guests will be no **older than 20 years of age. Guests 21 years of age or older will not be allowed.**

Chaperones and staff members will be present and behavior that violates ASD policy, such as inappropriate dancing, will result in removal from the dance and a ban from the next dance. Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to: Moshing, Grinding, Freak Dancing, Slamming, or the use of drugs or alcohol.

It sounds like a lot of rules to follow for a dance, but the rules are meant to protect your students. Please go over the rules with your student prior to them attending the dance.

One other exciting thing is that we have some teachers looking into the possibility of having a state of the art greenhouse built on our campus. There will be more on that as we move forward with asking for funding and figuring out just how much it would cost. I appreciate all the support you have shown me and if we haven't met yet, be sure to introduce yourself to me.

Take care for now,

Dale

# Meet Steller's New Staff

## Ashley Van Hemert

Hola! I am very excited to be teaching Spanish at Steller. I'm looking forward to becoming a part of the Steller community and am particularly excited about the new challenges and rewards that will go along with my roles as intensive instructor and adviser. I grew up in Anchorage and have lived here most of my life. I've spent the last 3 summers building a cabin in Homer with my husband. I earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology with minors in Spanish and English from Western Washington University and earned my Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Juneau at UAS. I also attended a university in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico where I learned Spanish and taught English. I most recently taught Spanish at Bartlett. I enjoy being outside and being active. I like to run, hike, bike, ski, cook and read. I'm fortunate to have most of my family nearby and enjoy spending a lot of time with them. I look forward to meeting all of you, and to sharing many new adventures.

## Anne McCarron

My name is Anne McCarron and I am the nurse at Steller. I have worked mostly in elementary schools but was the nurse at Central for three years (2004-2007). I love working with middle school adolescents and am very excited about working with students in high school. I can honestly say that I have never had a job in school nursing or nursing in general that I have not liked and I have been a nurse a long time! I grew up in Florida and ended up in Alaska by way of the Air Force. I got out of the military after eight years and make Alaska my home. I lived here 22 years and although all four of my children are grown and have left the state, I have great places to visit in the wintertime. I received my undergraduate degree in nursing science from the University of Texas and I am finishing my graduate degree as a psychiatric nurse practitioner at UAA. (Only one more semester!!!!)



From left to right: Ashley Van Hemert, Spanish; Anne McCarron, Nurse; Danelle Avellino, Science; Claudia Johnson-Curtis, Special Education; Michelle Hawkins, Secretary; Deanna Blazejewski, Special Education; Alysha Gates, Math; Dale Evern, Principal; Lee Weiland, Art.  
Not pictured: Rebecca Gurney, Library Media Aide; Marilyn Watts, Teacher Aide

Parents, please don't hesitate to call me if you have any concerns about your child and students I am here for you, the staff, and be happy to meet with you then or at another more convenient time. I am very excited to be here and am looking forward to a great year.

## Danelle Avellino

I am really excited to be teaching chemistry/science at Steller this year. I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. My husband is in the U.S. Air Force and we just moved to Alaska in August! I have lived in North Dakota, Panama, New Mexico, Las Vegas, and most recently, Texas. I have taught chemistry, physics, and physical science at a large high school in Texas for the past four years. I have a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of North Dakota. I also have a M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Troy University. In addition to being a teacher, I have over five years experience as a Licensed Professional Counselor. I have three daughters and a little boy on the way! He is due this December. I love animals and enjoy hiking. I am so happy to be in Alaska and I look forward to the snow this winter!

## Claudia Johnson-Curtis

I am delighted to join the Steller family and look forward to working with our

wonderful students, families, Steller family, and community. I just arrived in Anchorage from Dallas, TX and love it here already! I was born in Oklahoma, have a Masters degree in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelors degree in Family/Consumer Science from Cameron University in Oklahoma. This is my second career as I came from the corporate world in the last few years. I was a ballet dancer for 11 years so I particularly enjoy watching ballet. My hobbies include travel, the cultural arts and football. My Oklahoma "Sooners" are rated #1 in college football this year so don't be surprised to see me in my OU spirit attire!

## Michelle Hawkins

Hi, I am Michelle Hawkins your new secretary. I was born and raised here in Anchorage and graduated just down the street at West High. I am happily married with a blended family of five children, ages 15 to 27. I have been with the district for many years, most recently transferring from Related Services. I have always thoroughly enjoyed this age of students, but until now never had the opportunity to work directly with them with the exception of my own. During the short time I have been here I can say, without hesitation, that Steller is a school where students excel because the staff and parents truly care. I am proud to be a part of Steller.

## Meet Steller's New Staff cont.

### Dean\*na Blazejewski

I am ecstatic to join Steller this year as I look forward to growing and learning along with our students. Primarily, I was raised in Central Texas. I graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut with a Bachelors of Science in Government, the University of New Orleans with a Master of Education in Special Education, and most recently, the University of Alaska – Anchorage with a Master of Education in Special Education Administration. Currently, I am pursuing a graduate certificate in Educational Leadership from UAA and I am a reservist in the Coast Guard. My hobbies include traveling and participating in full and half marathons, as well as sprint triathlons. I eagerly await getting to know the amazing individuals that comprise the Steller community.

### Alysha Gates

I am thrilled to be at Steller as a first year teacher. I look forward to the opportunity to help my students learn and grow but also the opportunity for me to do so as well.

I grew up in the Anchorage area, graduated from the Anchorage School District, and then left for Oregon to pursue my degree. I attended Corban University where I graduated with a Bachelor's in both mathematics and education. My hobbies include swimming, hiking, and cooking.

### Dale Evern

Dale Evern was born and raised in Anchorage. He attended Sand Lake and Gladys Wood Elementary, Mears Jr. High, and graduated from Dimond High School just a few years ago. Dale's interests are mostly fishing and hunting, but he is also a snowmachiner and downhill skier. He loves spending time at his cabin with his family. He is married, and he has two daughters who are 18 yrs. and a 15 yrs. old. Dale attended several colleges, but he has his

bachelors and his masters degrees from the University of Alaska Anchorage. He is a life-long learner and he loves to read. Dale likes being at Steller and looks forward to the next ten years.

### Lee Weiland

It is wonderful to be part of the Steller Community as the Art Teacher here on campus. My wife Alexis and I have moved here from Central Florida and I have also lived in Pennsylvania, California, and Texas. I graduated from Plano Senior High School, University of Houston (BFA Studio Art), Florida Christian College (Bachelor's Biblical Studies), Lincoln Christian University (MA Theology & Philosophy). I enjoy making art, engaging in various forms of physical training and sports, studying theology and philosophy, and hanging out with my wonderful wife and playing with my two dogs Shadow and Bonzai. I greatly look forward to teaching at Steller and am excited about helping students grow intellectually and develop an appreciation and a sense of responsibility for the world and the people around them.

### Rebecca Gurney

Hi Steller Community...my name is Becky and I am Steller's library aid. I work in the mornings from 8-11:30. I am excited to work side-by-side with Svetlana this year (she will be in the library in the afternoons). Please do not hesitate to ask me for help with anything...if I cannot help you personally I can direct you to someone who CAN. If you do not already know, we have a nice, quaint little reading area carved out in the library if you want to escape the hall noise a bit, and you may drink your morning coffee here if you are early to school. However, no drinks/food are allowed on the computer side of the library. This will help keep all the computers largely germ-free (and functional). I look forward to getting to know you all – again, stop by any time.



**Marilyn Watts**

Hi everyone. I'm excited to be working with the great staff and students here at Steller Secondary School. How could I not love working at a school that has been named after a naturalist, George Steller, since my degree is in Natural Resources and Environmental Education? I have been in Alaska almost 30 years now but hail from Michigan. Favorite school subject: Math. I like to ski, hike, bird, travel and ride in boats if given the opportunity.



**NO School  
Monday,  
September 5th  
Labor Day  
Holiday**



**Mark your  
calendar!**

**Picture Day is  
coming  
Friday,  
September  
9th.  
Look for more  
information on  
your child's  
Picture Day  
flyer / order  
form.**

**Visit  
Lifetouch.com  
for clothing  
suggestions,  
online  
payment  
details and  
more.**

## Nurse's Notes



Parents,

I want to tell you how impressed I am with your adolescents! I have seen some very independent, courteous young people in my office over the last three weeks. It is heartwarming to see that given increased independent and higher expectations students are anxious to live up to those expectations.

It is easy to see why Steller students excel. They have great role models for parents. I want to thank Victoria Weindel (Emily's mother) and Rebecca Johnson (Annie and Tim's mother) for the huge supply of healthy food for the nurse's office. Thank you to Charlie Tyrrell (father of Charles) and the Parent's Group as well for their contributions. I am sure there are so many I have forgotten, but please know that your contributions are immensely appreciated. Pass the word on that the office is well stocked for now. Any student who forgets his or her lunch, did not have time for breakfast, or does not have money can come to the nurse's office. Thank you parents for making certain Steller students do not go without eating.

Speaking of food, there are a number of Steller students who have peanut or other nut allergies. I am certain those students are well versed in avoiding nuts, however, I want you to encourage students not to share their food. Perhaps this is a carry over from being in elementary school, where students are not so versed in avoiding foods they should not eat. I do want to be cautious though. Some students are so allergic that smelling or touching nuts or even touching a table that has nut residue can cause a life-threatening reaction. Fortunately, none of the students at Steller have that severe of a response, however, the more exposed to the allergen, the more severe the reaction is likely to be. If you or your adolescent does have nuts or nut products in the building and even if they are not to be shared, please let others know there are nuts in the item. All staff are trained in the use of an epinephrine pin, however I certainly want to avoid an anaphylactic response if we can. Nuts are healthy food items, so I do not want them excluded from the building. We just need to use caution as with Latex. Thanks for your help with this.

It was nice to see so many healthy foods at the bar-b-que. The garden burgers were fantastic! I enjoyed talking to many of you and I look forward to getting to know you better in the future. Thank you for all you do for Steller and please let me know if there is anything special I can do for you or your adolescent.

Sincerely,

Anne McCarron RN  
Steller Secondary School Nurse  
Nurse's office (907) 742-4963



# Yearbooks On Sale Now

Steller Parents,

Yearbooks are currently \$55, but they will rise to \$75-\$80 by the end of the school year. Take advantage of this opportunity to remember your time at Steller! Save money by buying it online (visit Josten Yearbook Sales at [www.shop.jostens.com](http://www.shop.jostens.com)) and look up our school) or complete the order form on the next page and return to Svetlana.

Thanks for your support!!!



## Photos Needed for the Yearbook

Steller Parents,

If you have a student participating in any extracurricular activities (i.e. sports at other schools, music or art camps, clubs, or jobs), and would like to have these activities featured in the Steller Yearbook, please send an email with your pictures, the name of your student and a brief description of the activity to [jackson\\_lana@asdk12.org](mailto:jackson_lana@asdk12.org).

If it's a great moment in your child's high school life, please yearbook it!



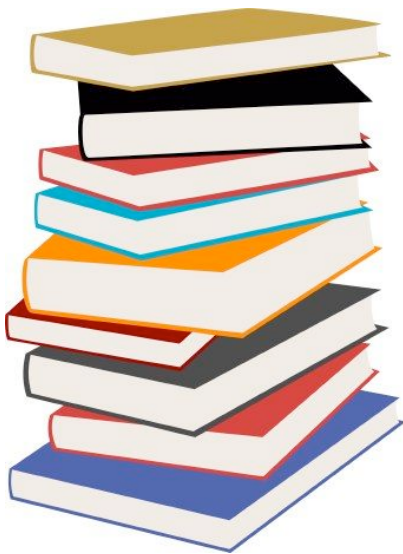


**King Career Center** tours for students and/or parents and guardians take place **every Tuesday night at 6 p.m.** beginning on September 13.

Come walk through our building and learn about the 26 different programs in Career and Technical Education.

**King Career Center is located at 2650 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Call 742-8900 or go to [www.asdk12.org/schools/kcc/pages/](http://www.asdk12.org/schools/kcc/pages/).**

## Library News



### Library Volunteers

There is room in the library schedule for volunteers despite the fact that Steller now has a librarian and a library assistant. Both jobs are part time, and there is no overlap over the lunch hour. We will need someone to keep our library open every day during that time. Volunteers will also be needed for special projects, and also one Friday afternoon a month when Secondary Librarians meetings are held. Please leave your name, email address and phone number in the library with Becky or Svetlana or with the office.

### Battle of the Books

Steller received a grant from the Glacier Lodge to buy Battle books. The shipment has arrived and we now have books for both Junior high and senior high. Thank a lodge member if you know one, or stop in and sign a card in the library. THEN, check out a book and start reading.

Here is the link to the battle books list and summaries.

<http://asdlibrarians.wikispaces.com/BOB+Summaries+and+other+materials>

# Staff Corner

“Steller is a student centered educational setting where students are empowered to work as equal partners with faculty and parents to realize educational goals”.

*-Steller Secondary School Strategic Plan 2006*

Steller Secondary is a unique educational setting within the Anchorage School District. Unfettered by the confines of our physical building, our students are able to work with parents, advisors and teachers to take full advantage of learning opportunities throughout the community. Rarely do our students hear the words “oh, you can’t do that here”. Advisors work hard to help students pursue their interests and to earn credits toward graduation in a meaningful way.

Many Steller students have chosen to enhance their learning by taking courses offered at other schools, including AP coursework or advanced music study at neighboring high schools, mathematics beyond Calculus at local universities and participation in the APU Early Honors Program.

Our juniors and seniors taking part in the ASD’s Gifted Mentorship Program are scattered throughout the Anchorage community in a variety of mentorships. This up-close and personal look at the realities of career life has helped many students decide whether to pursue their interest beyond Steller and to make valuable contacts in the community.

Students stretch in so many ways as a result of being a “Steller” student; we have fun, successful, educational peer taught classes; we have peer coaches in math, Spanish, and other disciplines where students volunteer their time during lunch and period 7 to assist classmates with their studies; and our 8th grade seminar program relies heavily on student coaches who work closely with their charges and model a love of learning that inspires.

Here at Steller we *can* and we *do*.

## Change Machine

Parents please remember when sending lunch money with your student that our change machine only accepts ones and fives and that the office does NOT have any change.





# ADVISORY GROUP SCHEDULE

## 1st Semester

Date Time	9/6 Tuesday	9/12 Monday	9/19 Monday	9/26 Monday	10/3 Monday
8:30-9:20	AG	1 <sup>st</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	1 <sup>st</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour
9:25-10:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour	AG	2 <sup>nd</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	2 <sup>nd</sup> hour
10:20-11:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	AG	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour
11:05-11:45	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	AG	4 <sup>th</sup> hour
11:45-12:40	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:40-1:20	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	AG
1:25-2:05	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	6 <sup>th</sup> hour

Date Time	10/10 Monday (Friday Sch) Finals	10/17 Monday	10/24 Monday (Friday Sch)	10/31 Monday	11/7 Monday
8:30-9:20	1 <sup>st</sup> hour	1 <sup>st</sup> hour	AG	1 <sup>st</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour
9:25-10:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> hour	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	2 <sup>nd</sup> hour	AG	2 <sup>nd</sup> hour
10:20-11:00	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	AG
11:05-11:45	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour
11:45-12:40	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:40-1:20	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour
1:25-2:05	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	AG	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	6 <sup>th</sup> hour

Date Time	11/14 Monday	11/21 Monday	11/28 Monday	12/5 Monday	12/12 Monday (Friday Sch) Finals
8:30-9:20	1 <sup>st</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	1 <sup>st</sup> hour	AG	1 <sup>st</sup> hour
9:25-10:15	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	2 <sup>nd</sup> hour	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour	2 <sup>nd</sup> hour
10:20-11:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour
11:05-11:45	AG	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour	4 <sup>th</sup> hour
11:45-12:40	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:40-1:20	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	AG	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour
1:25-2:05	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	AG	6 <sup>th</sup> hour	5 <sup>th</sup> hour

## 2011-2012 Assessment Calendar -- Anchorage School District

Assessment	Grade Level												
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Alaska Developmental Profile	Sept. 20 - Oct. 14												
Universal Screening (Fall) Elementary/Charter	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9	Aug. 22 - Sep. 9
Universal Screening (Fall) Middle/High School													
HSGQE Fall Retest													
EXPLORE													
WorkKeys													
NAEP--Off Year (selected schools)													
Universal Screening (Winter) Elementary/Charter	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15	Nov. 28 - Dec. 15
Universal Screening (Winter) Middle/High School													
English Language Proficiency Assessment	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7	Jan. 18 - Mar. 7
TerraNova, Third Edition (Norm-Referenced Test)													
Alternate Assessment													
Standards Based Assessment (Reading, Writing, and Math)													
Standards Based Assessment (Science)													
Combined Gr. 10 SBA/HSGQE and HSGQE Retest													
Universal Screening (Spring) Elementary/Charter	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4	Apr. 16 - May 4
Universal Screening (Spring) Middle/High School													

**\*Tentative Dates**

All students =  AYP =  HSGQE Retake =

Selected Students/Classrooms Only =  All LEP =  Severely Cognitively Disabled =



COLLEGE IS FOR YOU...



The  
College  
Board

### 2011-12 SAT CALENDAR

Test Dates		OCT 1	NOV 5	DEC 3	JAN 28	MAR 10	MAY 5	JUN 2
Registration Deadlines	Regular	Sep 9	Oct 7	Nov 8	Dec 30	Feb 10	Apr 6	May 8
	Late	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 20	Jan 13	Feb 24	Apr 20	May 22



**2011-2012**

2012-2013

2013-2014

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 10, 2011	August 12, 2011	August 13 – 26, 2011
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	September 17 – 30, 2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5 – 18, 2011
February 11, 2012*	January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012

## SAT

## ACT

<b>Preferred by?</b>	All Public Schools & Private Schools	All Schools
<b>How Questions Appear</b>	Order of difficulty	No order of difficulty
<b>Score Choice?</b>	No	Yes
<b>Highest Math Level</b>	Algebra/Basic Geometry; test booklet supplies all formulas	Trigonometry (only 4 questions); test booklet rarely provides formulas
<b>Skills Heavily Tested</b>	Vocabulary and Reading; Math	Grammar and Reading; Math
<b>Penalty For Wrong Answers?</b>	Yes	No
<b>Based on School Curriculum?</b>	Less	More
<b>Style of Test</b>	Tricky, with many distracters	More straightforward, fewer distracters
<b>Structure of Test</b>	<p><b>Critical Reading:</b> two 25-min. sections, one 20-min. section</p> <p><b>Math:</b> two-25 min sections, one 10-min. section</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> one 25-min, one 10-min, one 25-min section</p> <p><b>Experimental:</b> one 25-min.</p>	<p><b>English:</b> one 45-min. section Math: one 60-min. section</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> one 35-min. section</p> <p><b>Science Reasoning:</b> one 35-min. section</p> <p><b>Experimental:</b> added to tests on certain dates; clearly added on</p>
<b>When it's Offered</b>	<p><b>Seven times per year:</b>            Late January            Late March or early April            Early May            Early June            Mid October            Early November            Early December</p>	<p><b>Six times per year:</b>            February            April            June            September (in 13 states only)            October            December</p>
<b>Scoring</b>	200-800 for Critical Reading, Math, and Writing to get a composite score; median score roughly 1500.	1-36 for each subject, averaged together for a composite score; median about 21
<b>When You Should Register</b>	At least six weeks before the test date	At least four weeks before the test date
<b>For More Information</b>	<p><a href="http://www.ets.org">Educational Testing Service (ETS)</a>  <a href="tel:6097717600">(609) 771-7600</a>  <a href="http://www.ets.org">www.ets.org</a>            The College Board  <a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.act.org">ACT</a>  <a href="tel:3193371000">(319) 337-1000</a>  <a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a></p>

## To Do's:

The really great thing about being a freshman is all of your choices are in front of you;

the choices you have and the decisions you make can get you to where you hope to be.

## Freshman Year - Beginning to End:

- Meet with your John in Guidance Counseling to go over your 4-year course schedule. Be sure to keep him updated throughout high school as you make decisions about the colleges and majors you're thinking about.
- Frequently check in with counselors, advisors, and teachers to stay on top of any special programs of extracurricular activities available.
- Make a list of your academic and personal goals. Revisit and revise your list as you become more aware of your specific plans.
- Get to know the people who can help you most: advisors, teachers, counselors, and/or administrators. At some point you may need recommendations for summer programs, scholarships, and college applications (even future job applications!) Watered-down, generalized recommendations from individuals who hardly know you and aren't able to provide personal insight don't help.
- Check out the web sites of your 'dream' colleges, 'ideal' majors, and "perfect" jobs. What's it going to take to get admitted, to get hired? Are you taking the right courses in high school? How many years of math, language arts, science, and foreign language will you need?
- Register at the college web service sites: [www.review.com](http://www.review.com), [www.students.gov](http://www.students.gov), [www.collegegold.com](http://www.collegegold.com), [www.collegefunds.net](http://www.collegefunds.net), [www.brokescholar.com](http://www.brokescholar.com), [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org). Along with access to information on the site, you will be put on mailing lists for other important college material.
- Read newspapers, bulletin boards, even junk mail! Keep your eyes open for cool activities or opportunities such as, summer programs, camps, academic or sports contests, jobs, or volunteering.
- Create a file – even a milk crate and some files – it doesn't have to be pretty or expensive. Keep all your important papers, grades, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, names/phone numbers of people you come into contact with who you will want to remember, notes to yourself...whatever in one place where you can always find them.
- Start a Portfolio so you can keep track of your activities, volunteer work, jobs, and contact people. Write down the experiences you have, the good and the bad, what you liked and didn't like. This will gradually start to reveal some real important insight to help you discover your interests, passions, desires, etc.
- Find some fun and interesting ways you can volunteer. It's best if you can find a couple you can commit to throughout high school.
- Start learning about, and doing, scholarship searches. It is definitely not too early. Although there are tons of them, a good place to start is: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Begin the conversation with your parents: how much money, if any, do they think they will have available towards your college education. Don't be discouraged if it isn't a lot...this isn't a problem if you plan ahead.

A few pearls of wisdom that will make the road less bumpy along the way:

- @ Colleges, volunteer opportunities, scholarships committees, employers WILL look at your Facebook and My Space pages.
- @ Every adult may have some influence regarding your success some day. A complete stranger who sees you do something kind for someone may end up being the person you interview with for the job you really want...who knows? Of course the opposite can be true too!

## To Do's:

### Sophomore Year - Beginning to End:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sign up for the PSAT. This is the practice round...the real one happens for juniors.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Take the Plan Assessment and go over the results. You'll find some very revealing information you may not have even known about yourself: what you're good at, different careers you may have the skills and personality to do, college majors that would be a good fit for you, and so on.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Focus on your GPA. Take the most challenging courses, there is no such thing as too much math, science, foreign language, etc.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Narrow down your extracurricular activities to two or three that you'll do throughout high school, can get good at, and may pursue in college.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Start a list of colleges that interest you. Be sure to go to the college fairs and visit colleges on their Preview Days. Any exposure to the admissions people will help you develop the exploration and application 'language'. Go on to college web sites and take their virtual tours...give the colleges a "test drive".                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Take the personality / interest inventory through AKCIS, ASVAB, College Board for some very valuable help determining colleges and majors. They're fun to do, they're free, and they provide a wealth of information. If you still want more insight, or need help figuring out what to do with the feedback, come and see me in the office. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Plan your summer ahead of time. Find programs and camps to attend, think about what volunteer opportunities you may want to do, don't forget to plan for travel.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Continue the scholarship search.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Review for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT. You get to take them more than once if you want / need to. Save your money, there is a boat load of free help material on their web sites.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Consistently be updating your records of activities, volunteer work, programs, classes, and traveling. File information you receive and gather about scholarships, colleges, tests, and programs. Remember the milk crate...you should be getting close to needing another soon.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Review and revise your goals. Your older, more aware, you've explored personality and interest inventories, start taking a real close look at who you are.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Think careers. Research, investigate, and interview people about their jobs. Consider getting in to a mentorship.  |

### More words to ponder:

- ☺ If you don't take the time to do something right the first time where will you find the time to get it right the second, third, maybe fourth time?
- ☺ The key to success in school isn't 'getting organized'...It's staying organized.

You may not have a clue yet, exactly what you will be doing after high school, hardly anybody in 10<sup>th</sup> grade college knows for absolutely sure. In the mean time take challenging courses, get good grades, do everything you can to be the best candidate you can be.  
The doors will stay open and you'll end up with a lot more options...then you can figure it out.

# To Do's:

There is no magic morning when you wake up and know what you want to do for the rest of your life.

You have to get involved...pay attention to what interests you...What you want is a 'rational feeling' based on the research, sound advice, and wisdom.

This is how you can get 'what you really want' and know the best way to get there.

## Junior Year - Beginning to End:

### The summer before

- Make arrangements to visit the colleges on your short list. They often have 'Campus Visit Weekends' with planned tours run by students and admissions folks who would love to. There can't be enough said about the value of having admissions folks at a school meet you personally to be able to put a face with a name.
- Spend lots of time researching the colleges on your list of potential schools. Go to the web sites, bookmark interesting ones, and request information packets from their admissions offices
- Don't push the 'milk crate' under the bed. Any number of things you may do during the summer could add to your overall life experience and be worth including in your future applications. File everything away...you never know what may be helpful some day.

### Throughout the year

- Pay attention to, concentrate on, and don't forget about the importance of your GPA. Take the most challenging classes possible and get the absolute best grades you can.
- Intensify your scholarship search. Keep track of specific deadlines and requirements, they do and there won't be any excuses for late applications.
- Attend career days, college fairs, and financial aid workshops. Unless you, or your parents, are independently wealthy or you have a close relative with a building named after him at the college you want to attend, these resources are essential.

### Fall

- Meet with your guidance counselor early in the year and frequently after that. Be sure the classes your taking are on the right track for the colleges and majors you're setting your sights on.
- Register for and take the PSAT. *This is the year it counts towards the National Merit Scholarship.*
- Talk to your coach if you want to play for a college team or apply for an athletic scholarship; see your counselor for an NCAA clearinghouse form if you want to play sports in college.
- Schedule dates to take the SAT and / or ACT tests. It's important to check with the colleges to see if they want you to take one or the other (never both and frequently neither will be required)
- Research financial aid programs now, before, the financial 'base' (senior) year begins
- Contact the US military academies NOW if you want to apply. Each academy has its own summer program that would be very helpful for you to take part in: <http://www.defencelink.mil/fag/plis/20.html>
- Look in to summer workshops and college courses for high school students. There are a number of them available and the college web sites will have descriptions and information listed.

<b>Winter</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your PSAT results with your guidance counselor. The results will show you the areas you need to put more energy in to.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Register for the SAT, ACT, and SAT II (subject) tests if the colleges you're considering require them. If you're applying for Early Decision, and you want to take them a second time, be sure to take the ACT and ACT again in June
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide what camps, programs, volunteer work, and classes you want to attend or take this summer.
<b>Spring</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	If the colleges or scholarships you're applying for require them Compile writing samples, collecting information about yourself, and working on audition tapes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider taking a summer class. You can start earning college credit by taking 'dual credit courses' or classes through APU or UAA.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enroll in AP classes and take AP exams for the classes AP you've completed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Look for a summer job. Try to get one related to a major you plan on pursuing. Colleges are impressed with students who have put thought in to their efforts.
<b>Summer</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request applications for scholarships.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start to work on essays for college applications and scholarships.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zero in on those teachers, coaches, employers, individuals who know you well and will write 'glowing' letters of reference.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work on your resume.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start your application process if you're applying for Early Decision or Early Action.
<p><b>Remember:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 College admissions folks rely heavily on your junior year classes and GPA. They want to see you taking more challenging courses – not easier ones. They want to see grades rising – not falling.</li> <li>🕒 Every extra constructive, productive thing you can do this year will your life a lot easier as a senior and the application process more fruitful beyond then.</li> </ul>	



# To Do's:

## Senior Year - Beginning to End:

### The summer before

Stay focused on the goal. This is valuable time and needs to be used wisely. Volunteer, do something that challenges you, take a summer school course, participate in a summer program abroad...and as always, keep track of everything you do (to be filed in the milk crate).

### Fall:

Create your Master Plan with all the important dates and deadlines. Include college applications, test registration dates and test dates, scholarship applications, housing, and financial deadlines.

Keep looking for scholarships. There will probably still be a lot of them to pursue & it's going to be in your best interest to keep applying for them.

This is your last chance to take the SAT and/or ACT to have the scores included on upcoming applications.

Request college applications, financial aid and housing applications.

Make sure your high school transcripts and records are correct and up-to-date.

Review your college plans and financial aid preparations with your counselor.

Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops.

Continue to visit colleges if possible. If you are even considering UAA or UAF, definitely go to their college visits days when they hold them.

Ask for letters of recommendation from your teachers. There is a lot of good information about the best way to do this, see John Stahl if you have any questions

Keep working on essays for college applications and scholarships. You need to have a solid foundation done and be very close to the final draft about now.

Update, update, update, your resume and portfolio.

Apply for 'Early Decision' or 'Early Action' if you are thinking that these are applicable to you.

Send in your college applications. They need to be in the mail ASAP.

There is no 'magic morning' when you wake up and KNOW what you want to do for the rest of your life.

You have to get involved...pay attention to what interests you...What you want is a 'rational feeling' based on the research, sound advice, and wisdom.

This is how you can get 'what you really want' and know the best way to get there.

<b>Winter</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gather your tax information for the financial aid applications. Remember, your parents, guardians, need to get theirs in order as well.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Register with FAFSA to get your pin number. This is another thing your parents need to do. Go to the <a href="http://fafsa.ed.gov">fafsa.ed.gov</a> website for more information.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fill out financial aid forms for your scholarships.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have your mid-year grades sent to colleges you have applied to.
<b>Spring</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide on a college and notify the admissions office by May 1 <sup>st</sup> of your decision. Notify other colleges of your decision that you will not be attending their school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine your financial needs to create and your college budget. Look closely to reconfirm the sources of the money you need to maintain this budget.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine if you are going to need a student loan and research the ones available based on your level on need.
<input type="checkbox"/>	See your doctor for a physical and any necessary vaccinations. Colleges, especially if abroad ofr your planning on playing sports, will probably require them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete your housing and meal applications.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take your Advanced Placement Exams.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have your final transcripts sent to your college
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expect to get your Financial Aid Packet back from college. This will give you more information regarding how much you will need to contribute and if you need to continue to negotiate a dollar amount with the college.
<b>Summer</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Notify the college of any additional scholarships you receive. These dollars amount will come off the amount the college is 'discounting' you tuition.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apply for a summer job, if your financial aid packet includes work study, you may responsible for finding the job at the college. The 'best' jobs go first so get in there early and secure one you would enjoy doing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review the classes you know you will be taking at college, get the books ahead of time, start reading assignments you will have in those classes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take a deep breath. You have made it and are now officially a college student. Order an IKEA catalog, pack for college...congratulations.
<p><b>More things to think about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☉ <b>Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines... don't let a technicality trip you up. This is serious; colleges don't bend the rules because you're a day late with something.</b></li> <li>☉ <b>'Early Admission': it's binding, you can't compare financial aid packets between the school that accepts you and others that you still like, you have to commit (and to just one school, they will compare lists).</b></li> <li>☉ <b>Don't get discouraged if your 'waitlisted' and don't give up...let the school know you want in. Send more recommendation letters, call them, see if you can get another interview.</b></li> </ul>	

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, September 9th**  
**Picture Day**

**Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00 – 8:00 pm**  
**Open House**

**Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**6:00 – 7:00 pm**  
**Parent Group Meeting**

**Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**7:00 – 11:00 pm**  
**September Dance**

**STELLER SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**2508 BLUEBERRY ROAD**  
**ANCHORAGE, AK 99503**

