

# College and Career Center Newsletter Stillman Valley High School

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Welcome back! Let's make this a fun, exciting, and productive school year. Please visit Mr. Liegl in the Career and College Center if you need any information or guidance pertaining to your post high school plans and future goals. The College & Career Center (CCC) is located in room 104.

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## Brand New: College and Career Center

Our CCC (College and Career Center) is being developed to help students learn about their interests and possible occupations. The SVHS College and Career Center will strive to guide students towards their educational and career goals. It will be a place where students can come to obtain information on community colleges and four-year colleges and universities, military training and careers, trade and technical schools, and apprenticeship programs, testing and test preparation, financial aid and scholarships, career possibilities and college majors descriptions. In other words, the mission of the SVHS College and Career Center (CCC) is to provide our high school community with a wide variety of information and resources for college and career planning. The goal is to meet the information and planning needs for our students as they move toward graduation and beyond.

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## **SAT Test Dates:**

August 25, 2018 – Register by July 25, 2018

October 6, 2018 – Register by September 6, 2018

November 3, 2018 – Register by October 3, 2018

December 1, 2018 – Register by November 1, 2018

March 8, 2019 – Register by February 8, 2019

April 9, 2019 – Illinois 11<sup>th</sup> Grade SAT Test

To register for the SAT, Please visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register> College Board provides FREE SAT test prep through Khan Academy  
SVHS School Code = 144-020 (in order for us to receive your scores)

Most all colleges in the United States still accept either the ACT or the SAT. There are some colleges/universities (mostly private) that require or encourage students to take 2 SAT Subject Area Tests...these are

different from the regular SAT exam. Please visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests> to learn more about these tests and how to register for them.

## **ACT Test Dates:**

September 8, 2018 – Register by August 5, 2018

October 27, 2018 – September 21, 2018

December 8, 2018 – November 2, 2018

February 9, 2019 – January 11, 2019

April 13, 2019 – March 8, 2019

To register for the ACT, please visit [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

The school code for SVHS is 144-020 (in order for us to receive your scores)

## **Test Preparation for the ACT and SAT:**

[Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/sat) -

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

Free SAT Prep class - online or through an app. Students are able to link their SAT/College Board and Khan Academy accounts for more personalized test prep.

[March 2 Success - Online Prep provided by the Army](#)

This is free online ACT/SAT practice tests. Students can create an account that is available to them 24/7.

The site for this program is <https://www.march2success.com/>

[ACT Prep Website](#)

Test prep, developed by the experts from ACT, designed to fit your study preferences and financial needs.

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>



## One Question a Day, Zero Excuses

It's not too early to start practicing for the SAT. Download the Daily Practice for the SAT® app and make practice a part of your daily routine—any place, any time. Answer a question a day on the Daily Practice for the New SAT app and get immediate feedback. The free app makes it easy to:

- Answer an exclusive, official reading, writing and language, or math question.
- Reveal a hint if you're stuck.
- Read answer explanations and learn from your mistakes.
- Keep at it—daily practice can only sharpen your skills.

## Instant Practice Test Scoring

Simulate test day and take the SAT or PSAT 10 on paper. Then—for the first time ever—take a picture of your answer sheet and get an instant score.

**Here's how Scan and Score works:**

1. Take a complete SAT practice tests or PSAT 10 practice test, using the official answer sheet to bubble in your answers. (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/full-length-practice-tests>)
2. Open Daily Practice and activate your phone's camera.
3. Keeping the app open, scan your answer sheet with your phone's camera.

And there it is in seconds: your score. Scores are saved so you can track your progress.

Next, dig into the question-by-question details, then connect to Official SAT Practice at Khan Academy® for personalized study.



## AP Courses and Scores

AP National Testing Schedule  
<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/taking-theexam/ap-calendar>

Find colleges and universities that offer credit or placement for AP scores.  
<https://apscore.collegeboard.org/creditanplacement/search-credit-policies>

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CLEP(College-Level Examination Program®) offers 33 exams that cover intro-level college course material.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



With a passing score on one CLEP exam, you could earn three or more college credits at more than 2,900 U.S. colleges and universities.

CLEP was created to help individuals with prior knowledge in a college course subject earn their degree efficiently and inexpensively. That prior learning could have taken place through advanced high school courses, independent reading and study, online courseware or textbooks, noncredit courses, or on-the-job training.



Anyone interested in earning college credit and saving time and money can take a CLEP exam. CLEP launched in 1967 as a way for adult students and military service members to earn degrees inexpensively while also being able to meet work and family responsibilities. Today, CLEP benefits everyone, including high school students, seeking college credits.

<https://clep.collegeboard.org/>

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## NCAA, NAIA Information

College-bound athletes planning on participating in college sports and looking at Division I and Division II schools will need to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. Athletes should also be aware that for NAIA, they need to register with that organization.

Athletes need to become aware of the academic requirements of each group.

Students should talk with their high school coaches to discuss their recommendations and options for playing sports in college. Keep in mind that registering with either the NCAA or NAIA is a separate process from applying to the college.

NCAA Eligibility Center

<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

NAIA: <http://www.naia.org/>

## Upcoming Events:

**College and Career Night @ SVHS  
AND College and Career Center  
Grand Opening**

Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Time:  
6:00-7:15 pm

Students and parents will have the opportunity learn about College, Careers, the Military, and Financial Aid from educators and guest speakers. The night will end with a question/answer session.

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**Rock Valley College Fair @ RVC**  
Monday, October 3rd, 2018 Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

What is a college fair? A college fair is an event in which college admissions representatives come together at a school, community-gathering place or large convention center to meet one-on-one with high school students (and parents) to talk about their respective colleges and answer questions. Over 101 college representatives will be present to meet with our students and parents at the RVC College Fair.

The fair is open to all area high school students and parents.

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**FAFSA Night @ SVHS**  
Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

Stillman Valley High School will host a FAFSA completion night at our school this month to help graduating high school seniors and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

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## Financial Aid

Free Application for Federal Student Aid - [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

Senior students and their families can begin the FAFSA process in October of their senior year. This application and financial aid service collects the family's personal and financial information and calculates what aid a student would be eligible to receive.

Deadlines for submission vary depending on the school or university chosen. More detailed information on each school's procedures and policies involving the FAFSA can be found by contacting the school or university's financial aid office. Information is often available on each school's website. It is recommended that you complete your FAFSA by the middle of February so you don't miss out on any grant opportunities.

## CSS Profile

Nearly 400 colleges, professional schools, and scholarship programs use CSS Profile to award non-federal aid. CSS Profile  
<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

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## FAQ: What is merit aid?

By: Michelle Kretzschmar *DIY College Rankings*

Merit aid refers to college awarded financial aid that is not based on financial need. The most commonly recognized form of merit aid is the scholarship. Scholarships may be awarded for academic skills or achievements based on talents such as athletic, artistic, or leadership. Other types of merit aid

include tuition waivers or institutional grants not based on financial need. Unlike most outside scholarships, merit aid is awarded for all four years of college.

Merit money is awarded by colleges to attract students to the college. Not all institutions provide merit money. The top ranked private colleges and universities generally do not provide merit money since they easily attract the country's best students. Such schools claim that all of their students are academically talented and therefore only provide need-based financial aid.

Students generally don't apply for the majority of merit aid that is available. The college makes the awards during the admissions process, another indicator that merit money is used to encourage students to attend the institution. This means that students must apply to a college to find out how much money they might receive. However, some net price calculators provide estimates of merit aid as well.

Merit money can range from a few thousand dollars to the full cost of attendance. A good student, not necessarily a straight A student, can expect to receive between \$10,000 to \$20,000 in merit money from less competitive private colleges. Private colleges may award minimal amounts of up to \$5,000 to weaker students who can afford to pay the full cost of tuition.

Public universities do award merit money but generally not nearly to the extent of private institutions. These awards will often be much more competitive and require a separate application. Net price calculators provide estimates of merit aid as well.

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## Researching Schools Websites:

Big Future

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

College of Distinction

<https://collegesofdistinction.com/>

US News and World Report

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges>

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## Transcript Release Form

We must have a transcript release form completed and on file in our office before we can send any transcript for you to colleges. You must provide the mailing address for the institution(s).

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## Procedure for Scheduling Appointments

Students are welcome to stop by the CCC or counseling office before school or after school to utilize the resources or may schedule an appointment should they have more than just a quick question or require additional assistance. Additionally, students may access the

College and Career Center during their study halls or their lunch period. They must come with a pass from the C & C Coordinator (Mr. Liegl) or from a study hall based upon posted available times.

Sign up for college visits! Have no idea what colleges are out there? Want application tips or simply want to learn more about a school that you're interested in? There are a number of college representatives that will be coming to the CCC. Sign up to attend a visit by coming to the CCC or and picking up a permission slip.

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**Seniors:** It's time to start selecting schools to apply to and to begin the application process! To schedule an appointment, come to the CCC! SAT/ACT Seniors, if you still need to take the SAT or the ACT or if you are not satisfied with your current score, registration for both tests is now open. There are also October test dates for both the SAT and the ACT that you can sign up for. You should take either the SAT or the ACT if you are planning to apply to 4-year colleges or universities. Fee waivers are available for those who qualify.

Parents can learn about financial aid and how to pay for college at the College and Career Night. Additionally, a member of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will be coming to Stillman Valley High School provide guidance on how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Seniors and their parents/guardians are highly encouraged to attend. The event will be held on Thursday, October 11th at 6:00 pm beginning in the Career and College Center.

**Juniors:** The college and career process begins this year! You should start researching careers and colleges online, visiting institutions, and by attending college, trade school, and military presentations. You must make sure that all your SAT & ACT testing is complete by the end of junior year (you are still able to take tests as a senior, but it is recommended that you don't wait until then). Junior students and their parents are invited to attend the College and Career Night with Mr. Liegl on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the library. Learn about the college planning process, technical education, financial aid, and what students should be doing this year to prepare for their future.

**Freshmen & Sophomores:** These years are for you to explore new interests and discover your passions. Starting freshman year, your grades will be on your transcript for colleges to see when you become a senior. Build relationships with your teachers and put in the hard work in your classes from day one. You are invited to attend college presentations in the CCC. It is never too early to start researching colleges and attending college fair.

## College/Career Visitor and Event Schedule

<b>8-28</b>	Marines	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>8-30</b>	Air Force	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>8-31</b>	ASVAB @ SVHS	<i>Morning</i>
<b>9-18</b>	Navy	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>9-20</b>	Illinois College	12:00 – 1:00
<b>9-24</b>	Western Illinois	<i>Seminar</i>
<b>9-26</b>	Aurora University	<i>Seminar</i>
<b>College and Career Night 6:00-7:15 pm</b>		
<b>10-3</b>	U. of Illinois	<i>Seminar</i>
Rock Valley College Fair @ RVC 6:00- 8:00		
<b>10-10</b>	Augustana	<i>Seminar</i>
<b>PSAT/NMSQ @ SVHS      Morning</b>		
<b>10-11</b>	Manufacturing Day	
FAFSA Night @ SVHS      6:00-8:00		
<b>10-22</b>	Rockford University	<i>Seminar</i>
<b>11-1</b>	UW-Oshkosh	<i>12:40-1:10</i>
<b>11-7</b>	Michigan Tech. Univ.	<i>Seminar</i>
<b>11-15</b>	Ag. College Fair	