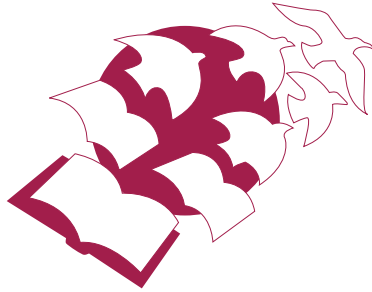


**COLLEGE GUIDE
BAY SHORE SCHOOLS'
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT
GRADES 6 - 12**



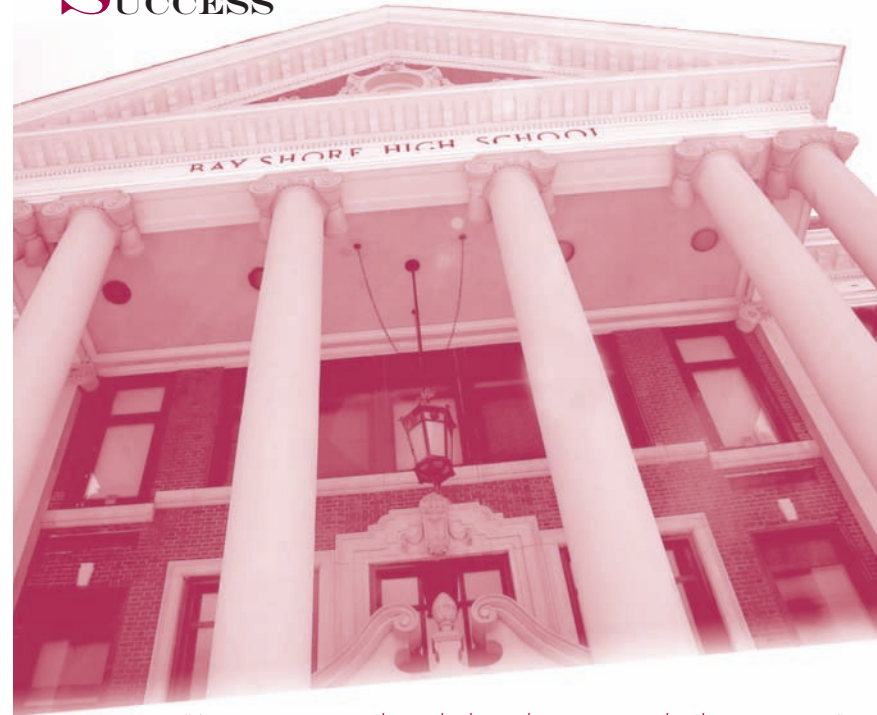
FOCUS
ON
COLLEGE AND CAREER
UNDERSTANDING FOR
SUCCESS



**THE BAY SHORE GUIDANCE COUNSELING STAFF
IS AVAILABLE
TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY!**

**Visit the Guidance web page at
www.bayshore.k12.ny.us
for comprehensive information!**

This brochure was developed by the Bay Shore Guidance Department
Bay Shore High School Bay Shore Middle School
631-968-1171 631-968-1220



*"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."
— Ben Franklin*

BAY SHORE SCHOOLS: HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Parents! Join us as we motivate your child to reach new heights. As we partner together to accomplish the goals in this FOCUS Guide, please read it carefully, review it with your child often and **post it prominently in your home.**

Grade 6

SUMMER



- Attend student and parent orientation programs to facilitate a smooth transition into the middle school.
- Encourage extra-curricular activities and hobbies.
- Start exploring college savings programs (i.e. New York's College Savings Program).
- Read and write about the fun experienced on summer vacation.

FALL



- Attend the Middle School Open House and become familiar with school programs and opportunities for extra help.
- Participate in college and career awareness through our Early College Awareness Night and "Kids Talk" program.

WINTER



- Communicate with teachers through the student organizer and team meetings with teachers and counselors.
- Use team meetings to develop a plan of action, to improve organization, study habits, and time management.

SPRING



- In preparation for final exams, review results from midterms, unit tests, and review sheets.
- Discuss "Career Day" activities.

Grade 7

SUMMER



- Discuss interests and hobbies and investigate career possibilities.
- Develop a deeper understanding of occupations by talking to family and friends about their careers.
- Use summer reading assignment to improve reading and writing skills.

FALL



- Visit colleges and use the Internet to gain a better understanding of the college experience and requirements.
- Strive to achieve honor roll and Renaissance membership.
- Attend the Early College Awareness Program.
- Join teachers and counselors at the Middle School Open House.

SAT HINTS

- Read daily (books, magazines, newspapers)
- Practice math skills and math problems

Grade 7 (continued)

WINTER



- Continue involvement in extra-curricular activities and establish a routine of community service.
- Prepare for upcoming mid-term exams.

SPRING



- Utilize extra help and Homework Club to prepare for Regents and final exams.
- All seventh graders will be taken to visit a college campus.

Grade 8

SUMMER



- Visit three college campuses as part of summer plans. Check on entrance requirements.
- Review all subject notebooks in preparation for state assessments and Regents exams.
- Strengthen vocabulary and comprehension skills by reading and journal writing.

FALL



- Watch the mail for the results of the Career Futures Interest Inventory and use the websites to investigate areas of interest.
- Take advantage of extra-help sessions and review classes in order to prepare for important Regents exams.
- Attend Middle School Open House.

WINTER



- Review High School Course Catalog and choose electives based on interests and goals.
- Attend 9th grade orientation at the high school to become acquainted with the academic offerings. Remember, choices for ninth grade will affect college opportunities after graduation.

SPRING



- Working papers are available to students age 14 and older.
- Consider summer employment and volunteer work as a way to enhance responsibility.
- Congratulations on your accomplishments and good luck at the high school!

Grade 9

SUMMER



- Get organized! Work on organization skills and good study habits to insure a smooth transition.
- Remember that independence, responsibility, and initiative are keys to success in high school.
- Review math notebook to keep skills sharp.
- Use summer reading to improve vocabulary, writing, and note taking skills.
- Be prepared to work hard to build a strong transcript (the academic record that will be sent with your college application). Colleges expect strong, challenging courses and above average grades.
- Outline a resume.

FALL



- Attend High School Open House.
- Meet with counselor to discuss the high school's curriculum and opportunities.
- Get involved! Participation in extracurricular activities is not only rewarding, but will help build a strong portfolio (the college packet including transcript, resume, SAT/ACT scores, essays and community service accomplishments).

WINTER



- Using the advice of guidance counselor, choose challenging coursework for sophomore year. Colleges expect students to take the most demanding courses our school offers.

SPRING



- Register for SAT II subject tests if appropriate.
- Review the "Summer Opportunities" bulletin to locate enrichment or employment opportunities for the summer.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Save early for college
- Visit college campuses
- Maintain high standards

Grade 10

SUMMER



- Emphasize reading to improve vocabulary, writing, and critical thinking skills.
- Identify and pursue interests and activities such as volunteer work, cultural and performing arts programs, athletics, summer employment, and local college programs.
- Continue to work hard to build a strong transcript.

FALL



- TAKE THE PSAT/NMSQT IN OCTOBER.
- Discuss the results of the interest inventory.
- Use the resources in the Guidance Office, including counselor, to investigate the career areas where highest interest was reflected.
- Use the on-line and other computer resources available.
- Attend High School Open House.
- Remember, continuous involvement in extracurricular activities is very important to colleges and future employers.
- All tenth graders will be taken to visit a college campus.

WINTER



- Attend PSAT/College Night.
- Review PSAT Score Report with high school guidance counselor to determine areas of strength and weakness and to address them.
- Using the advice of guidance counselor, choose challenging course work for junior year.

SPRING



- Register for the SAT II subject tests if appropriate.
- Review the "Summer Opportunities" bulletin to locate enrichment or employment opportunities for the summer.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Communicate with counselor
- Get involved with school and community

Grade 11

SUMMER



- Continue to identify and pursue interests through activities such as volunteer work, cultural and performing arts programs, athletics, summer employment, and local college programs.
- Study and review for SAT or ACT exams.
- Choose three possible colleges (one reach, one possible and one safe school), visit college campuses, and review requirements for admission.

FALL



- Attend High School Open House.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. National Merit Scholarship Awards are based on the eleventh grade PSAT scores.
- Continue focusing on the type of education required, career interests, earning potential, and future employment outlook.
- Attend college fairs and parent information nights.

WINTER



- Attend PSAT/College Night.
- Review your PSAT score report with guidance counselor for future college entrance exam planning.
- Register for and complete an SAT/ACT Preparation Course.
- Using the advice of the counselor, choose courses for senior year focusing on graduation requirements, challenging coursework, and electives related to personal interests.
- Compile a list of accomplishments, awards, honors, activities, and employment to include on the resume.

SPRING



- Meet with guidance counselor to develop a plan of action for the college application process and/or post high school goals.
- **Meet with guidance counselor to review high school transcript, keeping in mind that the junior year grade point average and class rank will accompany college applications.**
- Begin to gather components of student portfolio: resume, recommendations, college essays, etc.
- Register for the SAT I, SAT II, ACT, or TOEFL exams and prep courses.
- Begin researching financial aid and scholarship opportunities and requirements.
- Review application materials from possible colleges.

SAT HINTS

- ✓ Enroll in an SAT Prep Course
- ✓ Learn SAT test taking strategies
- ✓ Visit www.collegeboard.com
Complete the SAT question of the day and review your answer

See your child's guidance counselor to see if your son or daughter qualifies for a SAT or ACT fee waiver.

Grade 12

IMPORTANT - Bay Shore High School Guidance Department requires a minimum of 10 school days to process each college application.

SUMMER



- Review career plans and consider an interest concentration.
- Visit college campuses, schedule interviews and narrow college list.
- Request application materials or download from the Internet.
- Productive summer activities are essential for every senior.
- Remember senior year grades may determine college acceptance.
- Submit NCAA forms to the Clearinghouse for Division I or Division II athletic clearance.
- Draft essays and resume for college application.

FALL



- Register and prepare for SAT II, SAT I, ACT and/or TOEFL college entrance exams.
- Make sure the senior portfolio is complete with resume, college recommendations, essay, etc.
- Be aware of college application deadlines, particularly Early Action/Early Decision.
- Continue researching scholarship opportunities (monthly scholarship bulletin, Internet, and various publications).
- Attend special programs: college fairs, open houses, financial aid information nights, and college representative visits.
- In partnership with guidance counselor, complete and file college applications.

WINTER



- January is Financial Aid Awareness Month. Obtain and file FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form.
- Review NCAA Clearinghouse evaluation for Division I and Division II athletic clearance.
- Maintain academic excellence because college acceptances can depend upon senior year grades and activities.

SPRING



- Respond to financial aid award letter.
- Make final decision and send in deposit by May 1st.
- Best of luck and congratulations on a successful graduation from high school!