

Joint Enrollment; A unique opportunity for academically accelerated high school students to earn college credit at universities while satisfying their high school graduation requirements in English, math, social science and foreign language. Tuition costs may be met through the Accel Program of the HOPE Scholarship.

Accel: A program for qualified high school juniors and seniors that are jointly enrolled in an accredited Georgia high school and in an Accel-approved college. This program pays student tuition, fees and a book allowance. The program is not available for the summer. The Accel program is overseen by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, which publishes a directory of Accel-approved courses on its website, www.gsfc.org (Or log on to www.gacollege411.org)

eHigh School: A limited number of online courses available to Cobb County students in conjunction with regular courses or during the summer for a fee. See the Cobb County Schools website under "Special Schools," www.cobb.k12.ga.us.

Governor's Scholarship: A merit based scholarship designed to recognize Georgia's high school Valedictorians and STAR Students and encourage them to attend a public or private college or university in Georgia by providing scholarship funds.

GHS GT (GA High School Graduation Test): All 2012 juniors must pass all 5 parts of the test to graduate in the state of Georgia. Requirements are changing for future classes. Check http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_testing.aspx?PageReq=CI_TESTING_GHS GT for more information.

Learning Links: For students who need extra practice or additional learner support. Sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the Media Center from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Certified teachers in content areas provide the needed support. See the Wheeler HS website, www.wheelerhigh.com under Academics, for more info.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES



www.act.org - Register online for ACT

www.cobb.k12.ga.us - Cobb County School District's website. Contains news items, links to schools, Board of Education, school calendar and much more.

www.collegeboard.com - Register online for SAT; practice test questions; essay tips; scholarship search

www.fafsa.ed.gov - FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Online application required for financial aid at many colleges and HOPE scholarship.

www.fastweb.com - Scholarship database

www.gacollege411.org - Online resource to help students plan, apply and pay for college. Comprehensive info on colleges, universities and technical colleges in GA. Links to Georgia colleges, HOPE, FAFSA, Accel, and much more.

www.wheelerhigh.com - Wheeler's website for school info: clubs, sports, faculty

www.wheelerlibrary.com - Wheeler's library website with comprehensive research

info www.wheelerabc.org - Wheeler Academic Booster Club (Organization bringing academic information to parents and students)

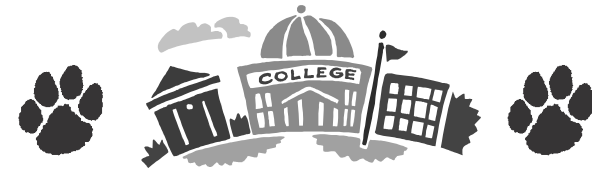
TEST PREPARATION HELP *from the Academic Booster Club*

SAT PREP COURSES: offered at Wheeler in the Fall and Spring.

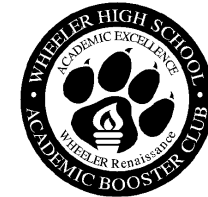
Mock SAT: practice tests are offered at Wheeler in Fall and Spring.

Register online at www.wheelerabc.org

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL



PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



A College/Career Preparation Checklist *produced by the* Wheeler Academic Booster Club

To complete online visit
www.wheelerabc.org

Welcome to Wheeler !



The Wheeler High School Academic Booster Club has compiled this booklet to keep a record by year of activities, sports, clubs, honors, community activities and work experience in order to make the college and scholarship application process smoother. We have provided space for you to record your activities starting in 9th grade. There are suggestions and guidelines for each year to keep you informed of deadlines for making the most out of high school.

We hope you find this booklet useful as you begin your journey through the halls of Wheeler High School.

First, you need to ask yourself what kind of diploma do I want when I graduate?

Diploma Options at Wheeler:

(Seniors with 3.0 GPA receive automatic "With Distinction")

• College Prep • College Prep/Career Tech Dual Diploma

Wheeler's block scheduling provides the opportunity for students to take additional classes, making the dual diploma possible.

Freshman Year



- Take the most challenging courses you can. Consider a dual certificate diploma.
- Join clubs and activities at Wheeler. Get involved!
- Start an activity list using this booklet (or on your computer.) Include activities from last summer.
- Take the ADAP (Drug & Alcohol Awareness) test during 1st semester exam week. You must pass this test in order to get your driver's permit or license.
- Visit the College Corner in the Counseling office.
- Improve your vocabulary - read, read, read!
- Think about volunteer or community service opportunities for the summer.
- Attend College Information Night in the early Fall.

SAT Subject Tests (formerly SAT II): These are one-hour, primarily multiple-choice tests that measure knowledge of particular subjects. They are not required by all colleges, but many require one or more SAT Subject Tests for admission or placement. Check the requirements of the colleges you're considering. Tests are offered on the same day as the SAT, and you can take up to 3 SAT Subject Tests on a given test day. You may not take both the SAT and the SAT Subject Tests on the same day. (www.collegeboard.com)

AP TESTS: (Advanced Placement) Students who have completed an AP class at Wheeler may register to take the AP test in the Spring. Tests are in May, and March is the sign-up deadline. There is a fee. Students are not required to take the tests, but are encouraged to do so. Scores of 3 or higher (on a scale of 1-5) can grant a student college credit, although this is determined by the college. Students should see counselors to be sure colleges receive their AP scores by the end of Senior year.

Why Keep Your Grades Up? The HOPE Scholarship, that's why!

Provided by state lottery funds, HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) is Georgia's unique scholarship and grant program rewarding qualified students wishing to attend eligible Georgia public and private colleges and universities and public technical colleges. Funds cover tuition. Students must graduate from high school with a "B" average (3.0 GPA) in core curriculum subjects and complete a FAFSA (Free Application For Student Aid) after January 1st of their senior year. There is no income requirement to qualify. Visit www.gacollege411.org for the latest eligibility and award information.

SOME IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

College information Night: An ABC program presented in early fall to inform parents and students about what is required to apply to college. Representatives discuss the application process, financial aid, HOPE scholarship, and application essay writing.


Governor's Honors Program: A summer honors program held at Valdosta State. Students may apply in the fall of their Sophomore or Junior year in an academic or fine arts subject. Selection is based on interviews, qualifications, and recommendations. Finalists are chosen from across the state of Georgia, and each school is limited to a number of applicants based on the size of the school. (Free)

National Merit Scholarship: National Merit semi-finalists are announced in September of the Senior year and are based on the PSAT scores taken as Juniors in October of the previous year. Semi-finalists are those Juniors who scored in the top 1% of the nation. Finalists are announced in the spring of the Senior year. Finalists may be offered full or partial scholarships to many universities.

Sophomore Year



- Take the most challenging courses you can.**
- All sophomores will take the PSAT during school hours at no charge.
- Keep your grades up!
- Consider competing in the Governor’s Honors Program (GHP).
Watch for an information meeting in the fall.
- Visit www.gacollege411.org – “Helping Students Plan, Apply and Pay for College.”
- Find out about colleges, universities, or technical colleges you may be interested in. Visit the school websites.
- If you are taking an AP class, visit AP test link at <http://www.cobbk12.org/wheeler/> in March to sign-up for the AP test and pay the fee.
- You may want to take SAT Subject Tests if you have completed appropriate course material and if you are considering colleges that require SAT Subject Tests.
- Are you actively involved in your school and/or community?
Look for leadership and/or service opportunities.
- Visit the Fall/Spring PROBE College Fair. (Information at www.gaprobe.org)
- What will you do this summer? Community service, job, school, travel? Look for ways to add to your resume and explore your career interests.
- Attend College Information Night in the early Fall.
- Start preparing for the SAT/ACT.
- Plan to take the Mock SAT offered in the Fall and Spring through ABC.
Registration is available online at www.wheelerabc.org



JUNIOR ADVISEMENT:
Grades/Courses are very important!
*Keep in Mind the Following When Planning Your
Sophomore & Junior Years:*
Colleges look at three things:
Test Scores – GPA – Curriculum
(Take challenging courses!)

SENIOR YEAR RESUME INFORMATION

Extracurricular Activities (Clubs, Organizations, Scholastic Competitions)

Offices & Leadership Positions / Responsibilities

Honors & Awards Received

Sports (School and/or Community - Include Letters Earned, Awards, Leadership)

Community Activities (Clubs, Volunteer Work, Other Activities)

Work Experience

Junior Year



- Junior year grades are very important. Keep your grades up!**
- Take the PSAT in October if you are interested in the Governor’s Honors Program (GHP) and/or National Merit Scholarship recognition. **(Juniors must stop by Counseling, 1st week in Oct. to register.)**
- In the Fall, attend College Information Night to keep you on track for college admission and applications.
- Plan when you will take the SAT and/or the ACT. Every junior should take the SAT or ACT at least once.
- Plan to take the Mock SAT offered in Fall and Spring through ABC, Registration available online at www.wheelerabc.org
- Plan to take a prep class for SAT or ACT (available through ABC at www.wheelerabc.org)
- Take SAT Subject Tests when you finish appropriate classes – if they are required by colleges you are considering.
- Attend the Fall or Spring PROBE College Fair - information at www.gaprobe.org.
- Visit college websites and use resources in College Corner in the Counseling office to help you decide on a list of possible schools.
- Watch for visits to Wheeler by colleges you are considering.
- Plan your college visits – Spring Break, long weekends, summer.
- Get familiar now with scholarship and financial aid sources: www.wheelerabc.org
- March is the sign-up deadline to take any AP (Advanced Placement) test. Visit the AP test link at <http://www.cobbk12.org/wheeler/> to sign up for the AP test and pay the fee.
- The GHS GT (GA High School Graduation Test) requirements for Juniors will vary over the next few years. Be prepared for the writing Assessment in the fall and other subject tests in spring.
- Consider a college summer program for high school students.
- Be sure you do something productive over the summer – an educational program, career related internship or job and/or community service.

JUNIOR YEAR RESUME INFORMATION

Extracurricular Activities (Clubs, Organizations, Scholastic Competitions)

Offices & Leadership Positions / Responsibilities

Honors & Awards Received

Sports (School and/or Community - Include Letters Earned, Awards, Leadership)

Community Activities (Clubs, Volunteer Work, Other Activities)

Work Experience

Senior Year



- Keep your grades up! Senior grades are still important; even early acceptances are contingent on final transcripts!**
- Attend College Information Night in the Fall.
- Take the Fall SAT and/or ACT if your junior year scores were not high enough, or if you haven't taken it at all. You can still take a test prep course to help boost your scores.
- Take SAT Subject Tests if needed.
- Decide which teachers you will ask for college application recommendations. Pick up the forms in the Counseling office and allow the teachers at least 2-3 weeks notice.
- Watch for visits to Wheeler by colleges you are considering.
- Attend the Fall PROBE College Fair – information at www.gaprobe.org.
- Make a list of all the colleges you are considering. Find out more by visiting their websites.
- March is the sign-up deadline to take any AP (Advanced Placement) test. Visit the AP test link at <http://www.cobbk12.org/wheeler/> to sign up for the AP test and pay the fee.
- Review Wheeler's College Application Procedure form. **Pay close attention to deadlines on the college applications!** Apply online. You will need official transcripts (\$2 each) for each application.
- Be sure your SAT/ACT scores were sent to all schools you applied to.
- If you did not pass all GHS GT requirements junior year, you have the opportunity to retake the test as a senior.
- Continue your scholarship / financial aid search. Check the ABC website at www.wheelerabc.org for information.
- 18 year-old males must register with Selective Service in order to receive HOPE funds.
- FAFSA - Your parents need to send in your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible after January 1st. This is required for most colleges nationally and also for the HOPE scholarship. Forms are online after Jan. 1st at www.gacollege411.org
- Sign permission card in Counseling for your **final** transcript to be mailed to the school of your choice. It's free!
- Congratulations! You've graduated!!**



SOPHOMORE YEAR RESUME INFORMATION

Extracurricular Activities (Clubs, Organizations, Scholastic Competitions)

Offices & Leadership Positions / Responsibilities

Honors & Awards Received

Sports (School and/or Community - Include Letters Earned, Awards, Leadership)

Community Activities (Clubs, Volunteer Work, Other Activities)

Work Experience

PSAT? SAT? ACT? AP?

Who Should Take Them & When!

There is confusion among parents and students about when, where and who should take the SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests, PSAT and AP tests.

The Academic Booster Club has compiled the following general information:

THE TESTS

Wheeler's School Code is 112010

SAT (formerly SAT I): A college entrance exam, the SAT is a **reasoning test** designed to help measure a student's ability to handle college level work by gauging the student's critical thinking and problem solving skills. Questions appear in order of difficulty. The SAT carries a wrong answer penalty, and most but not all, questions are multiple choice. The test has three parts: critical reading, mathematics and writing. Critical reading (formerly verbal), evaluates reading comprehension. Mathematics includes algebra, geometry, statistics, probability and data analysis. Writing (essay), evaluates grammar, usage, and word choice. Each section is scored on a scale from 200 to 800 with 2400 being a perfect score. Test results are accepted by most colleges (always carefully check testing requirements with each college.). If you take the test multiple times, some colleges will look at your best score from each individual section, some colleges do not. Check with each college for their policies. The SAT is administered by College Board. See their website for complete information on test dates, locations and to register online at: www.collegeboard.com

ACT: ACT A college entrance exam, the ACT is an **achievement test**. It is still a test of problem solving skills, but it is more content based (what you have learned in high school). The multiple choice test measures skills in four areas: mathematics, English, reading and science. Mathematics includes algebra, geometry and trigonometry. English includes punctuation, sentence structure, grammar and usage. Reading evaluates the student's reading comprehension. The science section emphasizes scientific reasoning skills in the natural sciences (including biology, chemistry, physics and earth science). Questions do not appear in order of difficulty, and carry no penalty for wrong answers. The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay. The ACT is scored from 1 to 36. Test results are accepted by most colleges, but always check with each college on specific requirements. The test is administered by ACT (American College Testing). See their website for complete information on test dates, locations and to register online: www.act.org

PSAT: The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a practice SAT given to all sophomores in the fall during the school day at no charge. When taken in the junior year, it is also the determining factor for National Merit competition, Governor's Honors Program (GHP) and future scholarship offers. Juniors who are interested in these offers must stop by Counseling in the fall to register to take the PSAT and pay a small fee. (www.collegeboard.com)

FRESHMAN YEAR RESUME INFORMATION

Extracurricular Activities (Clubs, Organizations, Scholastic Competitions)

Offices & Leadership Positions / Responsibilities

Honors & Awards Received

Sports (School and/or Community - Include Letters Earned, Awards, Leadership)

Community Activities (Clubs, Volunteer Work, Other Activities)

Work Experience
