








TUESDAY TELEGRAPH

NEWS FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

August 12, 2025

Seniors – Class of 2026

Today began our 12-part series called FutureFocus, which will take place during AO's on Tuesdays and Thursdays over the next 6 weeks. Below you will find the topics for the first several sessions:

				
AUGUST 12 & 14	AUGUST 19 & 21	AUGUST 26	AUGUST 28	FUTURE WEEKS
Overview of Postsecondary Options & College Application Processes in Naviance ("How to")	College Essays, Resumes, & Letters of Recommendation (LOR)	"Peach State Tour" A live virtual presentation from Georgia State, Augusta, UGA, and GT (1 hour!)	Herff Jones presentation Ordering caps and gowns and other grad items	Military 2year/Technical Trades Transferring Applying to GA Colleges Scholarships & <u>FinAid</u> FAQs and more!

Those who are off campus (CVA, GAVS, DE, AM Min Day) during AO are strongly encouraged to attend FutureFocus, if you are able to do so. We will post the presentations in the Senior Counseling CTLS as well as on www.popeschoolcounseling.com for students who are absent and parents who wish to view the information. Students unable to attend the first two AO sessions are encouraged to attend Senior Parent Night on August 19th to get the most important pieces of information, such as using Naviance, how to request transcripts/letters of recommendation, etc.

Senior Parent Night – Tuesday, August 19th at 7 pm in the PAC

Senior parents/guardians are invited to attend Senior Parent Night where we will review steps that we've shared with students on post-secondary options, the college application process, as well as additional information to help you and your senior along this school year. The presentation will be posted on our webpage if you are unable to attend.

The College Essay Guy and Navigating the Common Application

The Common Application is a free online platform used by over 1,000 colleges and universities that helps students apply to college by submitting a SINGLE application to MULTIPLE schools. In the College Guy's latest [YouTube video](#), Tom Campbell gives a step-by-step walkthrough of the Common App, including:

- An intro to the NEW 2025-2026 Common App
- Adding colleges to your "My Colleges" tab
- Finding out each college's supplemental essays
- Key tips on the Profile, Family, Education and Testing sections
- A deep-dive on the Activities section
- Guidance on the Writing section (Personal Essay, Additional Information, and Challenges & Circumstances sections)
- What to do when you're ready to submit

Save the Date! Financial Aid Night with GSFC – Tuesday, October 14th at 7pm in the PAC

Join Anna Roberts O'Brien, our regional GSFC representative, for our annual Financial Aid Night. She will cover great information about the financial aid process, including the FAFSA, need-based aid, HOPE, Zell, and more!

Pope College Fairs Coming Soon!

We have scheduled three college mini-fairs this fall! **Students**, please save the dates and plan to join us in the Old Gym during X-block starting at 2:10 pm to visit with numerous colleges, universities, and armed forces. More information will be available as we get closer to the dates.

- August 27
- October 15
- November 12

PSAT/NMSQT Testing Information

Pope High School will be administering the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) the morning of **Thursday, October 16th**.



- **9th and 10th graders:** Pope pays the fee for **ALL** 9th graders and the State of Georgia pays for **ALL** 10th graders to test. *Please note: Freshmen and Sophomores **DO NOT** register or submit payment to participate in the October 16th PSAT administration.* As currently enrolled students, this is automatically completed for them.
- **11th graders: Juniors will have to pay the \$12 fee to participate in the official PSAT/NMSQT administration** and receive a score report from College Board. Families of Juniors can pay the PSAT fee in **MyPaymentsPlus**. **The Deadline for Juniors to pay the fee for the PSAT/NMSQT is 4:00 pm Thursday, August 28th.**

Not only does taking the PSAT/NMSQT provide excellent feedback to students about their college readiness, it is also good practice for the actual SAT. The **junior year** PSAT/NMSQT result is the test used to enter the [National Merit Scholarship](#) and the [National Achievement Scholarship](#) Programs.

The PSAT and SAT tests are administered digitally; this means students will need to bring their fully charged laptop and charging cord on test day. For more information about this and why taking the PSAT is important, click [HERE](#).

In support of our School Strategic Plan, Pope will provide PSAT prep to all 10th and 11th graders during AO starting August 12th and ending September 18th. Additional study and test taking tips can be found [HERE](#).

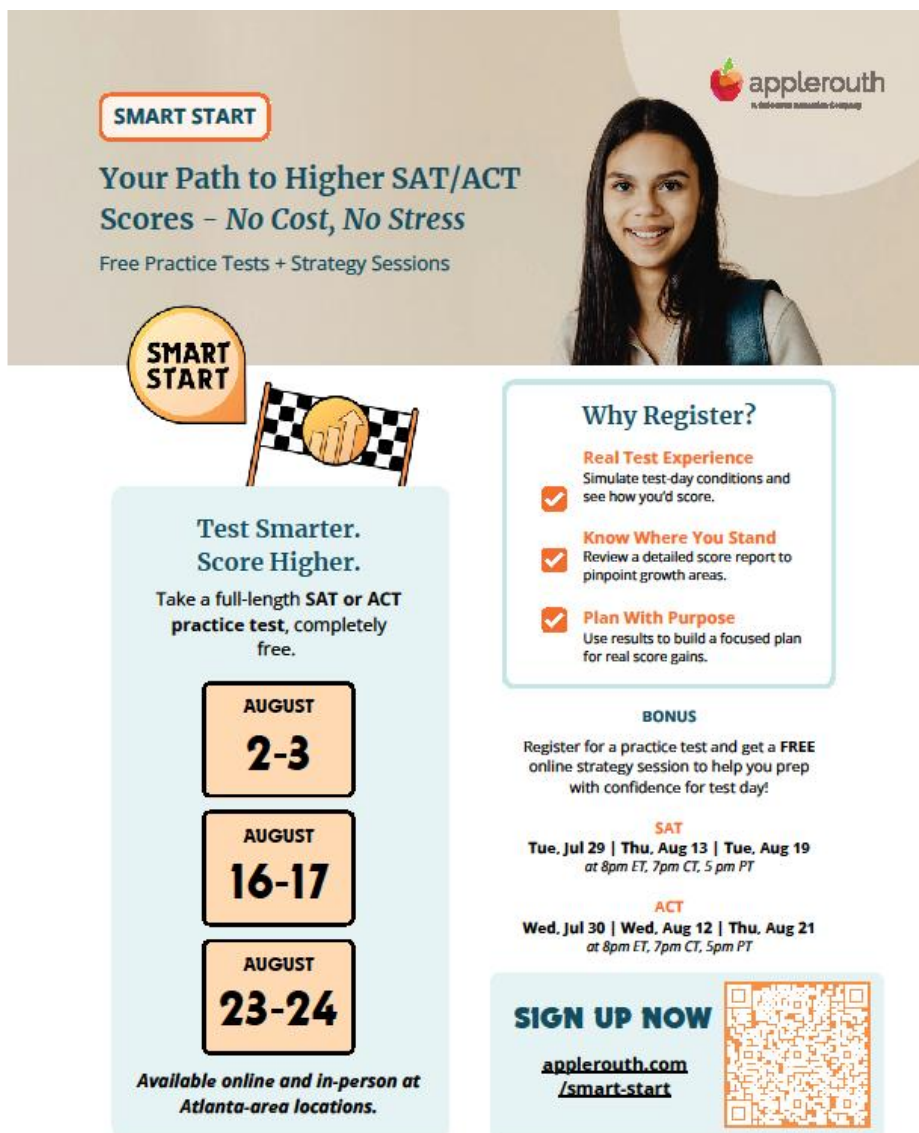
To accommodate the large number of testing participants, a revised bell schedule will be implemented. Specific testing information will be sent through CTLS Parent and posted to the school's website closer to October 16th. For further questions about the PSAT, contact your child's school counselor.

Applerouth – SmartStart

Applerouth will be hosting **free practice SAT and ACT exams** on the following dates: **August 16–17** and **August 23–24**. In person and online options are available. Students who register will receive:

- Access to an online study session to learn key test-taking strategies
- A detailed score report to help guide their study plan

Register here: www.applerouth.com/smart-start



The graphic is a promotional flyer for Applerouth's SmartStart program. It features a smiling woman on the right side. The top left has a 'SMART START' badge. The main headline reads 'Your Path to Higher SAT/ACT Scores – No Cost, No Stress' with a sub-headline 'Free Practice Tests + Strategy Sessions'. Below this is a 'SMART START' badge with a checkered flag icon. The central text says 'Test Smarter. Score Higher.' followed by 'Take a full-length SAT or ACT practice test, completely free.' and three date boxes: 'AUGUST 2-3', 'AUGUST 16-17', and 'AUGUST 23-24'. At the bottom, it says 'Available online and in-person at Atlanta-area locations.' On the right, a 'Why Register?' section lists three benefits: 'Real Test Experience', 'Know Where You Stand', and 'Plan With Purpose'. Below this is a 'BONUS' section offering a free online strategy session. The bottom right has a 'SIGN UP NOW' button with the URL 'applerouth.com/smart-start' and a QR code.

SMART START

Your Path to Higher SAT/ACT Scores – No Cost, No Stress

Free Practice Tests + Strategy Sessions

SMART START

Test Smarter. Score Higher.

Take a full-length SAT or ACT practice test, completely free.

AUGUST 2-3

AUGUST 16-17

AUGUST 23-24

Available online and in-person at Atlanta-area locations.

Why Register?

- Real Test Experience**
Simulate test-day conditions and see how you'd score.
- Know Where You Stand**
Review a detailed score report to pinpoint growth areas.
- Plan With Purpose**
Use results to build a focused plan for real score gains.

BONUS


Register for a practice test and get a **FREE** online strategy session to help you prep with confidence for test day!

SAT
Tue, Jul 29 | Thu, Aug 13 | Tue, Aug 19
at 8pm ET, 7pm CT, 5pm PT

ACT
Wed, Jul 30 | Wed, Aug 12 | Thu, Aug 21
at 8pm ET, 7pm CT, 5pm PT

SIGN UP NOW

applerouth.com/smart-start



Note: The ACT practice test will follow the new Enhanced ACT format.

ASVAB

Pope will be offering the ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) to any interested 10th-12th graders on **Wednesday, September 3rd from 1:30-3:30pm in room 104** (students will miss 7th period). It will be taken digitally and will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete. Students need to sign up using the QR Code on the flyer by August 29th. More information about the ASVAB for general career exploration and military enlistment is available via the additional QR Codes. Contact your child's school counselor if you have questions.

ASVAB

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

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Sign up by August 29th

More questions?
See us in the counseling office

ASVAB Career Exploration Program Information

ASVAB for Military Enlistment Information

Scan me!

Save the Dates!

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events, sponsored by the Counseling team. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the dates:

August 19th at 7 pm (PAC) – Senior Family Information Night

September 4th at 7 pm (PAC) – Junior Family Information Night

September 16th at 7 pm (PAC) – Dual Enrollment Information Night

October 14th at 7 pm (PAC) – Financial Aid Information Night

Student Advisory Council

State School Superintendent Richard Woods seeks students in **grades 10-12** to serve on his **2025-2026 Student Advisory Council**. These students will meet with Superintendent Woods to discuss the impact of state policies in the classroom and other education-related issues. They will serve as the Superintendent's ambassadors to their respective schools. The Student Advisory Council will meet four times in person during the school year; meeting dates are listed in the application.

"The Student Advisory Council gives students a real seat at the table," **Superintendent Woods said**. "Each year, I look forward to hearing directly from Georgia students about their experiences in the classroom. Their voices help shape the decisions we make at the state level, and their insights have a lasting impact. I encourage any student who wants to make a difference to apply."

Interested students must complete and submit the [application](#) by **September 5th at 5 pm**. Selected students will be contacted via email.

Rising Juniors – Important Immunization Information

Per the Georgia Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older, who are entering the 11th grade (including new entrants), must have received one booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday. Please visit [this link](#) for a summary of requirements for vaccinations by age.

In accordance with this requirement, **all Pope students entering the 11th grade, who were 16 by August 4th, must submit an updated Certificate of Immunization, on GA Form 3231, to the Pope Counseling Office as soon as possible.** Students, who are not yet 16 will have 30 calendar days from the student's 16th birthday to provide the updated Certificate of Immunization. Students must meet this requirement, or provide acceptable exemption documentation, for them to be/remain enrolled in school. Students requesting to be exempt from Immunization must present a signed, notarized Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization, DPH Form 2208.

We prefer that you upload your updated Certificate of Immunization/Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization to ParentVUE. Once logged in, you will click on Change My Information → Student Information → Enrollment Documents where you will be able to upload the document. Paper and emailed copies will be accepted as well.

For additional information on immunization schedules, exemptions, and laws governing these requirements, please visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines>.

Should you have any questions, please contact Lisa Squier in the Counseling Office at 770-578-7903 or lisa.squier@cobbk12.org. All paper and emailed documents should also be directed to Mrs. Squier.

Get to Know Your Counseling Office

The Counseling Office is located in room 102. We are open from 7:45 am to 3:45 pm. Students are welcome to stop in before or after school but should have a pass from their teacher to come in during the day. We are happy to make appointments for our students with their Counselor and will try to schedule those during a student's lunch period. Parents interested in scheduling an appointment should e-mail their Counselor directly. ***Please note we have a new alpha breakdown.*** We look forward to working with you this year!



Back Row: Jamie Hamrick (R-Z), Leslie Shearstone (E-K), Lisa Squier (Records), Pam Kretzmer (Social Worker)
Front Row: Bradleigh Perkinson (504's), Anna Leathers (A-D), Cheryl Gully (L-Q), Karen Anderson (Clerk)

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Pope Counseling Website:

<https://www.popeschoolcounseling.com/>