



TUESDAY TELEGRAPH NEWS FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE August 11, 2026

Seniors – Class of 2027

Today was the first FutureFocus lesson for our seniors! These sessions, held during AO for six weeks, are designed to help you with college applications, career searching, financial aid, and more! See the chart below for details. All presentations will be posted in the Counseling Class of 2027 CTLS page as well on the [popeschoolcounseling](http://popeschoolcounseling.com) website.

SENIOR FUTUREFOCUS AUGUST 11-SEPT 1				
				
AUGUST 11 & 13	AUGUST 18 & 20	AUGUST 25	AUGUST 27	SEPT 1
Overview of Postsecondary Options & College Application Processes	SchoolLinks Tutorial Setting up College Application Manager (CAM) & Requesting Transcripts	ATL Grad Presentation Ordering Caps, Gowns, and other graduation items	Letters of Recommendation (LOR), Brag Sheets, and Resumes	College Essays

As a reminder, **SchoolLinks is our new college and career platform, replacing Naviance**. We will give you specific instructions during FutureFocus on how to navigate everything including requesting transcripts and letters of recommendation. In the meantime, you can be working on (and even submitting) applications!

Senior Parent Night – Tuesday, August 18th at 7-8:30 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 (including SchoolLinks), 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. This event is anticipated to last 1 ½ hours as there is a great deal of information to cover.

Save the Date! Financial Aid Night with GSFC – September 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 details about the FAFSA, need-based aid, HOPE, Zell, and more!

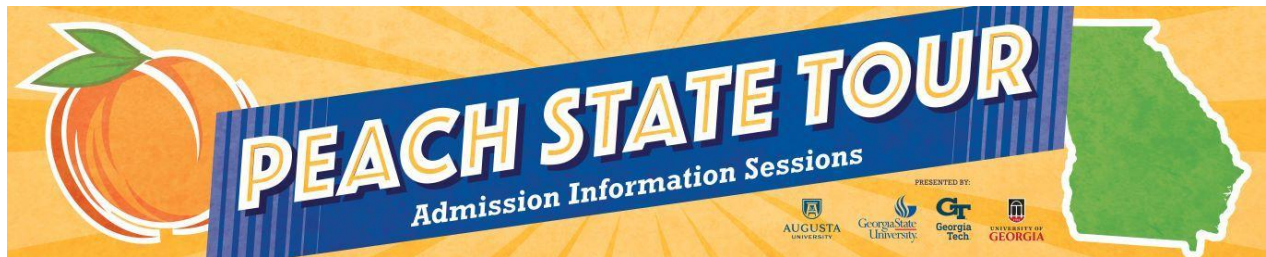
The College Essay Guy and How to Stand Out on Your College Essays

On August 25th (7-8 pm), join Ethan Sawyer, founder of College Essay Guy, along with Tom Campbell, Senior College Admissions Counselor & Essay Specialist, for a countdown through the five qualities admissions officers look for, the four questions your personal statement should answer, and everything else you need to know for the 2026 admissions season. Save your free spot today by registering [here](#).

How to Approach the Common App Essay Prompts

Check out this great [article](#) from College Transitions on how to approach this year's Common App essay prompts.

The Peach State Tour is Back



Join Augusta University, Georgia State University, Georgia Tech, and the University of Georgia this fall (August 25-September 24) for the 24th annual Peach State Tour!

The Peach State Tour will be offered in a hybrid format: students will have the opportunity to attend information sessions both in-person and virtually. This is your chance to learn more about the admission and financial aid processes and university offerings based on which session you attend. Find out more information about locations, dates, and registration [here](#).

Pope College Fairs Coming Soon!

We have scheduled three college mini-fairs this fall! **Students (ALL grades)**, please save the dates and plan to join us in the Aux/ 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 26
- October 7
- November 11

LAUNCH Events in August

Cornell, Emory, Pomona, Rice, and Washington University in St. Louis are proud to present **LAUNCH (Linking Access, Unity, Networking, Collaboration and Higher Education)**. Both [virtual](#) (August 19 and September 16 at 8 pm) and [in person](#) (August 27 at 6:30 pm) events are available.

PSAT Information

On **Thursday, October 15th**, Pope will be administering the PSAT/NMSQT.

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 15th PSAT.* As currently enrolled students, this is automatically completed for them.

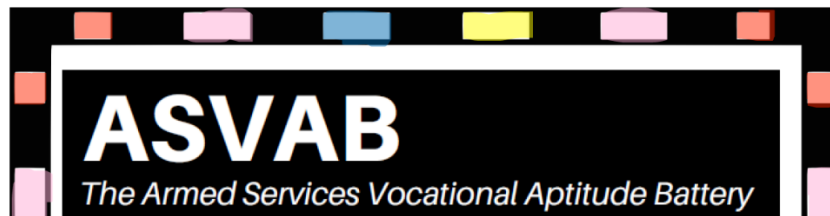
JUNIORS can participate by paying the \$15 fee through **MyPaymentsPlus**. The junior year PSAT/NMSQT result is used to enter the [National Merit Scholarship](#) and the [National Achievement Scholarship](#) Programs.

**The deadline for junior families to pay the fee for the PSAT/NMSQT is 4:00 pm Friday, August 28th.
Regretfully, no payments can be accepted after 4:00 pm for any reason.**

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered DIGITALLY. Students must bring their fully charged CCSD laptop and charging cord that 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 10-11 graders during AO starting August 11th and ending September 17th.

Juniors have the alternative option to take the [ASVAB Career Exploration Program](#) assessment instead of the PSAT that morning; this is a free assessment. Although the ASVAB is used to determine military enlistment qualifications and career discernment, there is no obligation for the students to talk to a recruiter or to enter military service while participating in this career exploration program. **Juniors interested in taking the ASVAB instead of the PSAT need to register before October 9th.** See the next section for details.

ASVAB Opportunity for 11th and 12th Graders



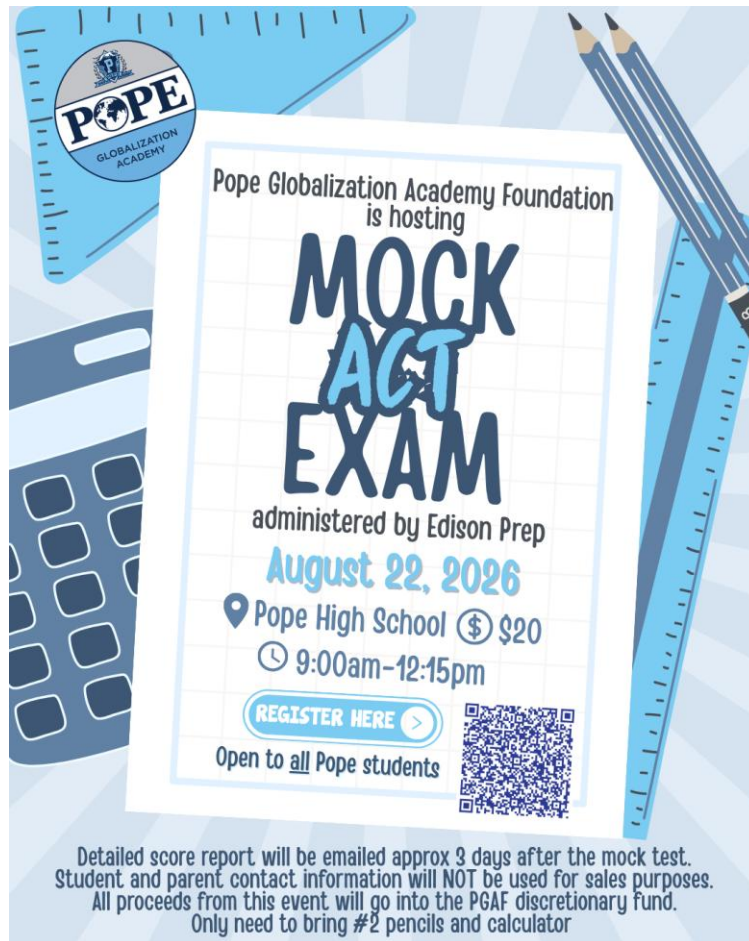
Pope will be offering the ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) the morning of **Thursday, October 15th to any interested juniors *not participating in the PSAT testing*, and any interested seniors**. The ASVAB is the assessment needed for [military enlistment](#), but this assessment also provides students with a highly researched and reliable career assessment that helps them explore careers and plan their futures. It includes an aptitude test, tools, and resources to help students learn about themselves and find careers that align with their interests and skills. For an overview of the ASVAB CEP please click [HERE](#).

Participation in the ASVAB CEP does not obligate a student to talk with military recruiters or consider a military career, and scores are not shared with recruiters. Interested 11th and 12th graders must sign up before October 9th to participate. Scan the QR code to register:



Pope Globalization to Host Mock ACT

The Pope Globalization Academy Foundation is sponsoring a Mock ACT on **Saturday, August 22nd 9 am – 12:15 pm** in the PAC, rooms 40 and 42. This opportunity is open to all Pope students, and costs \$20. Scan the QR code to register or sign up [here](#).



Applerouth – SmartStart

Applerouth is hosting **free 90-minute SAT and ACT Strategy Bootcamps** throughout August.

Students will learn:

- High-impact SAT/ACT strategies
- Time management and pacing techniques
- Common mistakes to avoid
- Study habits that maximize results

Live on Zoom at 7:00 pm

SAT Bootcamps: August 4, 13, & 18

ACT Bootcamps: August 6, 11, & 20

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

Students can also take **free SAT or ACT practice tests** online or at Atlanta-area testing locations during August.

Each practice test includes a **personalized score report with clear next steps** to help students focus their preparation.

START SMART. SCORE HIGHER.

Free SAT & ACT Strategy Bootcamps

Practice Tests Are Everywhere.
Expert Guidance Isn't.



Choose Your Free 90-Minute SAT or ACT Strategy Bootcamp

Start with a strategy — not guesswork.

 **SAT:** Aug 4, 13, & 18

 **ACT:** Aug 6, 11, & 20

 **7:00 PM ET • Live on Zoom**



Students will learn:

- High-impact SAT/ACT strategies
- Time management & pacing
- Common mistakes to avoid
- Study habits that save time

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TAKE A FREE SAT OR ACT PRACTICE TEST

Get a personalized score report
with clear next steps.



SAT & ACT
Aug 8–9
Aug 15–16
Aug 22–23

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

REGISTER NOW

[www.applerouth.com/
smart-start](http://www.applerouth.com/smart-start)



West Point Admissions Event

Students are cordially invited to an admissions event for the United States Military Academy on **September 1st at 6 pm** (Hewitt-Trussville High School, 6450 Husky Pkwy, Trussville, AL). This is a unique opportunity to learn more about West Point, life as a Cadet, and the application process. [Register](#) to reserve your place for this great experience to learn more about the Academy, to see if it is the right fit for you, and to understand how you can apply.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT®
ADMISSIONS EVENT

Students, school counselors, teachers, families and friends are all welcome to attend.

Meet with an Admissions Counselor and learn more about:

- What West Point Offers
- Life as a Cadet
- The Application Process

SCAN HERE
 Sign up and reserve your spot TODAY!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
www.westpoint.edu
 follow us: @westpointadmissions

Student Advisory Council

State School Superintendent Richard Woods seeks students in **grades 10-12** to serve on his **2026-2027 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.

A message from Superintendent Woods: "One of the most important parts of my job is listening to students. The Student Advisory Council allows me to hear directly from young people about their experiences, challenges, and ideas for the future of education in Georgia. These students serve as ambassadors for their schools and communities, and their perspectives help ensure student voices remain at the center of our work. I encourage eligible students from across Georgia to apply and share their unique viewpoints."

Interested students must complete and submit the [application](#) by **September 4th at 5 pm**. Selected students will be contacted via email.

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: <https://dph.georgia.gov/media/89331/download> for a summary of vaccination requirements by age.

In accordance with this requirement, all Pope students entering the 11th grade, who were 16 by August 3, 2026, 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 by August 3rd 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.

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 26th at 7 pm – Freshman Family Information Night

September 2nd at 7 pm – Junior Family Information Night

September 8th at 7 pm (PAC) – Dual Enrollment Information Night

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. We look forward to working with you this year!

CONTACT US

Anna Leathers, A-D
anna.leathers@cobbk12.org

Andi Hodgin, 504 Coordinator
andrea.hodgin@cobbk12.org

Leslie Shearstone, E-K
leslie.shearstone@cobbk12.org

Karen Anderson, Clerk
karen.anderson@cobbk12.org

Cheryl Gully, L-Q
cheryl.gully@cobbk12.org

Lisa Squier, Records/ParentVUE
lisa.squier@cobbk12.org

Jamie Hamrick, R-Z
jamie.hamrick@cobbk12.org

Pope Counseling Website:

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