Standardized Testing Information – SAT & ACT

Dear Juniors and Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to outline the program for standardized testing in the junior year and to provide information about registering for these tests. **In general**, we recommend that juniors take the PSAT (administered at HM on October 19th), a spring SAT exam or ACT exam, and 1-3 SAT Subject Tests. Some tests may be administered at HM and others at nearby test centers on Saturday mornings. The importance of registering now is to give you the best opportunity to take the exams at Horace Mann or a test center close to where you live.

Our first College Night for juniors and their parents will be held on Tuesday, November 19th @ 7pm. While students won't be assigned to a college counselor until January, we have a lot of information to share this fall. The program in November will introduce you to the College Counseling Office, what we do, and how we do it. We'll also go over the college counseling timeline so that you can plan better for the future.

October 19, 2013

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

This test is designed to provide practice for the SAT and to determine eligibility for National Merit Scholarships.

- All students are automatically registered by HM.
- The fee is **$14.00 – NO CASH – Checks ONLY** – Please make the check payable to "Horace Mann School" and put the student's name in the memo portion of the check.
- Bring the check to Ms. McDonald in the Counseling & Guidance Office (Tillinghast) by **Monday, October 4, 2013**.
- On October 19th, be at school by 8AM. Instructions begin at 8:30AM. Do not be late!
- You will not receive your test scores from the College Counseling Office in December unless you have paid the $14.00 test fee to Ms. McDonald.

January 25, 2014 **OR** March 8, 2014 **(NOT BOTH)**

SAT Exam

We encourage this test for juniors at this time to facilitate college planning in the spring of the junior year. Students should choose one, not both, testing dates. If, for some reason, you were considering taking this test sooner, please speak with a college counselor. To register, go to the College Board website: **www.sat.collegeboard.org**.

May 3, 2014

SAT or SAT Subject Tests

Subject Tests: We suggest that students sign up for 1-3 of these hour-long tests. How many tests and when to take them are questions best answered in consultation with a student's teacher, advisor, and dean. The answers will depend on a student's academic strength in a given subject area and willingness to do some extra work to properly prepare as HM courses do not "teach to" these tests. Please see the attached SAT Subject Test Advice flyer.

June 7, 2014

SAT or SAT Subject Tests – Potentially

February 8, 2014 **OR** April 12, 2014 **(NOT BOTH)**

ACT Exam

Colleges will accept the ACT and the SAT equally. Some students prefer the ACT, which is more curricular-based than the SAT. The vast majority of students (about 80%) perform about the same on the two exams. Taking a practice exam in both is the best way to know. To register, go to the ACT website: **www.actstudent.org**.

June 14, 2014

ACT Exam – Potentially

(continued)

Some Keys Points to Remember:

- The sequence of tests outlined above is what we **generally** recommend. While some students may complete their standardized testing profile in the junior year, the national research shows that students are most likely prepared to do their best in the fall of senior year when they've had as much time as possible to mature intellectually.

- To ensure the opportunity to take the exams either at Horace Mann or close to home, it's important that you register as soon as possible. After doing so, there is **some flexibility** to make modifications to your registration details. Test type, test center, or test date changes can be made through either the College Board website or the ACT website. There may be a fee for making those changes.

- When registering online, you will need to enter Horace Mann's CEEB school code (333700). This will ensure that the College Counseling Office receives your test scores.

- **ACT**: HM is an official test center for the December, April, and June ACT dates. The test center code for Horace Mann is 226400.

- **SAT**: HM is an official test center for the October, December, May and June SAT dates. The test center code for Horace Mann is 33186.

- Students who have documentation on file with ACT or College Board (SAT) and have been granted extended time or other accommodations should indicate this at the time of online registration.

- Attached to this letter is an introduction to the various SAT Subject Tests. It includes some advice on who might be qualified to take them and when those tests should be taken.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the College Counseling Office. We look forward to supporting you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Canh Oxelson
Director of College Counseling
oxelson@horacemann.org