



# JUNIOR CLASS



## NEWSLETTER

April | 2024

Class of 2025

### COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Binghamton University and SUNY Broome both offer programs for high school students to enroll in college level classes over the summer or during their senior year while enrolled at Vestal High School. Students must apply and be accepted into those programs. Interested students can look at Binghamton's offerings at **College Link Program** on their website. SUNY Broome offerings can be found at the **Early College Program** on their website.



### Updates

Please complete the enclosed form, indicating whether or not you want to include your SAT and/or ACT test scores on your high school transcript. The form must be on file before we can send any college application materials. Students may bring the form directly to the Guidance Office.



### COLLEGE SEARCH PROCESS

Over the next year, juniors will be making important decisions about college and career paths. Be sure to consult websites like the **College Board** or our newly launched **SchoolLinks** which can be found in "My Apps" for students on the Vestal website. Both sites have valuable tools for determining priorities for colleges and career interests. Keep your eye out for our Fall presentation on College Applications and Financial Aid Night.

Counselors will be in Junior classrooms to discuss college opportunities throughout the month of April using the tools above. It is never too early to get a jump on researching!

### Important Dates

- ACT June 1st - Register by May 17th at area schools
- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- SAT June 8th - Register by May 3rd at area schools
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)



### Common Application Information

The "Common App" is a standardized college application that is accepted by over 1,000 member institutions. It is available online only - there is no paper form. Students may fill this application out one time and submit it to any of the member schools. As you look for colleges that interest you, check the application requirements to see if they accept the Common Application or have their own forms. Please be aware that many schools accept the Common Application, but also require school-specific supplementary materials. Check out [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) for more information. Applications open August 1st!



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## College Essays

One of the most important, yet time consuming aspects of applying to college is writing and perfecting the college essay. Luckily, there are a number of resources to help you with identifying appropriate topics and developing strong essays. You may search the Internet for resources or consult the College Board website where you will find a great deal of information on the topic.

Students should be mindful that their work is authentic and not AI generated. Many English teachers are available for assistance in this area. Students should plan on making revisions and have many sets of eyes taking a look at the essay. This is your chance to shine. Don't be afraid to ask for help!



## Junior Scholarship Postings

Please check the Counseling and Guidance Google Classroom or the bulletin board in the office for scholarships for eligible juniors. Many colleges are offering scholarships to interested students in their junior year who meet scholarship requirements. Don't miss out on these opportunities.

## Common Application Personal Essay

Below are the prompts for the 2024-2025 Common Application Essay. You should look these over and start to develop ideas for your own essay. The Common Application gives you a space of between 250 and 650 words to respond to one of the following prompts:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.



Vestal students have a choice of including standardized test scores (SATs and ACTs) on the high school transcript that is sent to colleges. Some colleges and universities accept these scores from the Vestal transcript, while others require students to forward them directly from the College Board or ACT organization. The College Board now offers a service called "Score Choice" where a student can elect to send scores from specific testing sessions rather than all of them. If the scores are included on your Vestal transcript, scores from all testing sessions will be sent.

In order to best meet the needs of all students, the Vestal High School Counseling and Guidance Department is requiring students to designate whether or not they want these standardized test scores included on the transcript. If a student decides to take advantage of Score Choice, or if they simply do not want all their scores sent, they should check the box below to indicate that Vestal should not include standardized test scores on the transcript. Please note that the students themselves will then be responsible for sending those scores directly from the College Board or ACT organization and that there is usually a fee attached to this service. If a student chooses to have the scores included on the transcript, please note that all scores will be sent, including any SAT scores and any ACT scores.

One further consideration: Scholarships frequently require students to report SAT and ACT scores. If a student elects not to include these on the Vestal transcript, he/she will be responsible for forwarding the scores to those scholarship committees, as well.

Thank you in advance for your prompt completion of this form. Your son or daughter can return it to the Counseling and Guidance Office at any time.

I did not take SAT's or ACT's and have no scores to report.

Please do not include my child's standardized test scores on his/her transcript. I understand that we will be responsible for requesting that the scores be sent directly from the College Board or ACT organization. Please also be aware that some colleges request that scores from all testing sessions be included, so check carefully before you submit scores.

Please include my child's standardized test scores on his/her transcript. I understand that all scores will be reported (SAT and ACT, as applicable). I also understand that some colleges/universities require that these scores be sent directly from the testing organizations, even if they are listed on the transcript.

**Print Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

For more information on Score Choice, please check the College Board website at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or discuss this with your child's School Counselor.

**IMPORTANT:** All seniors must have this signed form on file before any transcripts can be sent out to colleges.