



What are colleges looking for?

- A rigorous high school curriculum that challenges the student and may include AP classes
- Grades that represent a strong effort and an upward trend (has the student mastered the content?). While college admissions officers appreciate an improving record, performance all the way through high school will be taken into consideration.
- Even though some colleges today may down play standardized test scores, many admissions committees will still use the SAT and ACT to assess the applicants' academic abilities and differentiate students from varied high schools. A student's scores should be consistent with their high school performance.
- Non-Academic Factors-a well written essay, special talents such as musical or athletic skills, involvement in community service that show passion and commitment are all criteria that work together to form a personalized story of each applicant. Remember that a college is looking for the student who will be able to contribute to their college community as the student has already shown the capability of contributing to their own high school community.