

is generally recommended that you take a Subject Test if you have an 85 average or better in the particular course. For the other core areas when you should take the test is determined by how many years of preparation you've had and also by specific topics covered.

Because the SAT and ACT are scored so differently, we have included an SAT-ACT Comparison Chart (*) so that you can see how your scores translate between tests.

Extracurricular Activities and Community Involvement

Involvement in a variety of activities outside of the classroom is also very important. In school these could be clubs, sports, honor societies, peer tutoring or any other way to productively spend your time. Outside of school, volunteer experiences (such as youth group participation) or having a part-time job is the best way to show schools that you are a well-rounded, active member of the community as well as demonstrating responsibility and time management skills. The important thing is not to be involved peripherally in too many things, but instead to take active roles in the things that are important to you. Taking on leadership positions is a great way to indicate that you are ready for the demands of a college curriculum. Even if you have not been involved in a lot of these activities until now, there is still time. The best way to showcase your extracurricular involvement is to create an Activity Sheet/Resume (*), highlighting the activities that you are most proud of or where you were most involved. This should be a typewritten list describing your involvement. A copy of your Activity Sheet (*) should be given to your counselor during the spring of your junior year and then again when it's updated in the fall.

The Essay

The essay is your chance to show the college admissions office something about yourself that is not evident on your transcript or in your other recommendations. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the reader should know more about **you** when they come to the end of your essay.

Sometimes an application will indicate that the essay is optional. If you really want to be accepted to a school, no part should be considered optional. Take every opportunity to make the college see what a unique and wonderful person you are and this includes writing a great essay. Take advantage of Mohonasen's Essay Writing Workshop presented by a college admissions counselor in late September. Brainstorm essay ideas with your counselor and be sure to bring your drafts to your counselor or an