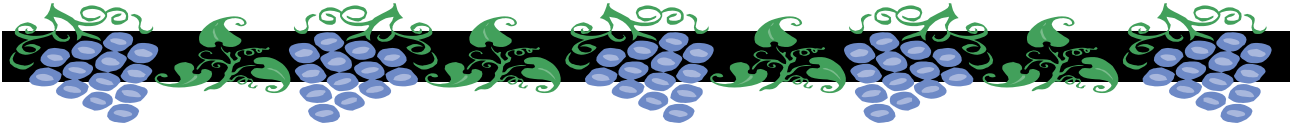


# *The Grapevine*

A SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER



*December 2015/January 2016*

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

*If your Freshman, Sophomore or Junior took the PSAT's on October 14, scores should be available in January. If you have any questions, please call your students counselor.*

*Attention Seniors:* Please remember to let your Counselor know if you are applying to or have been accepted to schools over break.

*Senior Parents:* We are having every Senior start their FAFSA by establishing their FSA#. This is new this year and every student and one parent must establish this number **before** starting their FAFSA.

*FAFSA-On-line: Starting January 1, 2016,* all students/parents should file the on-line version of FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Completing the on-line FAFSA will shorten the process from weeks to days. In addition, the help screens and checks built into the on-line form greatly reduce the possibility of making an error or omission that might delay processing or require correction. GPA does not have paper applications. If you need to obtain a paper application you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 or 1-319-337-5665. You may request up to three copies and should receive them in three to seven business days. You may also download and complete a PDF version of the FAFSA at [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov) - these must be mailed for processing. For students who are the first in their family to attend college, the process of applying for college can seem complicated, especially finding financial resources and applying for aid to make the dream of attending college a reality.

***MCC' is offering College Goal Sunday.*** College Bowl Sunday is designed to assist prospective college students and their parents in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Financial aid administrators and other volunteers offer this one-to-one service at **no charge**. In addition to receiving assistance in filling out the FAFSA, participants will receive general information regarding state and federal financial aid programs. The Connecticut College Goal Sunday program is an effort by hundreds of volunteers from across Connecticut who will come together with the common goal of making sure that the process of applying for financial aid does not become an obstacle that would keep any

person from pursuing an education beyond high school. By attending a College Goal Sunday event, participants will walk away from the event with a completed financial aid application and the satisfaction of knowing they have accomplished one of the biggest steps in getting ready to go to college. Free professional assistance is available on Saturday, January 30, 2015 from 1:00 pm -4:00 pm.

In addition to MCC's event on January 30, a complete listing of College Goal Sunday sites in Connecticut and more information about College Goal Sunday is available at [www.collegegoalsundayct.org](http://www.collegegoalsundayct.org).

***You can start filling out your FAFSA on-line application beginning January 1, 2016 and it must be completed by February 14, 2016.***

***Important Reminder:*** check to see if any of your schools require the ***CSS Profile***. This is a separate financial aid form required by several private colleges for use in determining their own institutional aid. This form can be filled out immediately; however, there is a cost for each institution. Go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and check out the CSS Profile and see if any of your schools are listed.

**IMPORTANT NOTES for SENIORS:**

- 1. Watch those college application deadlines! If your application deadline is January 1<sup>st</sup>, be prepared to send them out by December 18<sup>th</sup>. \*\*You must let your counselor know you have submitted your CommonApp. They need to upload and send your information. Remember, we do not return to school until January 4<sup>th</sup>.**
- 2. If the colleges you apply to require first marking period or mid-year grades, be sure to let your counselor know so that they can be sent.**
- 3. When you receive acceptance to college, make sure to let your counselor or Mrs. Spencer know so that you can be listed in the Grapevine!**

***Seniors:*** To report scholarships received, see Ms. Corcoran or Mrs. Spencer or stop by the Guidance Suite.

***Juniors:*** All Juniors have the opportunity to take the SAT's free of charge at Great Path on Wednesday, March 2nd. **Start preparing NOW! Free SAT practice test on [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) and [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org). NEW THIS YEAR: FREE Princeton Review course at GPA starting January 9-February 25. This is a \$1,000 free opportunity!**

# Great Path Academy SAT Prep Course



Princeton Review was founded in 1981 by John Katzman. He began his business in the spring with 19 students and by the fall he had 43 students, more than double. Today, The Princeton Review offers tutoring, test preparation services, admission resources, online courses, and books published by Random House. They cover all content on the test and focus on strengthening student's weaknesses.

## Spring Semester 2016

Great Path Academy has partnered with Princeton Review to provide SAT test preparation classes **FREE!** This a great opportunity for your child to review all the content tested on the SAT and master their exclusive testing strategies through extensive in class practice and drills.

### Why should students take this course?

- All Juniors are offered this SAT Course **FREE!**
- Exposure to the new re-design SAT test
- Learn strategies from top-notch instructors
- Combined virtual and live instruction
- 36.5 Hours of classroom instruction and diagnostic testing

### Incentives

- Snacks
- Extra Credit
- Daily Raffle
- Gotcha! cards
- Field Trip for perfect attendance

### SAT Course Schedule

Saturday, January 9, 2016	8:00am-12:15pm
Thursday, January 14, 2016	2:30pm-5:00pm
Thursday, January 21, 2016	2:30pm-5:00pm
Saturday, January 23, 2016	8:00am-12:15pm
Thursday, January 28, 2016	2:30pm-5:00pm
Thursday, February 4, 2016	2:30pm-5:00pm
Saturday, February 6, 2016	8:00am-12:15pm
Thursday, February 18, 2016	2:30pm-5:00pm
Saturday, February 20, 2016	8:00am-12:15pm
Thursday, February 25, 2016	2:30pm-5:00pm
Saturday, February 27, 2016	8:00am-12:15pm

**SAT Test Date Wednesday, March 2, 2016**

All Juniors were given the Accuplacer, a college level assessment. Please congratulate the new students who assessed at college level and are now registering for an MCC class: Aliza DelVaglio, Jenna Emond, Eleanore Hewett, Sommer Hitchcock, Rimsha Jafri, Ranazia Monroe, Destiny Ojeda, James Parsley, Jacinda Pinnock, Joshua Silvester, Jessica Sokoloski, Benett Sullivan, and Amy Vasques.

**Juniors:** The following is a timetable to help you prepare for your Senior year and the college selection process:

**January/February:** Begin to think about colleges you would like to explore. Check college websites and make a tentative list of colleges to research and visit. Use Supermatch in Naviance to help with finding and exploring colleges that fit what you are looking for.

**March:** The counselors will be bringing all Juniors to the Hartford College Fair on March 30th or 31st.

**March/April:** Visit colleges during these months. Research the schools acceptance statistics (average GPA & SAT scores accepted). Begin eliminating choices.

**April/May:** Counselors will be bringing Juniors to local colleges for visits.

**May:** Plan visits to colleges over the summer. Ask academic teachers (Math, English) for letters of recommendation.

**June/July/August:** Continue to visit colleges, take tours and have interviews. Volunteer in your community, and prepare a draft of your Resume on Naviance. Refine your list of colleges; separate it into Reach, Realistic and Safety schools.

### ***State School Open Houses:***

**University of Hartford**                      **Tuesday, January 12**                      **4:30pm - 6:30pm**  
Must preregister @ <http://www.hartford.edu/graduate/events.aspx>

**Check websites to double check time and register.**

**Senior Scholarships** - All scholarships are listed on Naviance.com. Click scholarships. Doing a search on scholarships.com is also a good resource.

## GREAT PATH ACADEMY ATTENDANCE POLICY 2015-2016

Parents/Guardians **MUST** call the GPA main office at 860-512-3700 when a student is going to be absent or tardy.

**\*Please note that the new Attendance Policy will impact a student's ability to earn course credit and be promoted if they have chronic absences from any course.\***

There are excused absences and excused late and they do not count against the students. They must be documented with a doctor's note or parent's note and it must be presented to the Main Office on a timely manner. **(Within 5 school days of absence)** We will no longer accept bulk excuses after 5 school days or at the end of the marking period. (Student Handbook will be provided at the beginning of the year with more details on excused absences & tardiness)

**Students who are absent or late to any class without a written excuse will be marked with an unexcused absence (UNV) or unexcused late (UXT). Excessive absences and/or late will count against students' academic progress and they can lose partial and/or total course credit for a marking period, a semester or even the entire year.**

### **Example:**

**A Single Marking Period** where a student has accrued (6) six or more unexcused absences the student will lose credit for that marking period regardless of what their projected grade would be. (A projected grade of 90% or an "A" will automatically become a 50% or an "F").

**For a Semester Course** if the student accrues (11) eleven or more unexcused absences the student will lose credit for that entire semester course regardless of what their projected grade would be. (A projected grade of 90% or an "A" will automatically become a 50% or an "F").

**If a student accrues (21) twenty-one or more unexcused absences for the year** then the student will lose credit for the entire school year regardless of what their projected grade would be. (A projected grade of 90% or an "A" will automatically become a 50% or an "F").

Students will not receive a score lower than 50% for the first marking period, even if their class average is lower than a 50% or if they lose credit due to chronic absenteeism or chronic lateness. The 50% still gives the student a good opportunity to pass that course, but they will need to score a 70% or higher for future marking periods.

## GREAT PATH ACADEMY UNIFORM POLICY 2015-2016

### GPA Approved Student Attire Required:

- **Button down Oxfords:** Great Path Academy **Logo shirts** (blue or white button down oxford shirt with GPA Logo) with HPS/GPA vendor approved Logo only
- **\*Sweater Vest\*:** Great Path Academy Black **Sweater Vest with GPA Logo** with HPS/GPA vendor approved Logo only (\*Mandatory for all students effective July 1st 2015)
- **Pants:** Full Length Dress slacks or "Dockers" style Black or Tan Khaki (Tan only) & belted at the waist. (No oversized pockets)
- **Belts:** Solid color (Plain blue, black or white) ALL shirts must be tucked in at ALL times
- **Footwear:** Any closed toe shoe with 2" heels or less, including sneakers

### Optional:

- **Undershirts:** Solid royal blue, black or white **only!** Long Sleeve or Short Sleeve
- **Skirts** must be black or tan on or **no more than (1) one inch above** the knee (should be as close to knee length as possible)
- **Sweater Cardigan** with Great Path Academy **Logo** approved by HPS/GPA vendor only
- **Sports Team Jersey/Top** for your district school may be worn on competition/game day only (as approved by coach/team leader) Provide game schedule to main office
- **Students enrolled in MCC courses in the MCC buildings** may wear uniform shirts or sweaters with the MCC Logo, purchased from the college during College class only.
- **GPA "On a Great Path" PBIS earned T-Shirts** may be worn on **Fridays only** with GPA approved uniform pants/skirt.
- **CAPT earned hoodies, sweat shirts, t-shirts** may be worn on **Fridays only** with GPA approved uniform pants/skirt.

### NOT ALLOWED during the school day (8:00 a.m.-2:20 p.m.)

- No Stretch/skin tight or flared skirts
- No Skirts shorter than (1) one inch above the knee
- No Accessories that may promote or signify gang affiliation, drugs or weapons (Colored Beads, Kerchiefs, and Bandanas, socks etc.) are not to be worn during the school day or any school sponsored activity (dances, fieldtrips etc.), (which the administration deems unsafe for school environment)
- No hats, Caps, do-rags, hoods, scarves (on the head, hair, neck, or used as belts)
- No Hoodies, No Blazers, No Sweatshirts, No Windbreakers, No Jackets, No Coats, No raincoats, No outerwear
- No sweater vests without GPA logo or No sweaters without GPA logo
- No Slippers or sandals, open toe shoes or sandals, No moccasins, No heels over 2"

- No Denim (Jeans), No stretch/skin tight pants, No Skinnies, No Leggings, No Jeggings, No Yoga pants, No Shorts, No Capri, No pajama pants, No ripped up pants or stockings/tights
- No pants tucked into footwear or worn below the waist
- No Cargo pants with large outer pockets
- No oversized neck chains, neck charms/accessories
- No Hoop earrings over one inch long or over one inch in diameter
- No Name Belt buckles or oversized belts/buckles (No Studs or Spikes)
- No oversized rings or any accessory which the administration deems unsafe
- Sunglasses
- **GPA Logo Fleece** or North Face Fleece are **NOT ALLOWED** during the school day
- ANY ITEM which the administration deems unsafe or inappropriate for the GPA school environment or does not meet GPA Expectations.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Students out of required uniform will be required to change into approved GPA attire by calling guardian to bring it to the school or wear one loaned by the school that must be returned at the end of the day.

**Approved Student Attire (HBOE Statement of Policy 5140) (Revised: January 15, 2013)**

It is the policy of the Hartford Board of Education to reasonably regulate the attire of students during the school day and during school-sponsored activities. To that end, all students in primary and secondary schools shall wear a school uniform. Further, in order to maintain an educational environment that is safe and conducive to the educational process, students in all grades shall abstain from wearing or possessing specified items during the school day.

Great Path Academy Attributes, Be Respectful, Be Responsible & Be Safe!"