



# COLLEGE BOUND

## SUMMER PLANS

- **Stay busy** this summer by attending an interesting camp, finding employment, or volunteering. Check out the following website for ideas for volunteering: <http://volunteerhouston.org/>
- **Research colleges** online and in person, and attend locally schedule college fairs. Go to [http://wais.springbranchisd.com/summer%2009/summer\\_college\\_minifairs.htm](http://wais.springbranchisd.com/summer%2009/summer_college_minifairs.htm) for scheduled events.

Check out the *Colleges that Change Lives Fair* scheduled on August 15. Go to <http://ctcl.org/events/houston> for more information.

- Sign up for the **SAT and/or ACT** for the fall. Fall dates are:

### SAT-

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/reg.html> to register.

Test Date	Tests Offered	Regular Registration Deadline
October 10, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	September 9, 2009
November 7, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 1, 2009
December 5, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	October 30, 2009

### ACT-

go to <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/index.html> to register.

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Period
September 12, 2009*	August 7, 2009	August 8 – 21, 2009
October 24, 2009	September 18, 2009	Sept. 19 – October 2, 2009
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009	November 7 – 20, 2009

- Work on drafts of your **college essays**. Go to [http://wais.springbranchisd.com/Faculty/martinb/essay\\_topics.htm](http://wais.springbranchisd.com/Faculty/martinb/essay_topics.htm) for a listing of topics.

### RESPONDING TO ESSAY QUESTIONS:

- **Be honest; be yourself**
  - o What distinguishes YOU as an individual candidate?
  - o What has been YOUR classroom experience?
  - o What are YOUR ideas about the topic?
- **Write in a voice that is natural and clear**
  - o Don't write to "impress."
  - o Write what is specific to you; not what you "think" we want to hear.
- o Express yourself; *could your parents pick out your essay from a pile of 50 others?*
- **Every good story has a beginning, a middle, and an end**
  - o Don't repeat the question in your opening sentence.
  - o Illustrate your points with specific examples and interesting details.
  - o Bring the reader to some conclusion; don't repeat .

**Dr. Brian Breman, Professor of English, UT Austin**

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### Test Preparation

- ◇ Check **number2.com** for free SAT and ACT prep help



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## SUMMER PLANS (CON'T)

- Begin working on your **college applications**.
  - \* The **Common Application**, used by many private colleges and universities throughout the country will be available in July and can be accessed at: <https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>.
  - \* The **ApplyTexas application**, used by all Texas public universities will be available in August and can be accessed at: [https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c\\_start.WBX](https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX)
- Start working on **financial aid**. Go to <http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/> to access the FAFSA Forecaster- a great tool to help with planning for financial aid. Other financial aid related links: [www.nasfaa.org](http://www.nasfaa.org), [www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov](http://www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov).
- Begin **scholarships** searches at:  
[www.scholarships.com/](http://www.scholarships.com/)      [www.wenhouston.org/?nd=scholarship](http://www.wenhouston.org/?nd=scholarship) (for female students)  
[www.fastweb.com/](http://www.fastweb.com/)      [www.latinocollegedollars.org/](http://www.latinocollegedollars.org/)
- Don't forget to do your **summer reading**:  
AP/IB students should read at least 2 of the above books. All others should read at least one.

Frank Herbert	<b>Dune</b>
Jhumpa Lahiri	<b>Namesake</b>
Michael Dorris	<b>A Yellow Raft in Blue Water</b>
Jon Krakauer	<b>Under the Banner of Heaven</b>
Mark Haddon	<b>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</b>
Michael Crichton	<b>Eaters of the Dead</b>
John Grisham	<b>The Firm</b>
Michael Connelly	<b>The Poet</b>
Margaret Atwood	<b>Oryx and Crake</b>
Sandra Cisneros	<b>Caramelo</b>
Barbara Kingsolver	<b>The Poisonwood Bible</b>
Thomas L. Friedman	<b>The World Is Flat</b>
John Grisham	<b>The Innocent Man</b>
John Kennedy O'Toole	<b>A Confederacy of Dunces</b>
J.R. Moehringer	<b>The Tender Bar</b>
Sara Gruen	<b>Water for Elephants</b>
Marjane Satrapi	<b>Persepolis (I)</b>
Jodi Picoult	<b>19 Minutes</b>

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### Useful Links

- ◇ [Www.collegeforalltexans.com](http://www.collegeforalltexans.com)
- ◇ [Www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org). The **National Association for College Admission Counseling** offers online resources for college preparation.
- ◇ [www.campuscompare.com](http://www.campuscompare.com)  
CampusCompare is a free, comprehensive online resource for college-bound students searching for the school that is right for them.
- ◇ [Www.collegegrazing.com](http://www.collegegrazing.com)
- ◇ [www.mycollegeoptions.org](http://www.mycollegeoptions.org)

Have a great summer!

I'm looking forward to working with you all during your senior year! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions. I will return to Westchester for the 2009-10 school year on August 3, 2009.

Ms. Beverly Martin

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