



## COLLEGE CORNER

### Global Competency & College Readiness: Focus on Tools for Success!

#### Inside this issue:

SAT Exam Prep	1
PISA/OECD Recognition	1
6-12 Naviance Tasks	1
C-STEM & SSQ-5	1
Black Heritage Month	2
School, College, Career	2

#### Special points of interest:

- Odyssey of the Mind Judge /GT training at SIS on February 7th.
- FAFSA & Senior Parent Meeting on February 19, 2015.
- Please review the dates of Student and/or family College and Career events listed in this issue of the College Corner.
- STAAR Testing  
Begins March 30th for MS And HS level students.
- AP testing Application forms  
Due date has past. Contact Dean Reuter no later than February 15, 2015 about any Concerns. Your student's AP teacher has the details.

February is the time to strengthen the partnership between school and home to prepare students to be academically successful. Our school joined other schools in our country in using the global benchmarking tool. Fifteen year old students around the world are tested every three years with the PISA (International test) and the OECD (National benchmark/ PISA ). Our school received recognition for the impressive student results. Principal Le-Thai has been requested to present our school's instructional strategies and systems to other schools in Texas.

Congratulations to our 7th

grade **Duke TIP** identified students who took the SAT, College entrance exam on January 24, 2015. Thank you to Ms. Baker for her time preparing her students for the important exam.

Our 11th grade students will be joining other Juniors throughout HISD in taking the **SAT** exam on April 15, 2015.

Juniors should be using the feedback they received from their PSAT , Prep-Me in Naviance, SAT on-line course, Khan Academy, and the Kaplan SAT class set in their College Skill Building class. The SAT exam will help your student prepare for the important equal access to college opportunity. The SAT measures reading, writing, math skills, and the potential to

use critical thinking , problem solving skills , and written communication in college.

9th and 10th grade students should use their PSAT feedback from their performance to prepare for future exams. The 8th, 9th and 10th grade students can also utilize the Prep Me program in their Naviance account.

Each student in grades **6-12** has tasks to complete in their **Naviance** program. The school provides time and the students may also access their important college and career readiness work at home (with internet).

#### Investigating Opportunities

C-STEM stands for creative science, technology, engineering, and math. Our **C-STEM** club sponsors still have openings for students seeking competitive, teamwork, experience; they may write about it when making applications to college and for scholarships.

C-STEM sponsors to contact about joining their team are the

following teachers:

Mr. Vahora– Robotics,  
Mr. G. Mendoza– Film,  
Ms. Scott– Geoforce,  
Ms. Muller-Schmidt– Mural,  
Mr. Renner– Sculpture,  
Ms. Pazmandi/Ms. Johnson– Mobile Tech (inventions).

Compete: 1st May weekend.

You may have heard students talking about how much they are enjoying the SSQ -5 team partnership with Rice University and Public Artist Reginald Adams. This program was also mentioned at our December I-FEST performance. Contact Ms. Reuter or Ms. Muller-Schmidt if you want to join our culminating capstone work of making a Labyrinth. A big celebration event of the work will be held on 2/28/15.

Dean Platt is coordinating the Black History recognition program . Students interested in performing and participating in this program should contact Dean Platt.

### **More School, College and Career Events/Options**

**Seniors :** Follow-up with your College/University applications and Scholarships.

Numerous students have already received college acceptance letters and Scholarships. Be sure you have paid your senior fees.

**Juniors:** Prepare for your SAT Exam. Attend College Fairs and add colleges to your Naviance account regarding “ Colleges I am Thinking About” under the College Tab. Look over your courses in Naviance for credits earned.

**Sophomores & Freshmen:** You are building your transcript /record with which you will be making applications to college. Make excellent grades, conduct , and attendance. Develop college ready and globally competent skills for success.

**8th Grade students:** You are preparing to transition into the important high school years at Sharpstown International School. Prepare to plan now for High School endorsements. We are proud to offer our students an outstanding 6-12 Magnet Program.

**7th/8th Grade Students:** Your Career Key and Personality Surveys in Naviance will help you to determine with your family which Career is right for you. This task will help you in planning your high school endorsements and in looking for a good college match.

**6th Grade Students:** We are pleased you have transitioned well from Elementary to Middle school level work. Continue or strengthen good study habits and Behaviors. Seek out Pre-AP coursework in Middle School to prepare yourself for a strong foundation to be on track for taking AP courses in our school.

The Black College Expo is open to middle school and high school level students. This event is an excellent opportunity for qualifying seniors to receive college acceptance and scholarships on the spot.

The Houston National College Fair is scheduled for February 12 at Reliant. All HISD Juniors may attend for free. We encourage students to attend with their parents (6pm-8pm).

UST College Fair is on February 16, 2015. Juniors need to contact Mr. Khalil about attending.