

Holiday Favorites *around* GJHS

Favorite Holiday Movie

Lori Jacobsen
(Library Secretary)
The Holiday
"It's fun and upbeat, I
watch it several times."

Kaidence Strippel
(Junior)
Edward Scissorhands
"It takes place during
christmas."

Favorite part about the Holidays

Kaidence Strippel
(Junior)
The weather and the
snow

Wesley Weaver
(Senior)
Getting to be with
family

Favorite Holiday drink/snack

Lori Jacobsen
Flavored hot cocoa
"Raspberry cocoa... it's
delicious."

Wesley Weaver
(Senior)
Popcorn and Hot
Cocoa
"Now you're talking."

Favorite Holiday Song

Jesse Ynojos
(Junior)
Let it Snow

Liam Pomrenke
(Junior)
Jingle Bells
"Because its classic
and catchy"

by abby price

SAT: Should Admissions Take it?

by danny duffy

Many colleges and universities have been dropping the requirement for applicants to submit SAT scores in recent years. This is partially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as many people were unable to take the SAT. However, this is not truly making admissions become more fair and objective and should begin to be implemented into applications once again.

The SAT score should remain an important factor in applications because they serve as a reflection of a student's problem solving, knowledge, and potential to grow. Coelho-lopes Nainoa, a GJHS college advisor, says that it can be valuable for certain students who are trying to demonstrate their abilities and earn scholarships. He also believes that in certain situations, considering the SAT can encourage high achieving students to apply for your college because they are presented with an opportunity to make use of their impressive test scores.

The SAT is a good measure of problem solving and testing skills, which are crucial for successful students. A test that is taken in a single sitting is more representative of what a student knows, along with their ability to reason through scenarios in a limited amount of time. This is why final evaluations, such as AP exams, are also conducted in a test format rather than simply taking the grade from the overall class.

A standardized test is also consistent across the entire country. Each student is taking the same test which allows for direct comparison between scores to be completely objective.

Due to this objectivity, if two students have similar qualities and measurables in various areas that are considered by colleges, the SAT should be used to help determine who to admit.

Without SAT scores, many colleges often rely on Grade Point Average to make admissions decisions. This could end up eliminating students who have an extremely bright future because GPA is an average which is easily dragged down.

If a student has just one bad year and only manages to earn a 2.0 GPA, it becomes nearly impossible to recover even if the student does extremely well in later years. This punishes students who simply need time to grow and develop as learners.

GPA is also flawed because the level of difficulty to earn a 4.0 can greatly vary depending on the school or on the difficulty of the courses taken. Nainoa explained that a student who chooses to take only basic required classes will have a much easier time earning a 4.0 than a student who takes AP or honors courses, but the AP or honors student will likely be more knowledgeable despite potentially having a lower GPA.

Colleges that completely discard the SAT are missing out on admitting students who could be great candidates for their school. Instead they should take a balanced approach, considering many factors that could impact academics. Testing and problem solving potential are crucial factors that should continue to be part of the college admittance process.