

Junior College Counseling – Response to COVID-19

The College Counseling Office hopes that everyone had a safe Spring Break and was able to spend some valuable family time together. Historically, this time of the year can be a stressful one for families as juniors start to compile their initial college lists and ideally would have been visiting colleges. Obviously, this year has added an extra layer of angst. We are in unprecedented waters here and stand ready to advise your sons throughout the remaining months of the college search process. The College Counselors will be available via email to answer any questions juniors may have throughout the process. We will also be setting up meeting times with any juniors who we have not met yet via Blackboard Collaborate. Please encourage your son to check his email daily and to confirm these meeting requests as he receives them in Outlook.

Many colleges have cancelled on campus student events for the foreseeable future. As a service to students and families, NACAC is providing this [online tool](#) as a central resource for information about changes in college admission events and more as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. When in doubt, please contact the college or university in question directly for the most up to date information.

Per the College Board, traditional face-to-face **AP Exam** administrations will not take place in May. Students will take a 45-minute [online free-response exam](#) at home. The full exam schedule, as well as specific free-response sample questions that will be on each AP Exam and additional testing details will be available by April 3, 2020. Some students may want to take the exam sooner rather than later, while the content is still fresh. Other students may want more time to practice. For each AP subject, there will be two different testing dates. Relevant free-response questions will be available in the AP Classroom for digital use so students can access all practice questions of the type that will appear on the exam.

We encourage you to follow us on our social media platforms - Instagram [lschscollege](#), Twitter [@LSCHScollege](#), and Facebook [LSCHS - College Counseling](#) for relevant updates on how COVID-19 is impacting the college admission process.

A wealth of information is available on the Internet about the College Search process. A good starting site is our comprehensive website www.lschs.org/college. The syllabus for the College Counseling Group Advisory *Pass/Fail* class can be found in Blackboard. We will continue to post relevant content from the Group Advisory Class in Blackboard throughout this semester. There are weekly reading assignments in the **College Match** textbook. There have been three written assignments so far (not including reading the first five chapters of the book). The Junior Survey Part 2 is due Monday, March 23, 2020 in SCOIR (postponed from March 13, 2002). Your son's level of engagement will affect the outcome of the college search and admission process.

College Visits: If a college has cancelled on campus events for the spring semester, we highly encourage juniors to take advantage of virtual campus tours which most colleges offer on their

admission website. We also suggest visiting www.campustours.com and www.youvisit.com/collegesearch.

Course Registration and Grades: *For detailed information, please refer to the email you received from Mr. O'Toole on Sunday, March 22, 2020.* Course registration for senior year began in March and juniors are expected to select their courses by Friday, March 27, 2020 (extended from Friday, March 13, 2020). Juniors received an overview of the course selection process in Group Advisory class before Spring Break. Since many admission decisions will be based on the junior year GPA in college preparatory courses, we suggest that students take their academic responsibilities most seriously as we head towards the end of the second semester. While participation in activities is a factor used to tip the scales in the admission process, primary focus is on the student's cumulative GPA and SAT or ACT scores.

STANDARDIZED TESTING: COVID-19 has directly impacted the administration of the [SAT](#) and [ACT](#). The April 4, 2020 ACT has been rescheduled for June 13, 2020. Registered students will receive an email from ACT about rescheduling. The May 2, 2020 SAT test date has been cancelled and refunds are available from the College Board. The June 6, 2020 SAT test date is still on for now. The ACT is also offered in July, September, October, and December. The SAT is also offered in August, October, November, and December. Some colleges may make standardized testing optional for next year only. This will happen on a case by case basis. Please keep in mind that there are over 1,000 colleges and universities that are officially [test optional](#).

Juniors are encouraged to take a practice test to find out which standardized test they may possibly perform better in. Most test prep companies, including Kaplan, offer these evaluations for free. Now that students have taken the PSAT, many of them will want to decide which test they should take next, the SAT or ACT. Khan Academy has partnered with the College Board to offer [free test preparation](#).

When registering for the SAT or ACT, your son is reminded to use his legal name, *the name that is on his transcript*, to avoid confusion in the college application process. Also, we recommend that students use suitable email addresses (preferably their La Salle school email) when corresponding with colleges keeping in mind the impressions they are creating. Our school code – **393370** – should be entered on the registration so the college counselors receive the test scores.

NCAA. Students who are planning to participate in Division I or II athletics in college must complete the online [NCAA Eligibility](#) and request that a transcript be sent. Email Mrs. Palopoli palopolik@lschs.org with any questions. Transcripts will be sent to the NCAA upon request and again after graduation. The [Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete](#) and the [Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet](#) are useful tools in navigating the process. The minimum GPA to participate in Division I collegiate athletics as a freshman is 2.30.