

COLLEGE INKLINGS

THE ACADEMY OF THE HOLY NAMES
COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XV, Summer 2020 Special Edition



This special edition of our newsletter is designed to provide you with important information and updates in the world of college admissions amidst the Coronavirus. These are unprecedented times affecting just about every facet of the college admissions process. While the information is constantly changing, we want to give you access to resources and websites where you can keep up with critical updates on testing, the college application process, and our plans to support you going forward.

-AHN College Counseling



ACT AND SAT UPDATE

ACT

The June 13th ACT has been cancelled in most locations. The list of cancellations is constantly updating. To see if your test site is on the list, please go to: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid-19.html>.

Please check this website frequently for updates.

The next ACT is scheduled for July 18th.

SAT

The College Board just opened up SAT registration until June 3rd for students who meet the following criteria:

-You previously registered for the JUNE 2020 SAT which was cancelled.

-You haven't ever taken the SAT.

If you don't meet these criteria, you will be able to register for the August, September, and October SAT beginning on June 3rd. Be sure to register early because the test sites will fill up quickly!

To register, please go to:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>



College Application Timeline and Responsibilities:

-Submit updated **Activity Resume** to college counselor in August.

-Submit **College Essay** to college counselor.

-Request **Letters of Recommendation** from teachers, coaches, employers, etc...

-Begin filling out your **college applications**.

The **Common Application** is OPEN now!

-Do virtual tours of the campuses you haven't yet visited.

-In August, we will hold a mandatory application bootcamp. (Date TBA)

-In late August or early September we will hold our annual College Night for Seniors and Parents. (Date TBA)

-Apply to all **public state of Florida** universities by **Thursday, October 1st**. (You can continue taking the SAT and ACT after you submit your application.)

-Apply to all other colleges by Tuesday, December 1st at the latest, but we highly recommend a priority deadline of **November 1st**.

-File for **Financial Aid** using the FAFSA and the CSS/Profile as soon as possible **after October 1st** using your **2019 income tax information**.



Florida Bright Futures Program

Seniors: ALL seniors are required to register for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship on **Friday, October 2nd** before school and during the advisory period. The location will be announced at a later date.

Seniors are required to register online with the Florida Department of Education in order to give the Academy of the Holy Names the right to release their academic information to the Department of Education.

Every senior is required to submit this form, whether or not she plans on attending college in Florida. (The Florida Bright Futures funds are made available to any student who initially qualified for the program at high school graduation, should she decide to transfer to a

school in Florida during her undergraduate years in college.) Each senior has until graduation to qualify for the scholarship.

*****Please note –You will need to bring your laptop and your correct Social Security Number in order to register for the program.** For more information on the Florida Bright Futures Program go to:

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/> or call the Florida Bright Futures hotline at 1-888-827-2004.

*****To date, the FBF program will still require SAT and/or ACT scores to qualify for the scholarship.**



MAIA LEARNING COLLEGE PLATFORM

As you know, we have transitioned to using Maia Learning for all things college-related.

Maia Learning is an online tool that allows students to do college and scholarship searches, career assessments, resume building, and college application tracking.

The most popular feature of Maia Learning is the scattergrams showing students how they compare (using GPA and test scores) with students who have been admitted and denied at specific schools. This tool allows students to hone college lists that are the best match for them.

We expect our students to be proficient with using Maia Learning in order to experience a smooth college application process. We use Maia Learning to send out all transcripts and letters of recommendation to colleges and universities.

Seniors, if you haven't done so already, please add your list of schools to which you are currently interested.

It's perfectly acceptable to constantly change and update this list, but we need to be able to see which schools you are considering in order to keep you up to date on when those schools are visiting AHN and to notify you of any important news, programs, or scholarships for those schools.

If you have any issues signing into your account, please contact your college counselor.



BE FLEXIBLE!

In order to maintain our peace of mind, we all need to be willing to go with the flow as we navigate the changes in the college admissions process.

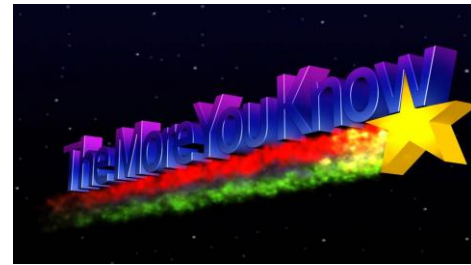
Colleges and universities are unsure as to what changes they will implement as we learn more about Covid and it's implications on our everyday life.

College admissions offices assure us that they will be flexible and understanding.

MANY colleges and universities are implementing a test optional policy for this upcoming year.

The public state universities in Florida are currently requiring SAT or ACT scores as part of the process. Students can test through December for FSU and UF and through February for the rest of the public universities in Florida. This gives students ample opportunities to test.

It's advisable to contact the individual college or university to determine their testing policy for the 2021 college application cycle.



Excellent Resources to Keep You Abreast of Happenings in College Admissions:

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) hosts a series of podcasts on topics that are timely and relevant to college admissions.

To access the NACAC podcasts, please go to:

<https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/podcast-college-admissions-decoded/>

The Character Collaborative and The Derryfield School in New Hampshire have partnered to bring you a series of weekly discussions with college admissions leaders:

- Get your questions answered about everything from course selection and testing to essays and extracurricular involvement
- Learn how to best approach the college search and application experience
- Find out why character matters in college admission
- Hear about the many truths and myths of the admission experience

Each Thursday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Eastern, we will welcome a new panel of admission leaders from a diverse range of public and private colleges and universities for straight-talk about the experience of searching for and applying to college. Join us!

<https://discover.derryfield.org/thursday-night-live/>