

**September  
2020**

**Important Dates**

**College Bound Fall  
Fair for Seniors**

September 11  
8:00 a.m.—Noon  
Performing Arts Center

**ACT at SDS for  
Registered Juniors and  
Seniors**

September 12  
7:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.  
Dining Hall

**SAT at SDS for  
Registered Juniors and  
Seniors**

September 23  
7:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.  
Middle School Gym

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St. David's School

# Collegebeat...

An Update from the College Counseling Office

## Welcome Back! We've Missed You! New Protocols for College Counseling

Welcome back students and families! We have enjoyed seeing your faces (and creative masks) over the last two weeks and are thrilled to be working with you on campus this year. We are determined that this is going to be a great year! While our College Counseling department is on campus, there are a few protocols of which we want to make you aware.

1. Due to COVID-19 and the school policy limiting visitors on campus, we welcome parents to join conversations with students remotely through Microsoft® Teams, or by telephone.
2. All parent programming (Cup of College, parent nights) will be virtual until further notice. Please check your inboxes for Teams links prior to events.
3. In order to keep students and staff safe, we will accommodate only one student at a time in Ms. Markoff's and Mrs. Martin's office. Please stop outside of the College Counseling suite to read instructions for how to proceed within the office suite. The signage will indicate whether another student is already conferencing. If so, you will either need to wait, come back at another time, or email for an appointment. If you need to meet with Mrs. Keegan, please email her for an appointment as she will need to meet with students via Teams or in another location on campus suitable for social distancing.
4. We are planning to host virtual college visits on campus this year. Please pay attention to the gold signs located on the Welcome Center doorways and the Welcome Center Conference Room window. Virtual visits will either take place in the PAC or in the WCCR. If you are learning remotely, please look at the calendar on SCOIR for scheduled visits. There will be a Teams link for each visit. Please click on the link and join the meeting, making sure to follow the protocols for virtual meetings on page 3. A current listing of scheduled visits is on page 2 of this newsletter.
5. We want our students to be comfortable when meeting with us this year. If students would rather meet via Microsoft Teams rather than in person, please notify us by email.

Once again, welcome back. Here's to another wonderful year at St. David's School!

## Fall 2020 College Visit Schedule

VCU, Richmond, VA	Tuesday, September 8	12:05	Welcome Center Conf. Room
Meredith College, Raleigh, NC	Tuesday, September 8	12:40	Welcome Center Conf. Room
WashU, St. Louis, MO	Wednesday, September 9	12:05	Welcome Center Conf. Room
Queens University, Charlotte, NC	Wednesday, September 9	12:40	Welcome Center Conf. Room
UNC Wilmington, Wilmington, NC	Thursday, September 10	12:05	Performing Arts Center
Elon College, Elon, NC	Monday, September 14	12:05	Performing Arts Center
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA	Monday, September 14	12:40	Performing Arts Center
University of Richmond, Richmond, VA	Tuesday, September 15	12:05	Performing Arts Center
Auburn University, Auburn, AL	Tuesday, September 15	12:40	Performing Arts Center
UChicago, Chicago, IL	Wednesday, September 16	12:05	Welcome Center Conf. Room
UNC Asheville, Asheville, NC	Wednesday, September 16	12:40	Welcome Center Conf. Room
Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC	Thursday, September 17	12:05	Performing Arts Center
UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC	Friday, September 18	12:05	Performing Arts Center
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL	Friday, September 18	12:40	Performing Arts Center
SMU, Dallas, TX	Monday, September 21	12:05	Performing Arts Center
Franklin and Marshall, Lancaster, PA	Monday, September 21	12:40	Performing Arts Center
Mercer University, Macon, GA	Tuesday, September 22	12:05	Welcome Center Conf. Room
South Carolina, Columbia, SC	Thursday, September 24	12:05	Performing Arts Center
Roanoke College, Roanoke, VA	Friday, September 25	12:05	Welcome Center Conf. Room
Catholic University, Washington DC	Friday, September 25	12:40	Welcome Center Conf. Room
High Point University, High Point, NC	Monday, October 5	12:05	Performing Arts Center
Wake Forest, Winston-Salem, NC	Monday, October 5	12:40	Performing Arts Center
SCAD, Savannah, GA	Tuesday, October 6	12:05	Welcome Center Conf. Room
Randolph-Macon, Ashland, VA	Wednesday, October 7	12:05	Performing Arts Center
East Carolina, Greenville, NC	Wednesday, October 7	12:40	Performing Arts Center
Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN	Friday, October 9	12:05	Performing Arts Center
Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA	Monday, October 12	12:40	Welcome Center Conf. Room
Clemson University, Clemson, SC	Tuesday, October 13	12:05	Performing Arts Center
UNC Greensboro, Greensboro, NC	Tuesday, October 20	12:05	Welcome Center Conf. Room
Merrimack College, North Andover, MA	Friday, October 30	12:05	Welcome Center Conf. Room

\*More schools are added daily. Please check the College Counseling resource page on Veracross for up to date listings.

## Virtual College Visit Do's and Don'ts

Due to COVID-19, most admissions offices are not allowing their representatives to travel this year. Many offices are conducting several virtual tours of their campuses and are also hosting virtual application help sessions, information sessions, and much more. We encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities.

We are thankful to announce that we will conduct college visits on our St. David's campus virtually. Students will either gather (socially distanced) in either the Welcome Center Conference Room or Performing Arts Center during lunch or flex and the admissions representative from the respective "visiting" institution will join us virtually. Students are welcome to bring lunch to these visits and should conduct themselves as if the representative were in the room. If a student is joining remotely, he or she may access the visit via Teams by looking at the calendar on SCOIR and clicking on the link for the respective visit. Below are a few do's and don'ts for virtual visits:

- **Do** join us in the designated space on campus if you are not learning remotely.
- **Don't** join via Teams from another spot on campus not listed as the gathering spot.
- **Do** remain engaged in conversation even though the representative is on a screen; make sure to ask appropriate questions.
- **Don't** chat with your friends during the presentation simply because the representative is not in the room.
- **Do** mute your volume and keep your camera on if you join the call via Teams due to remote learning.
- **Don't** multi-task during the visit unless you are taking notes about what the representative says. *Continued on page 3*

## Virtual College Visits Do's and Don'ts Continued

- **Do** wear dress code attire if learning remotely and joining from home.
- **Don't** chew gum, swivel in your chair, or make any other distracting movements if joining the visit from home.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about these visits. We hope to see you there!

### Why college essays are more important during COVID-19 The College Solution Blog By Lynn O'Shaughnessy July 2020

College essays should be more important during the 2021-2022 college admission season than in any other admission cycle in modern times.

Why would the college essay be so critical for this admission cycle?

Simple.

It's because most colleges – including the vast majority of the most elite and prestigious institutions – have gone [test-optional due to the pandemic](#).

Without standardized test scores, colleges will need to rely more heavily on the remaining admission factors. And the college essay is one of the bigger ones.

Because of the essay's elevated importance, I will be sharing two or three blog posts this summer about college essays. (Being a journalist my entire adult life, this is a topic that I am passionate about!)

So here goes on with what to do and not do when writing a college essay for the 2021-2022 admission season:

#### Big College Essay Mistakes

I've read plenty of college essays over the years and the vast majority of them have been b-o-r-i-n-g.

The mediocre essays that I've seen have usually been guilty of one or more of these no-no's:

1. They lacked details.
2. They didn't convey the student's voice. They covered too much territory. (Writing about something that lasted seconds, minutes or a day in a teen's life is much better than trying to jam a student's entire life into a 500-word essay!)
4. They read like the dull expository essays that high school English teachers force students to write. Formal English papers are deadly and relying on English teachers, who may be poor writers themselves, for instructions on how to write a winning college essay is often asking for trouble.

#### Winning College Essay Tip

Here is a key way to write a winning college essay:

##### **Don't bore the admission readers with a dull opening line!**

During admission season, admission reps often have to read dozens of essays a day. It's inevitable that the essays will blur together, which is an excellent reason why applicants need to make theirs stand apart.

Applicants will win brownie points if they start their essays with an opening sentence that grabs the reader's attention.

Need examples? If so, you should read an [old article](#) in the *Stanford Magazine* that includes opening college essay lines that the university's admission reps particularly liked.

#### Opening Lines from Stanford University Admission Essays

Here are some of the Stanford admission officers' favorite opening lines from a previous graduating class:

- I have old hands.
- The spaghetti burbled and slushed around the pan, and as I stirred it, the noises it gave off began to sound increasingly like bodily functions.
- I've been surfing Lake Michigan since I was 3 years old.
- On a hot Hollywood evening, I sat on a bike, sweltering in a winter coat and furry boots.
- As an Indian-American, I am forever bound to the hyphen.

*Continued on page 4*

## Why college essays are more important during COVID (Continued from page 3)

- Unlike many mathematicians, I live in an irrational world; I feel that my life is defined by a certain amount of irrationalities that bloom too frequently, such as my brief foray in front of 400 people without my pants.
- I change my name each time I place an order at Starbucks.
- When I was in eighth grade I couldn't read.
- Sitting cross-legged on the floor of a Bhimanagar slum dwelling in Bangalore, I ran my fingers across a fresh cut on my forehead.
- Some fathers might disapprove of their children handling noxious chemicals in the garage.

## Congratulations, AP Scholars!

The following St. David's School students were named AP Scholars by the College Board:

**AP Scholar with Distinction** - *Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.*

Hunter Camp '20  
Thomas Clark '21  
Jessica Du '20  
Claire Feeney '20  
Evelyn Hawkes '21  
Andrew Hoffman '20

Bill Huang '20  
John Stewart Leech '21  
Susanna Martin '20  
Parker McConnell '20  
Josh Messmore '21  
Ella Moses '21

John Nicholson '20  
Alyssa Parnelli '20  
Andy Plyler '20  
Kennedy Rouser '21

**AP Scholar with Honor** - *Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.*

Ben Exum '21  
Luke McClutchey '20

Sam Nechyba '21  
Buzzy Russell '20

Josh Teague '21  
David Wiley '20

**AP Scholar** - *Granted to students who receive an average score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.*

Andrew Alcock '20  
Ella Alford '20  
Rose Mary Anders '21  
Owen Barr '20  
Noelle DeFelice '20  
Connor Dunn '20

Russel Herrington '20  
Haydn Hubbard '21  
Kirkman Jordan '21  
Olivia Leshnock '20  
Hoyt Lewis '20  
JuJu Medlin '20

Connor Outlaw '20  
Miles Rieker '21  
Caroline Ross '21  
Cole Whitford '20

## Congratulations National Merit Semi-Finalist

Josh Messmore '21



**ST. DAVID'S SCHOOL**  
FAITH • VIRTUE • KNOWLEDGE

3400 White Oak Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Phone: 919-782-3331 Fax: 919-787-9417  
www.stdavidraleigh.org

**Danna Markoff**  
Director of College Counseling

dmarkoff@sdsd.org

**Jamie Martin**  
Assistant Director of College Counseling

jmartin@sdsd.org

**Helen Keegan**  
Academic Counselor

hkeegan@sdsd.org

**Emily Roten**  
Testing Coordinator

eroten@sdsd.org