



**HOLY FAMILY
HIGH SCHOOL**

Monthly Newsletter

College Counselor

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by College Counseling Department

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Seniors

Among the many tasks facing seniors as they start their final year of high school is their college selection. The decision of where to attend college will have far reaching consequences for years to come. Careful thought and planning is essential throughout the process.

Seniors should complete the following by mid-September:

- Meet with us to discuss choices and map out the next steps.
- Create an activities resume.
- Work on personal statements.
- Decide to which colleges you plan to apply.
- Sign-in to Naviance and review to do list and other resources.
- Register for SAT and/or ACT. (See schedule.) Some students may also need to take the SAT II's.
- **Make plans to visit colleges. Take advantage of No School/Vacation Days; these are great days for college visits!**
- **Colorado free application day is October 19th. -- 21st.**

We strongly encourage students to complete at least one application by October 1st, may-be to an in-state college, and all of their admission applications by December 1st.

Juniors

For juniors this is a critical year for several reasons.

1. Since college applications go out in the fall of senior year, the junior grades are often the last ones that a college sees before making an admission decision.
2. Testing: The PSAT is used to determine eligibility for National Merit scholarships, and the SAT & ACT (to be taken late in 2nd semester) will be important for admission.
3. The initial college research and preliminary decision making takes place in the junior year.
 - Read college guides and brochures, use Naviance, visit campuses, talk with representatives, and meet with their college counselor.
 - Attend the very important college information night for juniors and their parents held in January. Watch this newsletter for more details.

Using the Web

The Internet is an extremely valuable tool for researching college and financial aid information!

- The HF Counseling page provides a list of websites that are especially worthwhile.
- Electronic college search, visiting college websites, taking virtual tours, finding scholarships, calculating need-based financial aid eligibility, and applying electronically are a big part of the college admissions process.
- Each college's website will have a Net Price Calculator. It will give you an estimate of scholarship and need-based financial aid.

Fall Test Dates

<u>SAT</u>		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Oct. 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 21
Nov. 6	Oct. 8	Oct. 26
Dec. 4	Nov. 4	Nov. 23

<u>ACT</u>		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Oct. 23	Sept. 17	Oct. 1
Dec. 11	Nov. 5	Nov. 19

Registration materials for the SAT and ACT are available in the College/Career Center. Students may also register on-line at www.collegeboard.org and www.actstudent.org.

PSAT and PreACT

On Wednesday, October 13th
10th & 11th will take the PSAT and
9th graders will take the PreACT
On Tuesday, October 19th
10th graders will take the PreACT.

SAT and ACT

SAT and/or ACT scores have a huge impact on admission and scholarships. The best test result is typically used, so most students are encouraged to take both tests more than once. Practicing for these tests is very important! It is an investment that can pay off in admission or a scholarship. The time to investigate options is now. If you have any questions about test preparation, do not hesitate to contact your college counselor. There is no reason to spend a lot of money on this! **Taking practice tests are the best preparation!**

Upcoming College Fairs

NACAC - Signature Fair, Oct.. 3rd. - Virtual; NACAC - Signature Fair, Oct. 24th - Virtual; NACAC - Arts & STEM Fair, Nov. 2nd - Virtual; John Hopkins Biomedical Engineering, Nov. 9th - Virtual (Registration Links can be found on the College Counseling Web page, Naviance, Bulletin Boards, and TV Monitors)

College Counselor (Cont.)

Conversations with the College Counselor

We are offering informal, virtual question and answer sessions for any and all interested parents. Zoom Links to Meetings and recordings on the weekly Tuesday Announcements

- 6 p.m. on November 4th
- 6 p.m. on March 3rd
- 6 p.m. on April 7th

We are available to meet with parents of seniors individually. To schedule an appointment, please call the school or email will.wilson@holyfamilyhs.com, jacqueline.phillips@holyfamilyhs.com, or [Kelly.fabian@holyfamilyhs.com](mailto:kelly.fabian@holyfamilyhs.com).

College Fairs

Over 250 colleges and universities will be represented at each of these college fairs held virtually.

(See list of upcoming fairs on page 1 of this Newsletter)

These fairs are specifically aimed at juniors and seniors, but will also prove valuable for underclassmen. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain admission materials and ask questions. The people representing each college are typically the ones who will read applications from this area. Students and parents from ALL high schools are welcome to attend these programs.

College Rep Visits

Beginning in September and continuing through most of the fall, college representatives will visit HFHS during the school day. Seniors and Juniors are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with these admission counselors. Students can learn a great deal and make valuable contacts at these meetings.

A listing of dates/times of these visits are available on the College Counseling bulletin boards, tv monitors, web page, Naviance, and listed on the Tuesday Announcements

- Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores are required to complete a College Representative Visit Request Form in order to be released from class for these meetings. This form requires a signature (permission) from any teacher whose class time may be missed.

Campus Visits

One of the most important ways to learn about a college is to visit, ideally when students are present on a regular class day.

- To arrange a campus visit, call the admission office at the college or visit their website.
- Holy Family juniors and seniors are allowed two days of excused absences in order to visit college campuses. Completion of an Advanced Absence Form is required.

Often it is possible for seniors to stay in a residence hall as a guest. If an overnight stay is planned, be sure to give at least a two week notice. **Even if you have a friend or family member on campus, it is best to coordinate the visit through the admission office.**

- A senior's visit should include an interview, a formal tour, and perhaps an opportunity to attend a class, talk to a professor or coach, eat a meal in the cafeteria.
- Also, plan some time to browse around on your own. Make a point of talking with current students. They can tell you the "real" story.

Financial Aid

For some students, financial aid is a major factor in their college choice. **The fact is that at most colleges the majority of students do not pay the full cost.** Over 90% of all financial aid is distributed directly from the colleges, both need-based and merit-based.

Need-based Aid

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Should be completed online beginning October 1st. This determines eligibility for federal loans and grants and also serves as a basis for college sponsored, need-based grants. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- An on-line 'EFC Estimator' can be found at www.finaid.org.
- About 400 private schools require the PROFILE with the College Scholarship Service. pro-fileonline.collegeboard.com
- Many schools have their own institutional form.

Merit-based Aid

Occasionally awarded by a college after reviewing a student's application for admission.

- A separate application is generally not required.
- Check college websites for information about merit based scholarships offered at their school.
- Highly selective colleges are less likely to offer scholarships.

Outside Aid

- Provided by a third party. It represents a small but important part of what is available. Companies, civic organizations, unions, and foundations often sponsor such scholarships.
- A list of scholarships about which we receive information about directly can be found in the counseling center Bulletin board, Naviance, and on the College Counseling page of the school website.
- www.scholarsnapp.org contains an extensive database with a search feature. Eligibility, deadlines, addresses, and other details are provided for millions of private scholarships.

Do NOT pay to do a scholarship search. There are many private companies that attempt to sell such a service. In twenty years of college advising, We have never heard of anyone receiving a scholarship through a paid private search service that could not easily be found for free. We do not recommend them.