



**HOLY FAMILY
HIGH SCHOOL**

Monthly Newsletter

College Counselor

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by College Counseling Department

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PSAT/PreACT

All juniors and sophomores will take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) on October 13th. This test provides both a preview and a practice opportunity for the SAT. All freshmen will take the PreACT which provides a preview and practice opportunity for the ACT. For Juniors, the results of the PSAT are also used to determine qualifiers for the National Merit Scholarship Competition, the largest source of scholarship money in the country.

Counselors have met with Junior, Sophomore, and Freshmen to explain the tests and to distribute printed information that includes strategy and practice questions. Parents should ask to see this information and review it. In order to achieve their best, students should be familiar with the test instructions and format and should practice the sample questions in advance. It is especially important that they go through the entire PSAT sample test. Holy Family High School pays for all of these tests. Plus [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.com) is a partner with College Board and offers free online prep for these exams.

See www.actstudent.org and www.collegeboard.org for more information.

Register for the SAT/ACT

If seniors have not registered by now for the upcoming ACT and SAT tests then they may end up paying a late fee or a standby fee along with the regular registration fee.

All senior testing must be completed by October for early admission and December in order to be included in admission decision making. It is important to plan ahead.

College Fairs

For seniors, the college fairs are a great opportunity to get answers to specific questions or help complete their college search. Juniors will find this experience valuable as a way to expand their awareness of college options and begin to exercise control in the college decision process. Freshmen and sophomores are welcome and encouraged to attend as well.

College Rep Visits

Several colleges and universities are scheduled to have an admission representative visit HFHS this fall. These visits are an excellent way for students to learn about specific colleges and make contact with someone from the admission office. Sophomores, Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to be released from class to meet with these reps. To be released they need to pick up a release form from the counseling office prior to the rep visit and have their teacher sign it.

For more information about upcoming college fairs and college rep visits please see the bulletin boards in the lobby, or in the counseling Center of Holy Family, and in [Naviance Student](https://www.naviance.com).



Fall Test Dates

PSAT and PreACT Wednesday, October 13th

Sophomores - PSAT

Juniors - PSAT

Freshmen - PreACT

Tuesday, October 19th

Sophomores - PreACT

SAT

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Nov. 6	Oct. 8	Oct. 26
Dec. 4	Nov. 4	Nov. 23

ACT

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Oct. 23	Sept. 17	Oct. 1
Dec. 11	Nov. 2	Nov. 19

Register on-line:

www.collegeboard.org (SAT)

www.actstudent.org.

COLLEGE FAIRS

- Sept. 14 - Oct. 15, Fall for Tufts
- Oct. 6, National CCAA & Jet6X6 virtual Fair—Catholic Colleges
- Oct. 7, Understanding Financial Aid & FAFSA Workshops
- October 12, Rockhurst University, virtual, info session
- Oct. 18 - 19, Genesis Invitational, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY, New London, CT 06320
- Oct. 19, National CCAA & Jet—College panel & Admission topics
- Oct. 21, National CCAA & Jet—College panel & Admission topics
- Oct. 24, NACAC—Signature Fair—253 College
- Oct. 25 - 26, Genesis Invitational, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY, New London, CT 06320

Counselor Meetings

We have met with most seniors to talk about their college plans and the schedule they need to follow this fall. Please talk with your son or daughter about whether or not things are on track. The biggest task at hand is deciding on the colleges to which he/she intends to apply.

We will continue meeting with seniors individually to discuss their plans and what the next steps involve. In some cases, parents have been a part of these meetings as well. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call or email jacqueline.phillips@holyfamilys.com, kelly.fabian@holyfamilys.com, or will.wilson@holyfamilys.com.

It's Application Time

October begins the period during which seniors should complete their college applications. www.commonapp.org offers one application good at hundreds of colleges. Some colleges require students apply online through their websites.

Students need to use Naviance Student to request tasks. Students can log in to their account at student.naviance.com/holyfamhs. For more information about Naviance Student visit the College Counseling web page.

The admission application often provides the first impression of an applicant. Applications should be typed if not completed online. Whatever the method, they should be complete, be neat, and above all, be on time.

Visiting Colleges

Fall is an ideal time to make college visits. School is in session, the weather usually cooperates, and most importantly, colleges are geared up for visits from prospective students. We suggest that students and their parents plan to spend a half day on campus, observing, touring, and talking with students and admission representatives. It is best to call ahead and make arrangements. This way your visit will be more personalized, including classroom visits, meetings with professors or coaches, and meals in the cafeteria. All are typically

available if you ask.

Juniors and seniors may be excused from school to visit colleges. If your son or daughter will be absent for this purpose, he/she will need to complete an Application for Advanced Absence which is available in the main office. Parents will need to sign this form and return it at least one week before the scheduled absence.

October 19 - 21 is Colorado Free Application Days Students are expected to work on applications or visit colleges if they can this month, specifically October 13th when Seniors have the day off.

A Time of Stress

College bound seniors are facing some pressure and likely feeling related anxiety. On top of getting good grades, providing senior leadership to their school, and trying to make the most of their senior year, we are also asking them to make decisions that will impact the rest of their lives. The mountain of paperwork and impending deadlines make matters worse. This is all very exciting but very stressful. As parents, you share these emotions, both good and bad. Do your best to balance your support with gentle insistence. Try to keep your son or daughter on task without adding to the stress. Good luck!

Scholarship Information

A list of scholarships is updated regularly and posted in the Counseling Center, on the school website, <https://www.holyfamilyhs.com/academics/college-counseling/college-scholarships>, and in Naviance Student. Students should consult the list periodically to check for additions. There are worthwhile guidebooks available in the Counseling Center as well.

www.scholarsnapp.org, www.fastweb.com, and www.scholarships.com are the best scholarship search sites available. They feature millions of opportunities. <https://www.mycoloradojourney.com/journey>, www.collegeinvest.org and

www.denverscholarship.org are great for in-state scholarships.

NCAA Clearinghouse

Any senior considering participating in Division I or II sports in college must be registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse. Registration should be completed online at www.eligibilitycenter.org

College Opportunity Fund

<https://higherred.colorado.gov/Finance/COF/> The College Opportunity Fund is your in-state tuition discount. All high school students should register for the program. This website has tons of free resources including test preparation and a career interest inventory.

HFHS Website

There is much college and Naviance Student related content to be found on the school website's [Counseling pages](#). Check the sidebar for more useful links.

Net Price Calculator

Colleges are required to have a NPC on their website. The calculator will provide students and families estimates of merit-based scholarships and need-based financial aid the college is likely to offer.

