



HOLY FAMILY  
HIGH SCHOOL

Monthly Newsletter

# College Counselor

February 2022

by College Counseling Department

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## Seniors: Complete FAFSA & Scholarships! Juniors: Practice for SAT & ACT, Schedule appointment with your college counselor, VISIT Colleges!

### Wait Time for Seniors

For many seniors this is a time when they are waiting to hear from the admission and financial aid offices of the colleges to which they applied. By this time, a senior should have:

- Completed and submitted all applications for admission.
- Asked us to send Mid-Year Transcripts to requesting colleges.
- Sent official SAT/ACT scores if required.
- Sent the FAFSA and, if necessary, the *Profile*.
- Sent additional financial aid information if required.
- Responded promptly to requests for additional information.
- Informed recommendation writing teachers of decisions as received.
- Inform College Counselor!

For most seniors, April will be the big decision month. By that time, all notices of admission and financial aid should be in hand. Perhaps a second (or first) campus visit should be planned to help with the decision. The visit is typically the best way to determine the best place for you. Many colleges have visit programs for accepted students. Whatever the decision, **you must send a deposit to the college of choice by May 1.** This ensures a place in the freshman class. 1.

### FAFSA and *Profile* Done?

In order to ensure the best chance of receiving need-based financial aid, senior parents should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

([FAFSA](#)) and, if required, *Profile*, by February 15. Do not delay in sending the FAFSA.

### Net Price Calculator

All colleges should have a Net Price Calculator on their website. The calculator will allow you to enter your grades and test scores then will provide an estimate of merit-based scholarships you might receive. And, it will allow you to enter income and family information then provide you with an estimate of need-based financial aid.

### College Opportunity Fund

To receive your discount as an in-state resident attending a public college, you must register for the College Opportunity Fund. You may do so through <https://cof.college-assist.org/Apply>. Students of any grade may do this now.

### AP Testing

All of the juniors and seniors currently taking Advanced Placement courses are scheduled to take Advanced Placement tests in those subjects in May. Teachers of the AP classes will be discussing the test format and sample questions in class. Many colleges grant credit or advanced standing when students score well. The fee is \$98 per exam, and \$148 per Seminar and Research Exam.. Financial assistance is available to those with demonstrated need.

### Junior College Planning

With the start of the new semester, the college selection process for juniors gets into full swing. Hopefully, you have

scheduled a parent meeting with your college counselor. If not, please reach out soon to do so.

The most important thing for juniors and their parents to do at this point is to take control of the process! Use the Internet, read brochures and guides, plan college visits, and call or email for information. Making preliminary decisions about the criteria that will guide your college selection is essential.

Now that the results of the PSAT are back, it is time to start planning for the SAT and ACT tests. Juniors will take school based ACT March 29th and SAT April 26th. Juniors are encouraged to take them twice before the end of the summer. You can then test for a third time in the fall of senior year if desired. Most colleges will review a student using his/her best score from either test on any date. For early applications, October test dates are the last opportunity.

### Individual Meetings

We look forward to meeting with each junior and his or her parents in the coming weeks to discuss individual college plans. These meetings usually last one hour.

During the meeting, we will review the junior's academic and personal profile and discuss college aspirations. College admission possibilities will be discussed, and suggestions will be made regarding colleges to consider. Specifics about costs and financial aid are often included.

Our role as college counselor is to pro-

vide guidance in this process. We can make recommendations and offer insight, but the decision making and research is left up to you. When you leave our meeting, you will understand what to do next and how to do it.

Choosing a college is one of the most important decisions in a student's life. A great deal of thought and planning is necessary to make the right choice. With over 3,200 colleges, the task can seem overwhelming. It does not have to be. With an active approach, an open mind, and good guidance, students will end up in an environment where they will grow intellectually and personally.

### SAT & ACT Preparation

As stated at the evening program, we firmly believe that students should prepare before taking the SAT or ACT. There is good evidence to support the contention that students who are familiar with the test and have practiced sample questions will achieve more accurate results. Some students have the personal

**All juniors will take an official ACT in school on March 29th and SAT on April 26th!**

discipline to prepare on their own using printed materials or computer software, while others require the time and financial commitment that a formal course offers. Feel free to contact us to discuss options.

REMEMBER: The test companies offer robust and free preparation. Check <https://academy.act.org/> and [https://www.khanacademy.org/sat?utm\\_source=cbcta-hpl-sy-2019-20&utm\\_medium=cb418-xt&utm\\_campaign=practice](https://www.khanacademy.org/sat?utm_source=cbcta-hpl-sy-2019-20&utm_medium=cb418-xt&utm_campaign=practice)

### College Fairs and College Rep. Visits

This is an excellent opportunity for all students, but especially for juniors, to investigate a large number of colleges at one time through virtual or in-person College fairs and rep. visits at school.

Watch for more information on the College Counseling Webpage.

### Campus Visits

Without question, the campus visit is the single most important factor in the college decision. Juniors should make plans now to tour colleges during the spring, over breaks, and this summer. Call ahead to find out when tours are scheduled and whether individual meetings can be arranged. Handouts and guidebooks are available from us for detailed suggestions.

### Course Registration

Students have registered for courses for next year. The selection of courses is an important task that can have far-reaching implications. Parents are strongly encouraged to take an active role in this process. Please carefully review your student's selections with him/her. Course selection can have a major impact on a student's college admission possibilities. The degree of rigor in a student's curriculum is frequently cited as the most important factor in admission decisions.

### Summer Study Options

We have been receiving informational brochures in our office that present opportunities for high school students to pursue summer study at colleges and universities across the country. Some involve coursework which earns college credit. The length of these programs varies from one to eight weeks, and the costs range from free to several thousand dollars. Some have application deadlines in early spring. More information can be found on the HF website. If you have questions about the value of these experiences, call or stop by.

**VISIT COLLEGE CAMPUSES!!!**  
There is no better way to determine if a school is the right "fit" for you.

**National Test Dates**

<u>SAT</u>		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Mar. 12	Feb. 11	Mar. 1
May 7	Apr. 8	Apr. 26
June 4	May 5	May 25

  

<u>ACT</u>		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Apr. 2	Feb. 25	Mar. 11
June 11	May 6	May 20
July 16	June 17	June 24

Register on-line:  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (SAT)  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

AP  
May 2nd - 13th

Students should register on-line at  
[collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) and  
[actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org).

