



**HOLY FAMILY
HIGH SCHOOL**

Holy Family High School

College Counselor

March 2022 by College Counseling Department Volume XXV Issue 6

SCOIR

Holy Family's College Counselors are thrilled to announce Holy Family's new college planning system, Scoir.

Students will use Scoir during the college planning process. We will no longer use Naviance Student.

Videos on how to use Scoir:

Student Overview: https://vimeo.com/347377952?embedded=true&source=video_title&ownerG788024

Parent Overview: <https://vimeo.com/475995423>

If you have questions regarding this new platform or any college-related questions, contact your college counselor: Mrs. Phillips (A-G), Mrs. Fabian (H-N), Mr. Wilson (O-Z).

Senior Decision Time

The time is approaching when seniors will be expected to make one of the most important decisions of their lives—where to go to college. Letters of acceptance, financial aid offers, and detailed information about academic programs, facilities, and living opportunities should be in hand by early April. A senior's decision can be a complicated one that creates a fair amount of anxiety. Parents are encouraged to carefully balance their input and support with the understanding that this should be their child's decision. If we can be of any help, please do not hesitate to call. In order to facilitate this process, be sure that everything a college needs has been provided.

Among these are:

First semester grades, and completion of the FAFSA. Please contact your student's college counselor if you need assistance.

If you filed a FAFSA, you should have received a Student Aid Report (SAR). This report reviews the responses which you provided on the FAFSA and discusses your eligibility for certain federal grants. It also indicates the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that has been calculated based on the income and asset figures you provided.

The colleges that you selected will attempt

to formulate a financial aid package to make up the difference between the EFC and the Cost of Attendance (COA) at their institution.

Later, when you receive financial aid offers from your colleges, review them carefully and call the college's financial aid office with any questions. Understand that they will not "negotiate" with you, but they are open to working with you concerning special circumstances.

Many seniors will need to make additional campus visits as part of their decision making. Given proper notice, colleges will provide overnight accommodations for accepted students. Our spring break is an ideal time to make these visits since most colleges are in session that week. Take advantage of these opportunities; the visit experience can be a very important factor in making a decision.

Whatever the decision, you must make a deposit at the college of your choice before May 1. After that date, admission and financial aid offers may be withdrawn and/or campus housing may no longer be available.

Loans for College

Federally subsidized Direct and unsubsidized student loans require the family to file the FAFSA. These loans will be a

part of need-based financial aid offers if you qualify. You do not have to accept them. The typical student graduates college with around \$25,000 in loans.

There are many other loan options including Parent Loans (PLUS), loans from banks and insurance companies, etc. We are not financial experts but caution students against borrowing more than \$25,000 over four years. We suggest you consult your financial advisor to review your options.

Resource:

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>

Advanced Placement Tests

Students in AP courses are scheduled to take the AP exam. There is a fee of \$98 per exam, and \$148 per Seminar and Research exam. Financial assistance is available to those with demonstrated need. Many colleges grant credit or advanced standing when students score well on AP tests.

Junior College Search

Spring of your student's junior year is a critical time for the college search. It is important to do significant research this year. Juniors should make use of information resources; both the ACT and SAT will be administered at Holy Family (all students are automatically registered), and

arrange an individual conference with their college counselor and parents. We also expect juniors to review the College Planning Handbook and register with SCOIR

College Campus Visits

We cannot overstate the importance of college visits as part of the college search process. High school students at any level can learn a great deal about themselves and their options by touring college campuses. Whether you make a college visit an objective of your travel or just a side trip within your vacation, take advantage of what you can learn by putting your feet on a campus. It can be a great family experience.

Local College Fairs

RMACAC is holding an in-person College Fair, Sunday, April 3rd at Cherokee Trail High School, 25901 E. Arapahoe Rd., Aurora, CO 80016. from 1:00 p.m. — 3:00p.m. To register go to: <https://app.strivescan.com/registration>
The Catholic College Fair is on April 4th at Bishop Machebeuf High School, 458 Uinta Way, Denver, CO 80230. from 6:00p.m.—7:30 p.m. No registration is required for this fair. Other Virtual/in-person college fairs are listed in the **College Fairs** link on the College Counseling web page.

VISIT COLLEGE CAMPUSES!!!

There is no better way to determine if a school is the right "fit" for you.

Course Registration

Recently, students met with counselors to register for courses for next year. 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. If you have concerns or questions about your students schedule, feel free to contact us or one of the Deans.

Underclassmen

Earning good grades is of primary importance. Admission to the college of one's choice is primarily related to the academic record in high school. Virtually every college admission director cites high school curriculum and grades as the first factor in admission decisions. Other factors such as ACT/SAT results, extracurricular involvement, recommendations, and essays are secondary. Working hard to get good grades should be the main concern for underclassmen in their college planning. It is that part of their future over which they have present control.

Test Preparation

Many students do not approach college entrance tests with an appropriate level of seriousness and sophistication. Even though these tests have been widely criticized and are 'optional' at many colleges, they remain a key factor in college admission and scholarship decisions. Failure to recognize and act on this fact can and has resulted in missed opportunities.

Evidence shows that repeated testing and thorough preparation produce positive results. The test companies readily admit that students who are more familiar with the tests will have more accurate results. It is becoming clear that students who have not spent time preparing are at a definite disadvantage.

We recommend using the free preparation resources provided by the test companies. www.collegeboard.org and www.act.org offer free guided practice based on performance on prior tests like the PSAT and PreACT. Be sure to go into the tests as familiar and comfortable with them as possible.

Summer Programs

Many colleges and other agencies sponsor summer programs for high school students. Topics include all academic areas, leadership, community service, and travel. Many programs offer college credit. These programs are widely recognized by admission offices. A list of opportunities can be found on the College Counseling Page, on the Holy Family Web Site. Two other websites to check out are www.summerprogramfinder.com and

www.summerprogramsearch.com which have large searchable databases on summer programs for your student.

National Test Dates		
<u>SAT</u>		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
May 7	Apr. 8	Apr. 26
June 4	May 5	May 25
<u>ACT</u>		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
June 11	May 6	May 20
July 16	June 17	June 24
Register on-line:		
www.collegeboard.org (SAT)		
www.actstudent.org .		
<u>AP</u>		
May 2nd - 13th		
Students should register on-line at		
collegeboard.org and		
actstudent.org .		

