



**HOLY FAMILY
HIGH SCHOOL**

Holy Family High School

College Counselor

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RMACAC 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

Monday, April 4th at Bishop Machebeuf High School, 458 Uinta Way, Denver, CO 80230. from 6:00p.m.—7:30 p.m.

See the College Counseling Web Page, and bulletin boards in the lobby and the Counseling Center for future Fairs

Seniors

Seniors should receive all the information which they need to make their college decisions by early-April. If you have not received an expected admission notice or financial aid offer by April 5th, call the college.

Once you receive information from all of the colleges where you have applied, review and compare all information carefully. Call the college, or us, for any clarifications.

The final decision about which college to attend is often made with considerable attention given to the bottom line cost. Financial aid awards typically include a total cost figure, the amount expected from the family, and the amount of the award. Understand that the total cost is an estimate which includes tuition, room & board, books, and personal expenses including transportation costs. The family contribution is calculated from the FAFSA together with any requested supplemental information. If there is need shown, the financial aid package will probably include a combination of scholarship, need-based grant, loan, and work study. Obviously, the free money (grants and scholarships) is best, but most colleges will first make use of the federal work-study program and subsidized loans. These “self-help” programs force a degree of responsibility on the students to help pay for their education. It is expected that students receiving a need-based financial aid award will work on campus about ten hours per week and pay

back loans after graduation. The national average for student loan debt at graduation is \$25,000.

Accepted Student Visits

Many colleges welcome accepted students with special weekends and visit programs. Seniors should make these campus visits part of their decision making process, especially if they have not previously visited the college. We strongly advise students not to decide to attend a school without first visiting. If they are given notice, colleges will usually provide meals and overnight accommodations for accepted students.

**Juniors and their parents
who have not yet met with
their college counselor
should make an
appointment ASAP.**

Deposit by May 1st

Whatever the decision, students must have a deposit at the college of their choice before May 1. After that date, admission and financial aid offers may be withdrawn and/or campus housing may no longer be available. If you send in a deposit before May 1 and then change your mind, you can usually request, in writing, to have the deposit refunded. However, after May 1, colleges probably will not honor a refund request. Try to be sure before you send a deposit, and do not mislead colleges by depositing at more

than one school. Furthermore, it is appropriate to send notes or make calls to the other colleges that admitted you telling them that you have other plans.

Residence Hall Choices

Usually when you confirm your intention to attend a college, you will be sent options for housing. You may be able to choose certain buildings and roommates, as well as make choices about quiet hours and non-smoking and/or alcohol free dorms and floors. If these are issues which are important to you, be sure to specify that in your housing contract. Also, if you do smoke, do not reply that you do not.

Service Academies and ROTC Opportunities

Any junior who is interested in attending a service academy or receiving an ROTC scholarship should begin the process this spring. These options allow students to combine their college experience with preparation for military service. Attendance at the Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy at Annapolis, the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, or the Coast Guard Academy in New London is basically free, although highly selective. In addition, three and four year scholarships are offered through the various branches of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Of course, all of these options include military service after graduation.

If you are a junior interested in pursuing

any of these options, it is time to begin the process. Contacting the academies, congressional offices, and ROTC scholarship offices is an important first step. Applications should be completed at the start of senior year.

A virtual Academy Information Day will be held on Tuesday, April 19th. We will provide further information as it becomes available.

Boys and Girls State are outstanding leadership programs which are highly respected by military academy admission offices. Juniors can still apply!

Plan Campus Visits

As you set out to visit college campuses this spring or summer, there are several important steps to take that will make the experience more rewarding. Most importantly, plan everything carefully. Spend time before you leave planning your route and deciding what colleges you want to see. Call each college you intend to visit and find out when they have tours and information sessions scheduled. Although you may be tempted to try more, limit yourself to two colleges each day. If you end up with extra time, stroll the campus, talk with students, and eat in the student dining center. You may also want to schedule time to enjoy the area as tourists. This is especially true if you have younger children who could care less about college at this time.

Grades

As we meet with juniors, we make a point of emphasizing the importance of their high school grades in the college admission process. This, of course, applies to freshmen and sophomores as well. You should be aware that the official transcript which a college will see includes the semester grades for each course taken. As we move toward the end of the year, we hope that everyone works to have the best record possible for the second semester transcript entry.

Summer Options

The [College Counseling web page](#) contains a link that presents opportunities for high school students to pursue summer study at colleges and universities across the country in a variety of interests. Most involve coursework that earns college

credit. The length of these programs varies from one to eight weeks, and the cost ranges from free to several thousand dollars. Many have application deadlines coming up soon. If you have questions about the value of these experiences please contact your College Counselor.

Standardized Testing

The best ways to improve your standardized (SAT & ACT) test scores are to read and take practice tests! You can find free practice tests

<https://www.mycoloradojourney.com/journey/students>
www.collegeboard.org
www.act.org
www.khanacademy.com

Free test prep is available from the test companies that is tied to your PSAT and PreACT.

College Opportunity Fund

Students of any age can register for the in-state tuition voucher on the [College Opportunity Fund Website](#). You can also link to the COF at <https://www.mycoloradojourney.com/journey/students>

Consultants

We discourage families from paying for any services related to college admission, scholarship, and financial aid. Everything you need is available for free through us or online resources! You have already paid tuition at a college preparatory high school for appropriate assistance and information related to the college process; there is no need to pay for additional services.

Consultants can't call colleges on your behalf, they can't write letters of recommendation about you, they don't know which teachers will write stronger recommendations for you, they can't send your official transcript to colleges, and much more.

Many of them will make promises they simply cannot deliver. We have never seen a family recoup their expenses on a private advisor in terms of scholarships that person has found for them or get into a college they would not have been admitted to anyway.

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.

AP
 May 2nd - 13th

Students should register on-line at
collegeboard.org and
actstudent.org.

