



HOLY FAMILY
HIGH SCHOOL

Holy Family High School

College Counselor

May 2022 by College Counseling Department Volume XXVII Issue 8

Seniors' Decision

By the time you receive this newsletter, all seniors should have completed their college decision making. Tuition deposits, housing reservations, and acceptance of financial aid offers should have been in by May 1st. *Act immediately if these actions have not been completed!*

If any admission notice included an offer of "wait list" rather than acceptance, it is essential that you respond if you wish to stay on the wait list. My advice is to also write a strong letter emphasizing your continued interest and include any additional information which was not in the original application, e.g. recent progress report grades, special honors or achievements, etc. Unfortunately, you will still need to make a deposit at your second choice college since wait list decisions do not come until later in May. If you are accepted from the wait list and choose to attend, you will sacrifice the deposit you filed at the other college.

Whatever the decision, it is considered appropriate to notify all of the colleges to which you have been accepted of your plans. A short note to those colleges where you will not be attending is common courtesy. Thank them for their consideration and inform them that you will not be accepting their offer of admission.

Finish Strong!

The next major task facing a college bound senior is successful completion of high school. More than just graduating, colleges expect that a senior's academic record will stay consistent with past performance. **Only after the final high school transcript is received by the college is the offer of admission final.** Occasionally, a college will send a warning letter, or worse, rescind an offer of admission, because of poor performance in the senior year. The message is clear—take final exams seriously and make the most of your last few weeks!

Another important reason to have a strong finish to the senior year is the pattern of success which it establishes for college. A "senior slide" does not suddenly reverse itself in college. A student's attitude toward studying and the commitment to reaching one's potential are formed in high school. Do not let bad habits develop which can hamper future accomplishments. Senior year can have an exciting conclusion and still include a good academic finish.

More than just graduating, colleges expect that a senior's academic record will stay consistent with past performance.

Letting Go

As you help your senior pack for college and worry about the transition he/she will face in the months ahead, do not underestimate the challenges that you will face as the parent of a college freshman. This is especially true if this is the first child you are sending off to college.

Karen Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treeger have co-authored *Letting Go: A Parents' Guide to Understanding the College Years* to help you make it through this difficult time. Coburn and Treeger have been praised for their insights on surviving the freshman transition. They counsel parents to be supportive and understanding of their rapidly changing teenagers as they maneuver their own emotional roller coaster.

What Not To Pay For

Are you being asked for money for college related services by someone other than a college admission office or the ACT or SAT? Be wary. Many companies will ask you to pay fees for services;

most are some sort of scam and those that are not a scam rarely deliver strong return on your investment. All services related to college admission, aside from test registration and admission application fees, are available for free. And, your HF tuition pays for the assistance of a professional college counselor.

Free Scholarship search engines are plentiful online. NO ONE can guarantee you that you will win a scholarship. I strongly discourage you from paying someone to assist you in finding scholarship or admission opportunities.

Who's Who, National Honor Roll, etc. are simply trying to sell you their book. These are not real honors and do not belong on a resume.



Students are now using 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?](https://vimeo.com/347377952?embed=true&source=video_title&ownerG788024)

[embed=true&source=video_title&ownerG788024](https://vimeo.com/347377952?embed=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)

Summer College Visits

We expect that by this time all juniors are actively involved in gathering and reviewing information about college choices. The only way to make an well-informed college decision as a senior is to set the groundwork now. Using a variety of resources is an important first step, but establishing contact with any and all colleges that interest you is another critical activity. Refining your list of college options and learning everything you can about those schools is essential. A college's website provides in-depth information on all of their opportunities.

In addition, perhaps the most important thing that you will do as you consider your options is to visit college campuses. Past students and college admission professionals unanimously agree that the single most important factor in making a college decision is the visit. Hopefully, you are making plans to incorporate college visits as part of your summer travel. There is good information in the College Planning Handbook on how to arrange a college visit and for what to look. Handbooks are available in the main office.

By this time all juniors are expected to be actively involved in gathering and reviewing information about college choices.

Estimating Your Need

It is to your advantage to know what expectation will be placed on you and your family in paying for college. The federal government has designed a complicated formula to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Colleges will use this figure to determine your eligibility for need-based financial aid. You can find free estimators of this number online. <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/expected-family-contribution-calculator>

Colleges are required to provide a Net Price Calculator on their website. This tool will tell you how much you can expect in scholarship and aid from a college, and what the actual cost of attendance is likely to be for your student.

Scholarship Searches

Summer presents a good opportunity for juniors (rising seniors) to start to investigate various scholarships that are available through private sources. Identifying possible scholarships and requesting applications during the summer will give students a head start when school starts in the fall. The best resource for private scholarships is the free search that you can access on the Web at www.fastweb.com or www.scholarships.com.

The key word is **free**. Do not pay for someone to do a scholarship search. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission has made it a point to warn consumers about scholarship fraud.

SAT/ACT Preparation

Summer also presents an opportunity for rising seniors to brush up on their test-taking skills before the next round of ACT and SAT testing in the fall. Once we get back to school, it becomes very difficult to find the time to review. Take advantage of any free time the summer may provide.

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

Athletic Recruiting

In order to be formally recruited by an NCAA Division I or II school, prospective student-athletes need to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at the end of their junior year. The eligibility center website is www.eligibilitycenter.org. There is a fee. After registering you will need to request your transcript from me and your test scores from one of the testing agencies.

You should create a letter to send to coaches. It should include why you are interested in their school as well as your academic and athletic information. A sample letter can be found in your Scoir account under My Drive.

There are free websites where you can register so that college coaches can find you. Check out www.berecruited.com.



National Test Dates

<u>SAT</u>		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
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.