



### [Schedule Your Individualized Planning Meeting](#)

- Mr. Ditsky: [calendly.com/mrditskymeetings/college-career-planning-meetings](https://calendly.com/mrditskymeetings/college-career-planning-meetings)
- Mr. Piersol: <https://calendly.com/mpiersol>

*\*C2023 must have completed Career Survey and Scoir login assignment before registering for a meeting.*

*Please see below.*

### [Resource Library](#)

*Canvas > Berks Catholic College Counseling (course) > Files > RESOURCES*

---

### [Food for Thought...](#)

In mid-December Mr. D attended a round-table discussion with other college counselors and admission officers at Villanova University. Here is just a bit of what he learned about the current state of college admissions as of Fall 2021:

- [Auburn's applications are up 60% over last year and 115% over the past 2 years](#)
- [Pitt's applications are up 75% over last year](#)
- [Boston College saw a 50% increase in Early Decision applications](#)
- [Villanova's admit rate was 25% last year and is likely to be more competitive this year](#)

What is driving these application increases? While there are several factors...it is commonly agreed that because these and other, similar schools are offering Test Optional Admissions (you do not have to submit SAT or ACT, to be considered for admission.

So, if they aren't looking at SAT or ACTs, what ARE they looking very closely at?

- [Rigor of curriculum and Grades](#)
- [School and Community Involvement](#)
- [Essays, Recommendation Letters - which ties in to behavior and attendance](#)

In other words, they are focusing on our 3 Keys to Success ([Best Effort](#), [Engage](#), [Make Smart Choices](#)) IT. ALL. MATTERS.

---

### [Up-Coming BC Events](#)

Please stay tuned for a recap of Fall 2021 and preview of Spring 2022 events.

---

### [Important & Timely Items](#)

**MID-YEAR EXAMS and GPA CALCULATION:** Berks Catholic Calculates GPA (Grade Point Average) at the end of each semester.

Here's How Each Quarter and Exams Contribute to GPA:

$1^{\text{st}}$  Quarter Grades (40%) +  $2^{\text{nd}}$  Quarter Grades (40%) + Mid-Year Exams (20%) = GPA

Please make sure you finish the  $2^{\text{nd}}$  Quarter strong and are prepping for mid-year exams!

**JUNIORS:** In November Mr. D gave you an assignment which included completing or reviewing your Career Survey on Naviance and accessing your Scoir account prior to meeting with Mr. D or Mr. Piersol. *As of today very few of you have completed this assignment, and you are missing out.*

**CONGRATULATIONS!!** *To date, Princeton, Penn, Georgetown, Boston Univ., Bucknell, Pitt, Penn State, RACC, Kutztown – just to name a few- have all said YES to our BC Saints C' 2022! BC Seniors have reported being admitted to 62 different colleges and universities in 17 different states and Washington DC, and earning \$ 3.49 million in merit scholarship!*

### SAT / ACT Prep Option:

[SAT PREP at PENN STATE BERKS](#) < Please click the link to access information for classes beginning as early as January 20, 2022. According to the many, former BC Saints who have participated, this class offers a lot of "bang for the buck"! [berks.psu.edu/sat-prep-courses](https://berks.psu.edu/sat-prep-courses)

### Career Exploration:

Please check back.

### Job Opportunities:

Please check back.

### Memos of Understanding

Berks Catholic HS is proud to offer Memo's of Understanding (MOU's) that guarantee admission and merit scholarships to students who meet specific academic criteria. For details, please contact Mr. Ditsky.

**Berks Catholic MOU Partners:** [ALVERNIA UNIV.](#), [CARLOW UNIV.](#), [IMMACULATA UNIV.](#), [LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE](#), [MISERICORDIA UNIV.](#), [MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIV.](#), [NEUMANN UNIV.](#), [WIDENER UNIV.](#)

### Standardized Testing

SAT / ACT Dates Spring 2022:

SAT : 3/12 5/7 6/4 [Register at collegeboard.org](#)

ACT : 2/12 4/2 6/11 7/14 [Register at act.org](#)

Check out: [FairTest.org](https://FairTest.org) for the growing list of Test Optional institutions

