



COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWS

- JUNIOR YEAR -

September 2022

MARIAN COUNSELING STAFF

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College Counselors

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During the week of September 6th, the college counselors met with the juniors during their English class. We asked the juniors not to focus on the question "Where do I want to go to college?", but rather consider two different questions when thinking about college:

"Why do I want to go to college?" and "What do I want to do in college?".

To build on these two questions, the Georgia Tech Admission Blog has an outstanding post that parents and students are encouraged to read: [Is That a Good School?](#) It is a great blog to

subscribe to - the posts cover a variety of college-related topics that will help you as a parent navigate through these next two years with your student.

During the first semester, juniors will meet with either Ms. Bluhm or Mr. Siega. The college counselors will also talk with the juniors in English class. In second semester, the college counselors will meet with juniors individually to discuss selection of classes for senior year and other college related topics.

MARIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL CODE is 141393

Juniors should memorize this code - it will be required when registering to take either the ACT or SAT. It is also asked for on many other college forms. It is sometimes referred to as a CEEB code.

Test Optional Update

At the present time, more than 1,700 colleges and universities are test optional.

The problem for the Class of 2024 is that this may change. Many colleges and universities have already announced that they will be test optional for the Class of 2024. For updated information on whether a college / university will be test optional, check the Fair Test website www.fairtest.org or the admissions website for an individual college.

Second semester is usually when students take the ACT and/or SAT for the first time. Because students decide when they will take the ACT and/or SAT, they register for themselves – the Counseling Department **DOES NOT** register students for either test.

ACT / SAT Test Dates

Registration information is available at

ACT - www.act.org

SAT - www.collegeboard.org

Feb 11 ACT registration deadline Jan 6 **March 11 SAT** deadline Feb 10

April 15 ACT deadline Mar 10 **May 6 SAT** deadline April 7

June 10 ACT deadline May 5 **June 3 SAT** deadline May 4

July 15 ACT deadline June 16

Juniors are encouraged to take either the ACT or SAT at least once during junior year.

Upcoming Program

Tuesday September 20

Financial Aid for College

6:30 PM in the Leadership Center

While you will not have to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for your junior until after next year - October 1st, 2023, this program offers you an opportunity to begin to learn about the financial aid process.

ACT / SAT Information

All juniors will take a PRACTICE ACT here at Marian in January. Watch for more info in future newsletters.

Here are three frequently asked questions that the counselors are asked about the ACT and SAT

Does a junior have to take both tests?

A student may choose to take both tests. However, a student DOES NOT have to take both the ACT and SAT. If a college or university requires / accepts test scores, they will accept scores from either test.

Should a student take the Optional Writing Test for the ACT?

It's probably not necessary. There are less than 12 colleges and universities in the country that require the Writing Test for admission. There aren't any colleges and universities in the Midwest that require the ACT Plus Writing. To find out whether the Writing Test is required by a college or university, go to the admissions page of the school's website.

College Fairs

Saturday October 1

McCormick Place - North Hall

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Over 350 colleges and universities will participate. To register and see the list of the schools that will be in attendance, go to [Attend NACAC College Fairs \(nacacattend.org\)](http://nacacattend.org)

Monday October 3

Marian Catholic

East & West Gyms

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Over 125 colleges and universities will be here at Marian. A roster of the participating schools will be available shortly. Students are expected to create a Strive Scan account. Go to

<https://app.strivescan.com/registration>

COLLEGE COUNSELING CONFERENCES

Parents: In January you will receive information about scheduling a College Counseling Conference. This is an opportunity to meet with your student's college counselor and ask whatever questions you have about the college search and application process.

Conferences are held before school at

Should a student take a test prep class for the ACT and SAT?

There isn't one right way to prepare for the ACT or SAT. Two resources must be considered when deciding what to do to - time and money. Does the student have time to take a class? Is the class affordable?

Both ACT and SAT offer free test prep. For more information, go to www.act.org and www.collegeboard.org.

Test Prep for the ACT / SAT

An in-person test prep class will be offered at Marian in advance of the April ACT. Information about this class will be distributed later in November.

Here are two on-line test prep opportunities that offer test prep throughout the year:

Revolution Prep www.revolutionprep.com

Jeanius Prep www.jeaniusprep.com.

7:00 AM or after school between 2:30 - 5:00 PM.

Please watch for information in future Counseling Newsletters about requesting a college counseling conference.

INVITATIONS TO ATTEND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Parents, your student may receive invitations to attend programs such as National Academy of Future Medical Leaders, Lead America, NYLF (National Youth Leadership Forum), and NSLC (National Student Leadership Conference).

These programs are not scams - however, they are expensive.

Oftentimes, it is confusing to parents and students because they never applied or asked to be nominated.

These programs can be worthwhile **if** you can afford them. However, they should not attend because they think that it will make a difference on a college application next fall - because it doesn't.