

# ***The Counselor Newsletter: September 2023***

## **Philippians 1:27**

***"Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."***

## ***September Calendar***

*September 5th: Financial Aid Info Night for Seniors & Parents (6pm in the MPR)*

*September 5th-15th: CSF Fall Membership Drive for Seniors, Juniors, & Sophomores  
(Application attached. Watch for details from Mrs. Christmas!)*

*September 12th: Tulare County College Night*

*September 25th: College & Career Night for Sophomores (6:30pm in the MPR)*

## ***Looking ahead to October:***

*October 1st: Cal State Application Opens!*

*October 4th: CSU Application Workshop (9am-noon in the MPR)*

*October 5th: Christian College Fair (6pm-8pm in the South Gym)*

*October 13th: PSAT for Juniors*

*October 13th: End of quarter/half-day of school*

## **Romans 15:13**

***"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."***

With the 2023-2024 school year well underway and your days being full of classes and multiple other activities, I want you to know that each of you is being prayed over daily. My prayer over you is when you look in the mirror every morning - you see that God has created you in his image. I pray you see in your reflection what He sees - one that loves and was willing to sacrifice His only son for. I pray you know how deeply loved you are and you grow in the confidence and wisdom that only comes through a relationship with Him.

Our new school year promises to be an eventful one and I hope you enjoy all of the moments. Regardless of what comes your way, choose to trust. Trust that His plan is already in place for you. Trust that He will open the doors of opportunity for you-the ones He needs you to pass through. And continue to prepare well along the way. I am always praying that you are able to be patient, stay focused on what is truly important, and choose to give God your very best.

If you have any questions at any time, please contact me at [lreeves@cvc.org](mailto:lreeves@cvc.org)

Many blessings, Mrs. Reeves.

## ***COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES ARE ALREADY COMING IN!***

*Trent Greidanus: Arizona State University, Dordt University*

*Caleb Noeske: Northwestern University*

*Jayden Forsyth: Corban University*

*Avery Hiemstra: Dallas Baptist University*

Application season for Christian, private, and out-of-state universities is well under way! When you hear back from colleges, stop by the Counseling Center and add your name to the windows:)

### **College Representatives on Campus**

During application season, we will have a number of college representatives visit our campus. When they visit, please stop by their table and make them feel welcome! This is a great opportunity to learn more about the colleges they represent. Many of the representatives will be at our Christian College Fair - which will be an ideal chance for you to meet with them again! Reps visiting at lunch will have a table set up near the junior/senior lunch area. Reps here during Focus have sessions already available to lock into (location for some will be determined soon).

#### **September 12th:**

*Cal Baptist University (Lunch & Focus)*

*University of Redlands (Focus)*

#### **September 13th:**

*Biola University (Lunch and Focus)*

*Hope International (Lunch & Focus)*



**Find Your  
Christian College**

*Faith. Education. Future.*

## ***Christian College Fair at Central Valley Christian High School Thursday, October 5th (6:00pm-8:00pm)***

***[FindYourChristianCollege-Visalia](http://FindYourChristianCollege-Visalia)***

Join us for our 3rd annual Christian College Fair! This fair will include at least 30 representatives from Christian colleges from California and across the United States. Whether you are a senior still looking at options for next fall, or a freshman with absolutely no idea what you want to be when you grow up, this fair could play a key role in helping you narrow your focus.

The representatives are really excited to be able to see you and talk with you! The fair is open to all high school students ~ please invite your friends from the other Visalia high schools. Also, make every effort to be there as this is such an amazing opportunity.

Attending a Christian College Fair can be the first step for many students when searching for the right college or university. NACCAP offers more than 140 fairs throughout the U.S. and Canada each year. You will be able to view college & university displays, talk with representatives from the schools and learn more about

Financial Aid. We look forward to seeing you at this event!

**Register at: [FindYourChristianCollege](#)**



**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th (5:30-7:30pm)**

**Register at: [TCOE-College Night](#)**

College Night is an opportunity for high school students and their parents to meet with representatives from approximately 80 colleges, universities and trade schools to learn more about their campuses and educational programs. Students can learn more about acceptance requirements, degree programs offered and other valuable information to get them prepared for the next steps in their future journey.

Attendees will also have the option of attending informational breakout sessions on topics such as University of California and California State University admissions, financial aid, scholarship opportunities, and college and career planning.

The week of the event, students can download the Helpful Hints flyer which will aid them in asking the right questions when talking to the representatives at the event. Additionally, they will be able to download the College Night Planning Guide which is full of important information on planning for college in high school.

**Cal State Universities hold their own college fairs! See the list at: [CalStateCollegFairs](#)  
Register at: [CSU College Night-Visalia](#)**

### **Applying to College: FAQs**

Here are answers to a few of the most commonly asked questions about applying to college.

*Article retrieved from: Applying 101*

*(Information in italics is from Mrs. Reeves.)*

**When should I start?** The summer before your senior year is the best time to start. Most students do the majority of their application work in the fall of their senior year. See a [college application timeline for seniors](#). *(If you have not started your applications yet, sit down in front of your planner and schedule designated time for this during your week or weekend.)*

**How do I begin?** Find out [what goes into an application](#) and begin collecting the materials you need. Create a folder for each college you are applying to. At the front of each folder, put a [checklist](#) of what you'll need for the application and when it's due. *(Many college websites may have a video tutorial or a list of things you will need to*

include in your application. Knowing this ahead of time will prevent you from having to stop in the middle of an application to hunt for information.)

**How many colleges should I apply to?** To increase your chances of getting into a selective school—and to account for colleges you may not have considered before—we recommend a balanced list. A balanced list includes at least 3 reach colleges, 2 matches, and 1 safety school. They should all be colleges you'd be happy to attend.

- *The number of applications are suggestions – there is not necessarily a hard-maximum number.*
- *However, remember there will be an application fee for each application you submit – and those fees add up pretty quickly. Talk with your parents about how many applications you plan to submit.*
- *Some colleges may offer a fee waiver to apply or offer a free application during a specific timeframe.*

**What are reach, match, and safety schools?** BigFuture™ introduces test scores as one additional factor to weigh as you refine your list. Think about narrowing your colleges into three categories:

- **Reaches:** Your SAT or ACT® score is lower than the average score range of last year's freshman class.
- **Matches:** Your SAT or ACT score is solidly in the same score range as last year's freshman class.
- **Safeties:** Your SAT or ACT score is higher than the average score range of last year's freshman class.
- *The information above may be different based on colleges' response to lack of access to the tests due to Covid.*

**Should I apply early?** It depends. If you are sure about which college you want to attend, [early decision or early action](#) might be the best choice for you. If you're not sure, keep in mind that some early application plans require you to commit early. You may want to keep your options open.

- **Early Decision:** This is a binding early round application. If you're accepted Early Decision, you must enroll at the school. Use Early Decision only if you have a clear first choice.
- **Early Action:** Early Action is non-binding. You can apply Early Action to multiple schools, and you aren't obligated to attend if accepted. You can also apply Early Decision to one school and Early Action to several schools. If you're accepted Early Decision, however, you must withdraw your Early Action applications.
- **Restricted Early Action:** Like Early Decision, Restricted Early Action is binding. You must attend if accepted. The difference is that if you apply REA, you can't apply in the early rounds to any other schools, even Early Action.

Some schools have their own variation on these categories. To be sure of the rules, thoroughly read information on the school's website. It's important to note that applying early *can* significantly increase your chances of acceptance. ([Niche.com](#))

**Should I send additional material?** It's best if you can express everything about your qualifications and qualities in the materials requested. Colleges spend a great deal of time creating their applications to make sure they get all the information they need about each applicant. If you feel it's absolutely necessary to send additional material, talk to your counselor about it. Some arts programs may require portfolios or videos of performances. Check with the college to find out the best way to submit examples of your work.

**Is it OK to use the same material on different applications?** Definitely. There's no need to write a brand-new essay or personal statement for each application. Instead, devote your time to producing a great version of basic application parts.

**What are the Coalition, Common, and Universal College Applications?** These are examples of college application services that provide standardized applications which allow you to apply to multiple schools with a single application. Instead of filling out eight different applications, you can simply fill out one and submit it to each college.

The [Coalition Application](#) is accepted by more than 90 institutions. The platform includes “The Locker,” a private space for you to collect and organize materials throughout high school that you might want to share with colleges and universities.

The [Common Application](#) is a standardized application used by over 800 colleges. Each year, nearly a million students use the Common Application to submit over 4 million applications.

The [Universal College Application](#) is accepted by more than 30 colleges and universities. You can register as an applicant in order to start applying.

Be aware that you may need to submit additional or separate documents to some colleges. You also still need to pay individual application fees for each college.

**Should I apply to colleges if my admission-test scores or grades are below their published ranges?** *Yes.* The admission scores and grades that colleges show on their websites are averages or ranges—not cutoffs. There are students at every college who scored lower (and higher) than the numbers shown.

- Remember that colleges consider many factors to get a more complete picture of you.
- For example, they look at the types of classes you take, your activities, recommendation letters, your essay and your overall character. Colleges are looking for all kinds of students with different talents, abilities and backgrounds.
- Admission test scores and grades are just two parts of that complete picture.

**Should I even bother applying to colleges I don’t think I can afford?**

- Absolutely. Remember that after financial aid packages are determined, most students will pay far less than the "[sticker price](#)" listed on the college website.
- You don’t know if you can afford a college until after you apply and find out how much aid that college will offer you (if you’re accepted).
- Fill out the [FAFSA®](#) as early as possible after Jan. 1 to qualify for the most aid.
- Even if the aid package the college offers is not enough, you have options. Many colleges are willing to work with students they have chosen for admission to ensure that those students can afford to attend.

## ***It’s College Application Season***

How is it already September?! If you are a senior and plan to apply to 4-year colleges, below are links to the California State University system, the University of California system, and the Common Application websites.



The ***California State University*** application opens on October 1st and can be submitted from October 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30, 2023.

- Cal State Apply is used to apply to any of the 23 California State Universities.
- Use this link to [create an account](#) and check out all of the CSU’s.
- ***Attend the Cal State Application Workshop: Wednesday, October 4th.***



The ***University of California*** application is open to complete and can be submitted from **October 1st-November 30th**. Below are links that will take you to pdf instructions on how to prepare to fill out your U.C. application (which will include 4 Personal Insight responses/essays).

**Attend a U.C. FOR YOU virtual event:** Check the websites of each U.C. for details). This is an example of what is available for UCSD: [UCSD visit events](#).

- **U.C. Application-Before you apply, read through the [Applying as a Freshman Guide](#).**
- **To apply, [create an account here](#).**
- **U.C. Personal Insight Advice!** Please don't procrastinate on these.
- **U.C. Guide:** [to Personal Insight Responses](#).
- **Information about U.C.:** [Scholarships & Grants](#).

## THE COMMON APPLICATION

The ***Common Application*** is used to apply to any of over 900 colleges and universities. Some of those include Calvin College, Stanford University, Pepperdine University, Reed College, Texas Christian, University of San Diego, Point Loma Nazarene University and Westmont College, to name just a few. To begin applying or see which colleges use the Common Application, [click here](#).

## ***Academic Letter Recipients-Fall 2023***

*Congratulations to the following students who will receive an Academic Letter for fall of 2023! To receive an academic letter, students must be a member of CSF for at least three semesters and earn High Honor Roll recognition for four semesters.*

|                   |                  |                 |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Eric De jong      | Jacie Johnson    | Kirmina Barsoum | Emily Christmas  |
| Allison De Groot  | Ian de Jong      | Griffin Dunn    | Kapri Ficher     |
| Brayden Gogue     | Jared Griffith   | Alani Grube     | Madyson Hastings |
| Lola Highstreet   | Kaitlyn Jongsma  | Kasen Kalafut   | Aubrey Kaminiski |
| Grant Kroonenberg | Jay Lemstra      | Ethan Lewis     | Colton Riley     |
| Kathryn Rodgers   | Kaden Saltzman   | William Schaap  | Siena Shaffer    |
| Grant Shannon     | Brayden Soerens  | Alayna Unrau    | Chloe Van Dyk    |
| Ryan Vander Tuig  | Grace Van Velson | Kamryn Westra   |                  |

## ***Checklist for Juniors***

**Stay Academically Focused:** Admission officers, guidance counselors and college advisors agree that your academic record is an extremely important part of your college application. A rigorous class schedule shows intellectual curiosity, a willingness to challenge yourself and that you are comfortable with hard work.

**PSAT/SAT/ACT Prep options:**

- [Doorway to College](#).
- [Khan Academy](#)
- [Prep Scholar](#)

**Take the PSAT on Friday, October 13th at CVCHS:** Details with times and classroom assignments will be sent out in early October.

**Be Involved and Build Your Resume:** All competitive colleges seek a diversified and interesting student body. It's not too late to become involved in activities and community service & experiences you enjoy with "college appeal". Seek out opportunities to develop leadership roles. Depth, not breadth, of experience is more attractive and evidence of passion, leadership, initiative, commitment and meaningful engagement is key.

**Take the ACT/SAT (Spring 2024):** This allows at least one more chance to take both tests again early in the fall of your senior year. We will talk more about this at College Night and at your junior meeting.

**Visit Colleges:** If you can't physically visit a college campus just yet, visit their website or take a virtual tour. The results of your Career Cruising assessment can give you a list of colleges to begin researching. Other ways to 'visit' colleges is by using <http://www.campustours.com/>

**Junior Meeting:** Beginning in January, I will be meeting with each of you to discuss your post-high school plans, review your transcript, discuss your senior year classes, and ACT / SAT registration options (remember, you can take the ACT/SAT as often as you choose to, but it is important to have as much English, math & science completed as possible). We will also talk more specifically about your career goals and which colleges will help you reach those goals.

## ***Checklists for Sophomores!***

**Academics-Keep your grades up:** Keep building your academic resume & work ethic. This will continue to prepare you well for the transition to your junior year—one of the most challenging academic years of high school for college-bound students.

**Attend the Christian College Fair and Tulare County College Night:** Learn as much as you can about a variety of colleges!

**Career Cruising Assessment:** Mrs. Hulsey will be connecting with sophomores enrolled in Speech class to give you a *Matchmaker/Skills Assessment*. The results of this assessment will give you:

- A list of possible jobs that might match you well
- Job descriptions for each profession
- Education requirements and where you can get the education (2-year, 4-year or tech school)
- Sophomores - if you are enrolled in Bible 2 this semester, Mrs. Hulsey will connect with you 2nd semester!

**Attend College & Career Night for Sophomores!** September 25th-6:30pm in the MPR.

**“Visit” Colleges:** If you can’t physically visit a college campus just yet, visit their website or take a virtual tour. Another way to ‘visit’ colleges is by using <http://www.campustours.com/>

**Be Involved:** Find your passion and choose to make a difference-in our school and in our community. Being a leader doesn’t require being the “president” of an existing organization.

## ***Scholarship Search Opportunities***

Whether you are a senior in high school or a freshman, it is never too early (or too late) to start applying for scholarships. As I mentioned during 4-year-plan meetings this summer, setting aside a couple of hours each month to search for, apply for, and submit scholarship applications is extremely important. The following are things to consider as you begin your scholarship search:

- **Start NOW.** Schedule time in your week to complete scholarship applications.
- **Go to:** <https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships> to see a list of scholarships you can be applying for through Fastweb.
- **Check with your parents’ employer.** Some have scholarship programs for employees and their dependents.
- **Don’t pass by scholarships with “smaller” award amounts.** They add up fast!
- **Write a solid essay.** Chances are, you may be able to use the same essay (or a variation of it) for multiple scholarship applications. *Don’t forget to proofread.* Look for spelling, grammar and punctuation errors. Ask an adult to proofread your essay before you submit your application.
- **Deadlines are not SUGGESTIONS.** Know the deadlines and give yourself plenty of time to complete and submit the application.
- **Keep searching every year.** There are new scholarships available for each grade level in high school, but also scholarships available for those in college as well.



**Below are several websites that you can register with - I'd recommend choosing one:**

- [My Scholly](#)
  - [CollegeXpress](#)
  - [Unigo](#)
  - [Career Cruising](#)
- [CollegeBoard Scholarship Search](#)
  - [FastWeb](#)
  - [Niche.com](#)



Exploring College Options is a special informational program sponsored by the undergraduate admissions offices of five of the country's leading universities: [Duke University](#), [Georgetown University](#), [Harvard University](#), the [University of Pennsylvania](#), and [Stanford University](#).

Representatives from each university will present information about their institution, discuss the application process, and answer questions on how to put together a strong and reflective application. Each program will end with breakout sessions where representatives will answer questions about their specific school and the application process. We are offering both in-person and virtual programs, with each program featuring the same content.

For additional information, go to: [Exploring College Options](#).