



# COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWS

## JUNIOR YEAR

September 2024

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*During September, the college counselors met with the juniors during their English class. We asked the juniors not to focus on this question "Where do I want to go to college?". Instead, we encouraged them to consider two different questions as they begin to think more about college and what they will do after graduating from Marian:*

***"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. Rzab or Mr. Sieja. The college counselors will also talk with the juniors in English class throughout the year. In second semester, the college counselors will meet with juniors individually to discuss selection of classes for senior year as well as 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 may also be asked for when completing other college forms. It is sometimes referred to as a CEEB code.

## Test Optional Update

**At the present time, more than 1,800 colleges and universities are test optional.**

Many colleges and universities are test optional for the Class of 2025. The issue is will they remain test optional for the Class of 2026. Hopefully these decisions will announced during first semester. For updated information on whether a college / university will be test optional for the Class of 2026, go to the Fair Test website [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org) or an individual college's admissions website.

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](http://www.act.org)

SAT- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

**Feb 8 ACT** registration deadline Jan 3

**March 8 SAT** registration deadline Feb 21

**April 8 ACT** School day at Marian

**May 3 SAT** deadline April 18

**June 14 ACT** deadline May 5

**June 7 SAT** deadline May 22

**July 12 ACT** deadline June 16

PLEASE NOTE - the SAT may **ONLY** be taken in the digital format - College Board does not offer a paper and pencil option.

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

## **Upcoming College Fair**

### **Tuesday October 1st**

**Marian Catholic East &  
West Gyms**

**6:30 - 8:00 PM**

Over 100 colleges and universities will be here at Marian.

A roster of the participating schools is available. Click on the link below

[Illinois Regional College.pdf](#)

Students are expected to create a Strive Scan account. After creating an account, the student will receive a bar code on their phone, allowing the rep to scan the bar code and receive information about the student instead of the student having to complete an inquiry card. Go to:

## **NACAC College Fair**

**Saturday October 5th**

**Navy Pier 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)

**HF College Fair Monday October  
21st 6:30 - 8:00 PM**

## **Illinois Regional College Fairs**

**Joliet Junior College Wednesday  
October 23rd 6:00 to 8:00 PM**

**Governors State University Tuesday  
October 29th 6:00 to 7:30 PM**

Students and parents may register for these fairs at:

<https://app.strivescan.com/registration> or [strivefair.com](http://strivefair.com)

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

## ACT/SAT Information

All juniors will take a PRACTICE ACT here at Marian in January and a School Day ACT on Tuesday April 8. More details will be announced in future newsletters.

**Questions that the counselors are often 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.**

PLEASE NOTE - the SAT may **ONLY** be taken in the digital format - College Board does not offer a paper and pencil option.

### 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

## NAVIANCE

During the college counselors' visit to English classes, we encouraged the juniors to add colleges to the "Colleges that I am Thinking About" page in Naviance. By doing this, we will be able to inform students when a college in their list hosts a program in the Chicago area, but does not visit Marian for a college rep visit.

## COLLEGE COUNSELING CONFERENCES

Parents: In January you will receive information about scheduling a College Counseling Conference. This is an opportunity to meet with a college counselor and ask whatever questions you have about the college search and application process. Conferences are held before school at 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.**

Often times, it is misleading and/or confusing to parents and students because they never applied or hadn't been asked about being nominated for these programs.

These programs can be worthwhile **if** you can afford them. However, a student should not attend because they think that it will help them stand out and make a difference when they apply to college in senior year - ***IT DOESN'T.***

Writing Test is required by a college or university, go to the admissions page of the school's website.

### **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 on their respective websites. For more information, go to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) and [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

### **Test Prep for the ACT / SAT**

Juniors will have access to online ACT test prep from Analyze Ed after they take the Practice ACT at Marian on January 15.

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](http://www.revolutionprep.com)

#### **Jeanius Prep:**

[www.jeaniusprep.com](http://www.jeaniusprep.com)

## **Scholarship Searches**

While there will not be many scholarships that a junior will be eligible to apply for now, it is possible to complete a profile for an online college scholarship search. There are many to choose from. Our favorites to recommend are [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.collegecovered.com](http://www.collegecovered.com). Both websites also cover many other college-related topics in addition to the scholarship search.