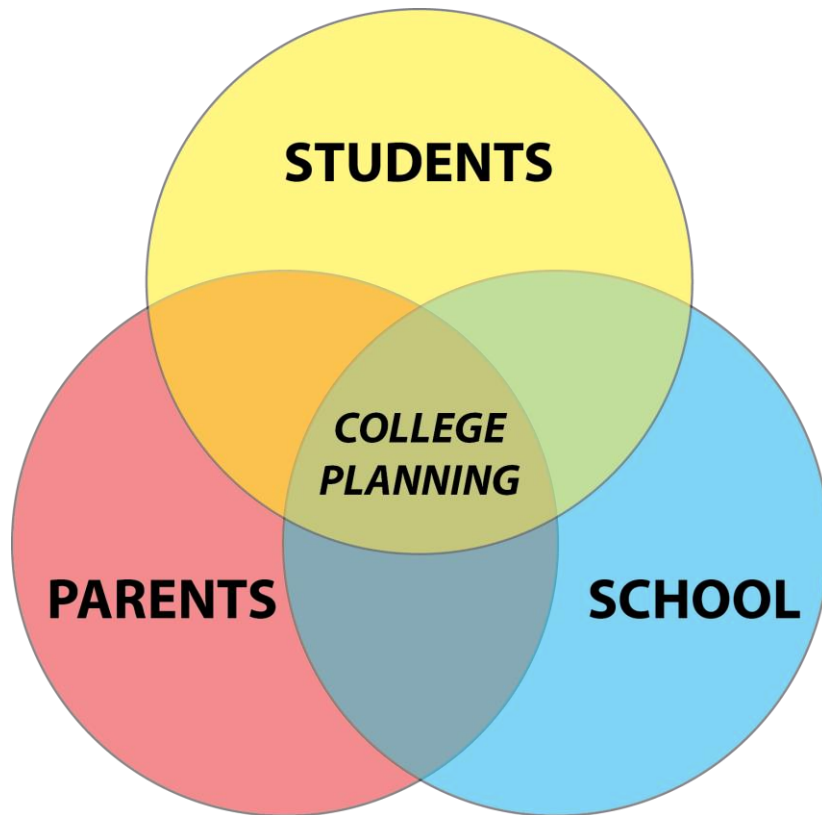




# Parent - Student - School College Planning Program



## College Counseling Program

The college counseling program at Divine Savior Academy (DSA) assists students in their development as life-long servants of Christ. DSA's college counselors guide students individually and collectively throughout the career and college planning process. Ultimately, each student is equipped and assisted to pursue the college and degree program of his or her choice.

### Mission Statement

With the Word of God as its foundation, the college counseling program at Divine Savior Academy assists students in grades 7-12 by providing comprehensive, age-appropriate career and college planning services to successfully prepare students for postsecondary pursuits, and to fully develop God-given abilities for life now and for eternity.

### Partnership of Parents, Students, College Counselors

#### Jeremiah 29:11

New International Version (NIV)

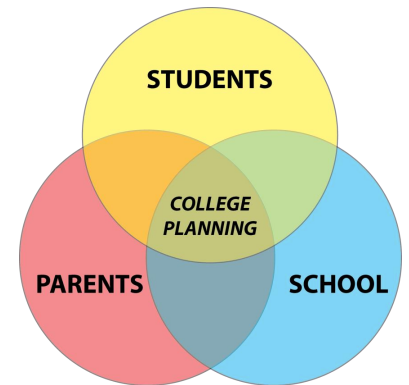
*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

With this reassurance, students can plan for their future with confidence. Yet, navigating the path of admission into college can be tricky.

Even more, very few parents and students feel qualified to take that journey alone. Knowing and following the "rules" is necessary to complete the journey successfully.

DSA's college counselors attend professional conferences, workshops, and seminars each school year to stay current with the ever-changing college counseling landscape. By meeting regularly with college admissions personnel and other college planning professionals, DSA college counselors are well prepared to share current information critical to the admissions process with students and parents.

As partners, parents, students, and the college counselor work together to determine how best to use that information in a way that effectively considers the student's personal goals, characteristics, and resources.



***When any of these three partners – parents, students, and counselors – become disconnected from the process, a student's admission into college becomes less likely, and college goals may be undermined from the start.***

## Partner Expectations

With the stakes so high, the role for each partner – parents, students, college counselors – must be clearly defined and well-managed. How can each partner contribute to this vital partnership?

### COLLEGE COUNSELORS

College counselors at Divine Savior academy will

- work diligently to remain knowledgeable of college advising,
- communicate regularly with parents and students through weekly and monthly newsletters,
- maintain a comprehensive college planning web page,
- maintain a physical collection of helpful resources,
- assist with course scheduling and transcript review,
- oversee individual career planning (e.g., personality assessment, interest inventories, career exploration, etc.)
- conduct regular parent-student college planning meetings,
- coordinate dual enrollment and AP exam opportunities,
- supervise standardize testing plans (e.g., ACT, SAT, TOEFL, etc.)
- offer ACT and SAT test prep opportunities,
- direct students and parents through the college admissions process,
- monitor admission application requirements,
- inform students and parents of scholarship opportunities,
- recognize special student achievements, and
- address both immediate and long-term issues and events related to successful college planning.

Director of College Counseling  
Mr. Tom Welch

College Counselor  
Mrs. Sarah Jimenez

### STUDENTS

By signing the *Student College Planning Agreement Form*, you agree to

- be accountable for your own success or failure,
- recognize that high school is a transition to college and beyond,
- stay informed,
- utilize resources,
- attend scheduled events,
- communicate with parents and counselors,
- meet deadlines (e.g., applications, registrations, scholarships, etc.), and
- fulfill graduation requirements of the DSA college planning program.

### PARENTS

By signing the *Parent College Planning Agreement Form*, you declare your intention to

- participate actively in your student's college planning program,
- become informed by reading communications,
- attend related events scheduled for parents, and
- monitor your student's participation in events required of college planning graduation requirements.

## Grade-Level Benchmarks

Critical benchmarks for college success occur already during the freshman year of high school. Each grade level presents students and parents a set of requirements to be fulfilled before moving forward to the next level and, ultimately, to graduation.

For this reason, the DSA College Planning Program is structured in a manner to most effectively manage these tasks. Freshman year activities build the foundation for the sophomore year, and so on.

For example, college admissions testing occurs during the second semester of the junior year. As a result, test prep activity for both the ACT and the SAT exams is scheduled primarily during the first and early second semester of the junior year, and throughout the sophomore year. Also, college campus visits are scheduled mostly during the junior year. That is because, by then, two key tasks have been completed: 1) conducting career interest inventories during the freshman year and 2) exploring college majors during the sophomore year. These two completed tasks serve as the basis for which programs of study should be considered and which college campuses offering that program should be visited.

## Legal Requirement (Florida Senate Bill 1076)

Effective July 1, 2013, Florida Senate Bill 1076 (SB 1076) established new standard high school diploma requirements for all Florida public high school students. Essentially, Florida public high school students are now required to participate in a "comprehensive career and education planning" program in order to graduate. Further, proof of satisfying the requirements must be recorded on a student's transcript and is noted by college admissions personnel.

Divine Savior Academy meets or exceeds State of Florida's educational standards and educational requirements, and is positioned to respond quite favorably to SB 1076. Our college planning program presently provides students the direction and assistance needed to fulfill the requirements of this new law.

However, with the mandates of SB 1076, parents MUST realize that their participation in the college planning process is no longer "optional!" The new reality resulting from SB 1076 compels an active partnership between parents and college counselors.

For this reason, specific roles and expectations have been established for DSA high school students and their parents.

*To demonstrate commitment to this partnership, students and parents will be asked to sign an Agreement Form. Signatures symbolize the pledge of both parent and student to actively engage in the DSA college planning process*

- 1) so that Florida SB 1076 diploma requirements are fulfilled and*
- 2) to fully maximize a student's preparation for postsecondary pursuits.*

Just as credit deficiencies in math, English, or science would jeopardize a student's graduation, so would failure to complete requirements within the college planning program. Parents, along with students and college counselors, bear responsibility for that consequence.