



Class of 2027

College Counseling Newsletter

October 2025

MARIAN COUNSELING STAFF

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Counselor Assignments for the Class of 2026

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Counselor Assignments for the Classes of 2027, 2028, and 2029

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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.

All-School Testing Day

Tuesday October 28th is Marian's All-School Testing Day. Information for the freshmen and sophomores will be in next week's newsletter.

For the Juniors, they will take a full length practice ACT. After the test, Analyze Ed, a private test prep company, will design a personalized study plan for each junior. This plan will assign focused practice materials for each student based on their performance on the practice ACT. Instead of going over the whole test as one might in a traditional test prep class, Analyze Ed identifies the three areas that the student scored lowest on and focuses on improving those skills so that the student may raise their score. Juniors will receive more information about this later in 2nd quarter.

Other Test Prep Programs Information about other test prep opportunities, including virtual online classes and in-person classes will be distributed to juniors later in 2nd quarter. Included will be information about an in-person test prep class at Marian that is taught by Marian teachers.

Changes to the ACT

Several changes are now in place for the ACT this year. Students may choose to take the ACT Online. The number of questions has been reduced along with the time for the entire test. The reduced number of questions will allow the student to spend more time on each question. Perhaps the biggest change is that the Science test is now optional like the Writing test is. All students taking the ACT will take the English, Math, and Reading tests. The student may then choose to take the Science and/or the Writing test.

What hasn't changed? Students still have the option to take the ACT on paper. The score scale will remain the same: 1 - 36. For more detailed information about the changes, click [here](#).

The Practice ACT that the juniors will take on October 28th and the School Day ACT that they will take in March will include the Science test.

Test Optional / Testing Information

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 2026. The issue is will they remain test optional for the Class of 2027. Hopefully colleges and universities will announce their decision early in first semester as [Princeton University](#) did. For updated information on whether a college / university will be test optional for the Class of 2027, go to the Fair Test website www.fairtest.org or an individual college's admissions website.

Second semester of junior year is usually when students take the ACT and/or SAT for the first time. Marian juniors will take the School Day ACT on Tuesday, March 24th. Watch for more information in future newsletters. Registration for the School Day ACT will be handled by Marian. For the other test dates for both tests, students are responsible for registering themselves – the Counseling Department **DOES NOT** register students for either test.

ACT / SAT Test Dates More information about the test along with how to register is available at

ACT - www.my.act.org

SAT - www.collegeboard.org

Feb 14 ACT registration deadline Jan 9 **March 14 SAT** registration deadline Feb 27

March 24 ACT School day at Marian

May 2 SAT deadline April 17

June 13 ACT deadline May 8 at Marian

June 6 SAT deadline May 22

July 11 ACT deadline June 5

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

For the ACT, students have the option of choosing to take the test online or in paper and pencil format.

There will also be opportunities to take both / either test in the first semester of senior year.

Upcoming College Fairs

If you weren't able to attend the College Fair at Marian on September 30, there are three local college fairs next week.

Students from all years along with parents are invited and encouraged to attend any of these fairs.

Monday, October 20th at Homewood-Flossmoor HS from 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Tuesday, October 21st at Governors State University from 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Wednesday, October 22nd at Joliet Junior College from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

These fairs will be using StriveScan. Students and parents - register [here](#) to create a StriveScan account.

**Marian Catholic HS Code -
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.