



COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWS

April 2026

COLLEGE COUNSELORS

Mr. Rodewald mrodewald@marianchs.com *ext. 4639*

Mr. O'Farrell dofarrell@marianchs.com *ext. 4626*

Mr. O'Brien gobrien@marianchs.com *ext. 1445*

Test Optional Update

At the present time, more than 1,700 colleges and universities are test optional for the Class of 2027.

Many colleges and universities were already test optional before 2020. Many became test optional because of COVID. For some, this decision was permanent while others are reevaluating the test optional policy on a yearly basis. The decision on whether to

remain test optional has hopefully already been made for the Class of 2027. To be on the safe side, it is a good idea to check on a college or university's test optional policy. For updated information on whether a college or university will be test optional, go to the Fair Test website www.fairtest.org or the school's admissions website.

Testing Information

The juniors took the ACT on Tuesday, March 24th. If they have not already checked, their score should be available in their MyACT account. Go to my.act.org.

If a student wants to retake the ACT this school year, there are two remaining test dates – June 13th and July 11th.

Marian is a test center on June 13th. Students are encouraged to register as soon as possible before the May 8th deadline. Last year, we reached capacity 2 weeks before the registration deadline. Students register at my.act.org.

A student may choose to wait until senior year to retake the ACT. Marian will be a test center for the ACT on Saturday, September 19th.

ACT – Science test is optional. The Science score is no longer included when calculating the composite score. Only the English, Math, and Reading scores are used. For the School Day ACT in March, the juniors took the Science. We wanted them to have a score in case a college that they apply to requires the Science score. If they are satisfied with their score and don't plan to retake the ACT, they will have a Science score if it is required for admission to the college or to a specific program. If they decide to retake the ACT, it is their decision on whether or not to take the Science test.

SAT - A student may choose to take the SAT. The next SAT test date is Saturday, May 2nd - the registration deadline is this FRIDAY, APRIL 17th. Go to the [College Board](#) website to register. The SAT may only be taken as a digital test. College Board no longer offers the SAT on paper.

College Essay Workshop

Be on the lookout for a mailing with information about a workshop on writing the college application essay. Students may register for a 90-minute workshop on either June 2nd or June 3rd.

College Counseling Conferences

If you haven't already requested a college counseling conference, there is still time to schedule a conference. Contact one of the college counselors.

Common App

During the 4th quarter, the college counselors will be meeting with juniors in their English class to introduce them to the Common App. This application is used by more than 1,100 colleges and universities. There will be workshops later in August to assist the students in completing the application.

Visiting Colleges

Need help planning college visits? As Marian Catholic juniors and seniors begin preparing for college, campus visits can be an exciting — and sometimes overwhelming — part of the journey. To help simplify the travel side of the process, **Capital Ventures**, led by Marian alum **Paris Glenn (Class of 2012)**, is offering **complimentary travel advisory support** for Marian families planning college visits.

Capital Ventures assists families with coordinating travel logistics for campus tours, including transportation options (such as flights, trains, rental cars) and nearby hotel accommodations. The goal is to make college visits more accessible, organized, and stress-free — especially for families navigating the process for the first time or traveling long distances.

All services provided to Marian families are **100% pro bono**, and there is no fee for assistance. Through partnerships with global travel providers, families may also benefit from preferred rates and exclusive perks not typically available to the public.

This resource is designed to allow students and parents to focus on what matters most: finding the right college fit. Contact Paris at paris.glenn@fora.travel or (708) 829-5839

Scholarship Searches

While there are not many scholarships that a junior will be eligible to apply for now or over the summer, it is a good time to complete a profile for an online college scholarship search. There are many to choose from. Two scholarship searches that we recommend are www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com. Fastweb also covers many other college-related topics in addition to the scholarship search.

MARIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL CODE - 141393

It is required when registering to take either the ACT or SAT and may also be asked for when completing other college forms. It is sometimes referred to as a CEEB code.