



College Counseling Newsletter

August 2026

MISSION OF MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Marian Catholic High School, rooted in the Dominican tradition, inspires students through prayer, study, community, and preaching to grow in faith, achieve academic excellence, and become compassionate, courageous leaders committed to Christian Service.

Senior Parent Night - Wednesday August 26th

6:30 PM Leadership Center

Dear Parent of a Senior,

All parents of a senior are encouraged to attend this program. The college counselors, Mr. Gerry O'Brien and Ms. Jessica Rzab, will explain Marian's procedures for the college application process.

The presentation will be recorded for parents that are not able to attend Senior Parent Night. Information about how to view the presentation will be emailed to parents and also included in the September College Counseling Newsletter.

Seniors **DO NOT** have to attend this program - the college counselors will meet with the seniors in English class for Senior Orientation during the first week of school. During orientation, the counselors will explain the procedures for submitting applications, requesting letters of recommendation and transcripts, college application deadlines and scholarship information.

Counselor Assignments for the Class of 2027

A - N Ms. Rzab jrzab@marianchs.com

O - Z Mr. O'Brien gobrien@marianchs.com

Common App (www.commonapp.org)

The Common Application is used by more than 1,100 colleges and universities. In Illinois, 56 colleges and universities use the Common App, including all 12 public universities. In Indiana, 36 colleges and universities use the Common App, including Ball State, Indiana State, Indiana University, and Purdue University. All Big 10 and Ivy League universities use the Common App. Here are some of the colleges and universities that Marian seniors traditionally apply to that use the Common App - DePaul, Hampton, Howard, Illinois Wesleyan, Lewis, Loyola, Morehouse, Saint Xavier, Spelman, St. Mary's (IN), Tuskegee, U of Chicago, and U of Notre Dame.

The college counselors visited English classes last May to have the students create a Common App account. Seniors are invited to attend a session on completing the Common App on Friday August 7th from 9 AM to Noon or Monday August 10th from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. The college counselors will also talk about the Common App when the seniors visit the College Room for Senior Orientation.

Common Black College Application

The Common Black College Application is accepted by 67 HBCUs. A complete list of all 67 colleges may be found at <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>. A student may apply to as many of the 67 colleges as they want for only \$20.

Test Optional Update

According to Fair Test (www.fairtest.org), there are over 1,800 colleges and universities that do not require test scores for admission. However, it is important to check with individual schools because while a school may be test optional, test scores may be required for certain majors and/or scholarships.

Information about ACT (www.act.org) / **SAT** (www.collegeboard.org)

For more information and to register for either test, go to the websites listed above.

Marian is a test center and is already at capacity for the ACT on September 19th. To take the ACT at Marian, students will have to wait until after the Late Registration September 1st deadline and register

as a standby. The standby fee is an additional \$75 (total cost \$145). To take the ACT at another test center, the registration deadline is **August 14th** to avoid paying the late fee of \$42.

There are two more ACT test dates in first semester - October 17 and December 12.

SAT test dates in first semester are September 12, October 3, November 7, and December 5.

Self-Reporting Grades / Test Scores

Several universities do not require a student to submit a transcript and / or test scores. Students self-report their grades and / or test scores. If a student decides to attend the university, they will need to submit official test scores later in March and a final transcript next summer after they have graduated. Seniors will learn more about this during their orientation.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Marian will host a Financial Aid Night for College later in the fall. Check the Marian newsletters and the College Counseling newsletters for the date and time of this program.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming programs

Saturday, August 8th - [Colleges that Change Lives](#) Doubletree by Hilton Chicago Oak Brook from 11AM to 1 PM Click [here](#) for more information

Friday, September 11th - Chicago Football Classic College & Career Fair @ United Club at Soldier Field from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. Click [here](#) for more information.

Tuesday September 15th - 2nd Annual Chicago Latino College Expo @ Columbia College Chicago from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM Click [here](#) for more information

Saturday, September 26th - NACAC College Fair McCormick Place @ Lakeside Center, Hall D1 from 11 AM to 3 PM - for more information, click [here](#).

Monday, October 19th - College Fair at Homewood-Flossmoor HS from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. More information along with a list of the colleges and universities attending the fair will be available in early September.

For information about other college fairs and programs, please check emails and future newsletters. Also check college websites to see if they are hosting an admission event in the Chicagoland area.

Marian Catholic HS Code - 141393