



Holy Family High School

College Counselor

October 2011

by Mr. William P. Wilson

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College Fairs

Out of State College Fairs 10-12 at Monarch & 10-13 at Kennedy 6:30-8:30pm ~ Fair & Workshop 10-15 at Douglas County 10am-2pm ~ Arts Fair 10-18

PSAT/PLAN

All juniors and sophomores will take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) on October 12th. This test provides both a preview and a practice opportunity for the SAT. All freshmen will take the PLAN which provides a preview and practice opportunity for the ACT. Sophomores will take the PLAN on October 18th.

For Juniors, the results of the PSAT are also used to determine qualifiers for the National Merit Scholarship Competition, the largest source of scholarship money in the country.

Counselors have visited Junior and Sophomore English classes to explain the PSAT and to distribute printed information that includes strategy and practice questions. Parents should ask to see this information and review it. In order to achieve their best, students should be familiar with the test instructions and format and should practice the sample questions in advance. It is especially important that they go through the entire PSAT sample test.

In addition to a preview of the ACT, the PLAN contains a career planning component which is helpful in some early decision making about college majors.

Counselors met with the Freshmen and Sophomores in their English classes to explain this test. The handout they received refers them to www.planstudent.org. Encourage them to review this information before October 12th.

Holy Family High School pays for all of these tests.

College Fairs

For seniors, the college fairs are a great opportunity to get answers to specific questions or help complete their college search. Juniors will find this experience valuable as a way to expand their awareness of college options and begin to exercise control in the college decision process. Freshmen and sophomores are welcome and encouraged to attend as well.

Wednesday, October 12th at Monarch HS and Thursday, October 13th at Kennedy HS are the dates for the annual Out of State Colleges Fair. Over 200 colleges will have admission representatives available from 6:30pm to 8:30pm to talk with interested students and parents and to distribute information.

Saturday, October 15th at Douglas County HS is the college workshop. The out of state colleges will be joined by the instate colleges, and presentations on a variety of topics will be available.

Tuesday, October 18th at 7pm is a performing and visual arts college fair at the Denver Performing Arts Center.

College Rep Visits

Over seventy colleges and universities are scheduled to have an admission representative visit HFHS this fall. I expect that more will schedule. These visits are an excellent way for students to learn about specific colleges and make contact with someone from the admission office. Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to be released from class to meet with these reps.

Counselor Meetings

I have met with a large portion of the senior class to talk about their college plans and the schedule they need to follow this fall. Please talk with your son or daughter about whether or not things are on track. The biggest task at hand is deciding on the colleges to which he/she intends to apply.

I will continue meeting with seniors individually to discuss their plans and what the next steps involve. In some cases, parents have been a part of these meetings as well. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call me at 303-410-1411 x1119 or email me at will.wilson@holyfamilyhs.com.

Fall Test Dates

<u>SAT</u>		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Nov. 5	Oct. 7	Oct. 21
Dec. 3	Nov. 8	Nov. 20

<u>ACT</u>		
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline
Oct. 22	Sept. 16	Sept. 30
Dec. 10	Nov. 4	Nov. 18

Register on-line at www.collegeboard.org (SAT) and www.actstudent.org.

PSAT and PLAN

Test Date—Wednesday, October 12th (All sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT. All freshmen will take the PLAN.) Sophomores will take the PLAN on Tuesday, October 18th.

It's Application Time

October begins the period during which seniors should be filling out their college applications. Most colleges prefer that students apply online through their websites. In some cases, the student will need to call the college to get an application. Also available is www.commonapp.org which offers one application good at hundreds of colleges.

The admission application often provides the first impression of an applicant. Applications should be typed if not completed online. Whatever the method, they should be complete, be neat, and above all, be on time.

School Report/Counselor forms should be brought to the College Counseling Center, three weeks before any deadline, to be processed. I will complete the School Report, attach a transcript and school profile, and include recommendations and test scores if requested.

Register for the SAT/ACT

If students have not registered by now for the upcoming ACT and SAT tests then they may end up paying a late fee or a standby fee along with the regular registration fee.

All senior testing must be completed by December in order to be included in admission decisions. It is important to plan ahead.

Visiting Colleges

Fall is an ideal time to make college visits. School is in session, the weather usually cooperates, and most importantly, colleges are geared up for visits from prospective students. I suggest that students and their parents plan to spend a half day on campus, observing, touring, and talking with students and admission representatives. It is best to call ahead and make arrangements. This way your visit will be more personalized, including classroom visits, meetings with professors or coaches, and meals in the cafeteria. All are typically available if you ask.

Juniors and seniors may be excused

from school to visit colleges. If your son or daughter will be absent for this purpose, he/she will need to complete an Application for Advanced Absence which is available in the main office. Parents will need to sign this form and return it at least one week before the scheduled absence. All students are off on October 14th & 21st. Take advantage!

Our seniors are off on the October 12th testing day. They are expected to visit colleges and/or work on applications on this day.

Scholarship Information

We regularly receive scholarship information in our office that we try to make known to students. Posters, announcements, and flyers arrive nearly every week. Some notices involve contests while others include a simple application. A list of scholarships is updated regularly and posted in the Counseling Center, on the school website, and in the senior English classrooms. Students should consult the list periodically to check for additions. There are worthwhile guidebooks available in the Counseling Center as well.

www.fastweb.com is the best scholarship search site available. It features millions of opportunities.

A Time of Stress

College bound seniors are facing some pressure and likely feeling related anxiety. On top of getting good grades, providing senior leadership to their school, and trying to make the most of their senior year, we are also asking them to make decisions that will impact the rest of their lives. The mountain of paperwork and impending deadlines make matters worse. This is all very exciting, but very stressful. As parents, you share these emotions, both good and bad. Do your best to balance your support with gentle insistence. Try to keep your son or daughter on task without adding to the stress. Good luck!

NCAA Clearinghouse

Any senior considering participating in Division I or II sports in college must

be registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse. Registration should be completed online at www.eligibilitycenter.org

College Opportunity Fund

Seven years ago our state legislature created the College Opportunity Fund, a voucher system for Colorado residents attending public colleges in the state (and some private colleges in the state but for Pell Grant eligible families only).

The state legislature formerly gave money directly to the colleges based on the number of Colorado residents attending each institution. With this new program families are given a voucher certificate, which allows the colleges to receive money from the legislature for each Colorado resident attending public colleges in the state. The money will still travel directly from the legislature to the colleges; each family will simply receive a certificate to forward on to the colleges.

All high school students should register for the program at www.collegeincolorado.org. Click on College Opportunity Fund.

HFHS Website Upgrade

Content has been added to www.holyfamilyhs.com. Click on 'Academics' then 'Guidance' for college related information. Check the sidebar for links.

COLLEGE FAIRS

Out of State College Nights

- Wednesday, October 12th
Monarch HS
6:30-8:30 p.m.

- Thursday, October 13th
Kennedy HS
6:30-8:30 p.m.

College Workshop & Fair

- Saturday, October 15th
Douglas County HS
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Performing & Visual Arts Fair

- Tuesday, October 18th
Denver Center for PA
7-9 p.m.