



# CARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Junior College Counseling: August 2021



PROVIDING AN EXCELLENT  
*classical* EDUCATION,  
FOUNDED UPON A  
*biblical* WORLDVIEW

# CARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

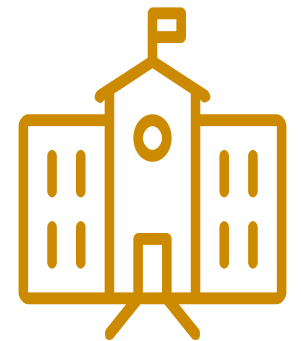
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# Welcome and topics

We are going to cover:

1. Changes in the College Admission Landscape
2. Testing
3. PSAT
4. Upcoming College Counseling Events
5. College Lists
6. Specialized Recruiting
7. Resumes
8. Summer Activities

# Topics

We are going to cover:

1. **Changes in the College Admission Landscape**
2. Testing
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# Changes in the College Admission Landscape

For the current admission cycle, most, but not all colleges are test optional. This means that they are doing holistic review of applications.

Holistic review=

- evaluating student's transcript for both courses and grades
- application, Common App Essay, and short answer essays
- teacher letters of recommendation
- school profile
- activities, sports, jobs,
- outside learning opportunities
- counselor letters of recommendation (aka written evaluation)
- test scores, when applicable
- ranks or decile

# Changes in College Admission Landscape

- Some campuses are closed for visitors, others allow small groups.
- Most colleges are trying to be in person—though mandatory vaccine requirements or weekly testing requirements could be enforced
- All (or almost all) are offering Virtual Visits
- Many colleges are test optional. A few are test blind.
- Colleges still expect to see more applicants than in the past
- Most who had students defer a year for admission, are still accepting as many students as previously

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# Testing

- Due to the pandemic, many colleges are test optional for students applying for Fall 2022 admission (current seniors.) Some schools have even gone “test blind.” (<https://www.fairtest.org/sites/default/files/Test-Blind-Admissions-List.pdf>)
- While some schools will stay test optional for Fall 2023 admission (current juniors), others have announced that they will be requiring tests (SAT, ACT, or in some cases CLT.)
- Why? Because testing is a standardized way to gauge a student’s academics. While most all schools value the students academic record (transcript) above test scores, they can glean valuable information from test scores.
- I recommend that students prepare for and take College Admissions Tests. They are regularly being administered on Saturdays at Saturday testing sites. Register at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), or [www.CLT.org](http://www.CLT.org).

# What does that mean to you?

- Students, you need to practice, prepare, and perform well on your college admissions tests. Your test score should support your GPA.
- Sign up for the SAT or ACT. Registration deadlines are usually 6 week before the test.
- SAT is offered once a month in August, October, November, December, March, May, and June.
- ACT is offered once a month in September, October, December, February, April, June, and July.
- Both are accepted by colleges. Some colleges though, will not require them, but it is hard to know where your son or daughter will apply and what the requirements will be next year. Therefore, I recommend that students try to take them at least two times, preferably three times *with proper preparation each time*.

# College Admissions Testing-

ACT: [www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org)

Four sections: Reading, writing, science, and math. 36 perfect score.

Strongly consider ACT if English > Math by 70 points on SAT.

Note: pre-pandemic, they had announced a single section retest would be available. That has been delayed. ACT automatically Superscores when reporting.

SAT: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

Part of the SAT suite of assessments which include the PSAT, SAT, and SAT II (subject tests)

Two sections: EBRW and Math

Strongly consider SAT if Math > English by 50 points on SAT.

SAT no longer offers SAT II's (Subject Tests) or the Essay (Writing)

CLT: [www.clt.org](http://www.clt.org)

New, classical test. There is a limited but growing college acceptance.

# Test Prep

- Don't go in cold to a test! Do test prep! Juniors, you are in your sweet spot of college admissions testing! *Make a plan and work it.*
- ACT offers free ACT Academy, and some pay for services.
- SAT offers Khan Academy for free, and some pay for services.
- A list of Test Prep Tutors is in your folders and available outside of my office.
- If applying to West Point, consider <https://www.march2success.com/>

# New testing policies on the College Admissions Landscape

Increasingly more schools are doing self-reported grades and test scores. Accuracy matters.

More schools are going “test optional” but not all. You should continue to test.

ACT and SAT are the big two. CLT is a distant, but up-and-coming third.

I think that next year, testing will be required for some, but not all highly selective and elite schools.

If applying to highly selective schools or service academies, look on their admission site to see what is required. Instead of SAT Subject Tests some highly selective schools are requiring or allowing AP Scores as part of admission review

Only a handful (7) of colleges require the Essay. Only take if the student is applying to a West Point or a college that requires it.

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# PSAT/NMSQT What is it and why should my kid take it?

Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

- The PSAT/NMSQT is the Practice SAT and National Merit Standardized Qualifying Test. Essentially it is two things in one: a practice SAT and the only way to qualify for National Merit Scholarships.
- I recommend that all Juniors take it to gain practice with standardized tests and see their strengths and weaknesses and to qualify for National Merit. Four current seniors will be recognized in some way.
- I recommend that Juniors prepare for this exam. Do not go in blind! (10<sup>th</sup> grade was the year to go in blind---but now testing is going to start to matter.)
- **Tomorrow, Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline to register for the exam. You must register through the link in the Knightly News via Veracross Pay.

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# Upcoming College Counseling Events

In class with Juniors and Individual Meetings

- Tomorrow, I will have **class time with Juniors**. I will go over this and some Naviance information with them.
- **College Visits:** In person, outside lunch visits from 12:20 pm to 1 pm with College Reps will take place Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in September at the Pavilion. I encourage all juniors to attend and meet with at least five colleges! It is a great opportunity to establish rapport, learn about admission requirements, and scholarships. Can see list of schools under “College Visits” in Naviance.
- **College Fair:** On the calendar for **Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 6:30 pm in the gym**.
- In third quarter, I will hold **individual Junior Student/Parent/Counselor meetings**. The purpose of these is to help prepare the student for successful college applications by reviewing career interests, grades, potential college lists, and more. These will begin around and go through February 26<sup>th</sup>. The student must be present. Sign up will be via my Calendly link at the beginning of third quarter.

# Junior Student/Parent/Counselor meeting

Student must be present!

More info to come out about this as we get closer.

Parents: complete the Parent Brag sheet prior to coming in for the meeting

Students: complete your rising senior survey prior to coming in for the meeting

Review your transcript. Make sure that it is accurate and reflects your CCS activities. If you have corrections or additions, make notes and turn it into me either by September 3<sup>rd</sup> or in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

Graduation requirements: have you taken a semester of art, music, and PE/sport?

Students, start thinking about AP classes for next year. Currently we offer AP Physics, AP Statistics, and AP Calculus AB. Registration for those will take place in the next year.

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# College Lists and Visits

- Students will be instructed to have 5 to 8 schools in Naviance under “colleges that I am thinking about.”
- In an ideal, non-Covid world, students would have visited at least 3-5 schools by now. NCSU, Peace, Meredith, Shaw, Duke, UNC-CH, and Campbell are all nearby.
- Please make your own college lists—do not use the same one that your best friend made. You have different gifts and talents. Create your own.
- At this point, I suggest having a good mix of private and state schools. Some private schools offer great academic scholarships, have managed to be in person this fall, and provide more personalized education.
- Consider also the opportunities available at Community Colleges such as Wake Tech or Durham Tech. (C3 program at UNC Chapel Hill)

# College Lists-Types of Colleges

- Four-year Colleges: Both public ( ie: the 16 schools in the UNC System) or private (High Point University, Grove City College, Duke, etc.)
- Two-year Colleges: Community Colleges, Louisburg, etc.
- United States Service Academies
- As students curate lists, they should consider selectivity and admissibility.
  - Reach**-Academic reach or admission selectivity. Has desired major or field.
  - Target**-Academics are in the mid 50's. Admission rate is 40% or better. Has desired major or field.
  - Safety**-Student is significantly above the mid 50's. Admission is likely. Has desired major or field.

# Why to consider a Christian college

- As parents, you have invested in your child's classical Christian education. They have a solid foundation. The secular culture at public schools is moving further away from a Biblical worldview. What influence do you want professors to have on your child?
- Look at the college's goals, purpose, and culture. What do they value? What is their culture?
- Most Christian schools have cultures that support the Gospel. But you still must do your due diligence.
- Look at the retention rate, graduation rate, % going to medical and law school, % employed in 6 months after graduation. Sometimes Christian schools have higher percentages than some well known large public schools. Consider the intangibles such as a culture that supports the Christian faith.

# College Visits

Covid has impacted them, but many campuses are still allowing small group visits.

- Schedule a virtual tour. Ask questions. See if they are scheduling in person tours. Talk to CCS alums to see if they can tell you about the school or show you around. If they have a mask requirement, please honor it. Even if you can't take an official tour, seeing a campus can be meaningful.
- Have you seen an urban campus? What is a college town? Do you prefer a large school?
- Questions to ask on a college visit. (I will give to the juniors in December.)
- Spreadsheet to help keep track of visits, pros and cons, etc.

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# Specialized Recruiting

- Thinking about a United States Service Academy? Pick up a sheet on the Service Academy Info Session, register, and attend.
- Want to play \_\_\_\_\_ (sport, noun) in college? Mr. Poore and I had information sessions last year and will hold one at lunch on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Students should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. I will send in Final Junior Transcripts in early June. If you need an unofficial transcript before that, please reach out.
- Service Academy-summer session applications opened January 1. Due dates are usually in January. If interested, act promptly.

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# Resumes

- In February, I will work with Miss Baker to teach a unit on resumes. Juniors will have a well constructed resume at the conclusion of that week. If a student needs to beef up activities or leadership, now is the time to get involved!
- Students will begin creating them in Naviance. The polished, finished product will be done in Word or Google Docs.
- Their resumes become very helpful for filling out college applications, applying for scholarships, and applying for jobs.

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# Summer Activities and Volunteering Ideas

- Volunteer Activities-Dorcas Shop, Habitat for Humanity, local hospitals, YMCA, Miracle League, Teen Court, tutoring, etc.
- Mission Trips
- Jobs
- College Camps – explore potential majors or careers. Learn new skills. See my bulletin board!
- Summer Sessions for Service Academies
- Summer sports camps
- Boys’ State, Girls’ State, Boy Scout High Adventure opportunities, Venture Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, etc.
- Possible goals: broaden your horizon, serve the community, serve the disadvantaged population, make money, learn a new skill, explore, etc.

# Conclusion

Questions and Answers



# THANK YOU

Cary Christian School College Counseling Presentation