



# CARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Junior College Counseling: January 2022



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

# CARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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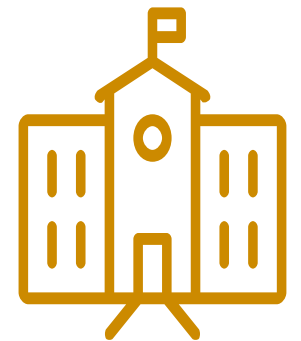
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# Welcome and topics

- We are going to cover:
- **PSAT Results**
- Testing and College Admissions Updates
- Upcoming College Counseling Events
- College Lists
- Summer Activities
- Specialized Recruiting
- Resumes

# PSAT Results October 2021

- National Average: 995                      EBRW: 506                      Math: 488
- **CCS Juniors: 1231**                      **EBRW: 643**                      **Math: 588**
- Benchmarks for 11<sup>th</sup> grade              EBRW: 460                      Math: 510
  
- What the Benchmarks Mean: The College and Career Readiness Benchmarks for the current SAT predict a 75% likelihood of achieving a C or higher in related first-semester, credit-bearing college courses. The benchmarks are set at the section level, so there is a benchmark for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and a benchmark for Math. Score reports for the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 include grade-level benchmarks based on how students grow from year to year toward the SAT benchmarks.
  
- **All CCS Juniors met the benchmark for EBRW. Congratulations!**
- **Note, from last year, the national average fell by 49 points, and the CCS average rose by 70 points. Shout out to our students and teachers for this great result!**

# Understanding your PSAT answer sheet

Student must access it online via [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
<https://counselors.collegeboard.org/pdf/sample-psat-8-9-score-report.pdf>

Approaching Benchmarks

Answer keys

Link to Khan Academy for FREE test prep! I highly recommend especially if you missed or were approaching the math benchmark.

National Merit Index:  $2(\text{Reading} + \text{Writing} + \text{math}) = \text{Index}$

National Merit determined by state. Previous years in NC 219-222.

If you didn't meet the benchmark, I urge you to get tutoring in that area!

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# New things on the College Admissions Landscape

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.

## Terminology:

Test Optional-it is the student’s option to share a test score (Does it support my GPA?)

Test Required-the college requires the test

Test Blind-the college will not consider a test score even if it is submitted

For some schools, admissions is test optional, but they use test scores in determining scholarships.

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

If a test is required or optional, increasingly more schools are doing self-reported grades and test scores. Accuracy matters. Be sure to follow the instructions on the website.



# COVID and Colleges

- Pay attention to how a college is currently handling COVID. Vax required? Testing? In person classes? Quarantines?
- College Admissions Offices are offering more virtual events.
- Don't judge a college just on a 15-minute virtual tour. The best way to see a college is still a "boots on the ground, in person tour."
- Book tours early because some schools are limiting the size of tours and info sessions.

# College Admissions Testing- see calendar in your folder

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: they talked about introducing single section retesting. It has been put on hold.

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

Part of the SAT suite of assessments which include the PSAT, SAT, and AP Exams.

SAT announced that they will be moving to digital exams effective 2024 in the USA.

Two sections: EBRW and Math

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

Discontinued the SAT II (aka SAT Subject Tests)

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

New, classical test. Growing college acceptance.

At this point, I do *not* recommend oscillating back and forth on tests. Pick one and stick with it.

# 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 available outside of my office or as a handout today.
- Reminder, if you didn't meet the PSAT benchmark in math, get a tutor!

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# Upcoming College Counseling Events

- **Individual Junior/Parent/College Counselor Individual Meetings** until March 3rd  
<https://calendly.com/lsmithccscollegecounseling/60min>  
Must complete the Rising Senior Survey and the Parent Brag Sheet
- **Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 7 pm. College Admissions Panel**  
Featuring: University of Alabama, Grove City College, High Point University, and NCSU.
- **Practice ACT via Compass Test Prep at CCS, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to Noon**  
Signup information in the Knightly News. (\$10). Deadline to register is February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Late Registration for AP Exams is February 14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Signup information in the Knightly News. (\$165 including late fees.)
- **TBD in May Meeting about Dual Enrollment at CCS**  
A few classes dual credit classes with Colorado Christian University will be offered for seniors next year. More info in May. (\$200 per class.)
- **AP Exams are May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 13<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD**  
See College Board for dates and times.
- **College Essay Bootcamp July 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>** taught by Mrs. Clarkson and Ms. Smith  
Signup via Knightly News at beginning of Q4 (\$215)

# Junior Student/Parent/College Counselor meeting

**Student must be present!**

**Please check with your teacher if you are missing class for the meeting.**

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 into me at the meeting or in a folder outside my office. (Note: clubs will be added at the end of the school year.)

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 couple of months.

College Lists, summer activities, etc.

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# College Lists and Visits

- Students should have 5 to 8 schools in Naviance under “colleges that I am thinking about.”
- Students should have visited at least 3-5 schools. NCSU, Peace, Meredith, Shaw, Duke, UNC-CH, and Campbell are all nearby.
- 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 in-state schools. Some private schools offer great academic scholarships.
- Most lunch-time college visits are held in the fall. We may have an occasional one in the spring. See Commons Message Board, Knightly News, and email for any that may occur in the spring.



# College Visits

- Have you seen an urban campus? What is a college town? Do you prefer a large school?
- Questions to ask on a college visit
- Spreadsheet to help keep track of visits, pros and cons, etc.

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# Specialized Recruiting

Pick up applicable handout at the front of the room

- Thinking about a United States Service Academy? Want to play \_\_\_\_\_ (sport, noun) in college?
- Service Academy-summer session applications opened January 1. Due dates are usually in January. If interested, act promptly.
- Student athletes should register on the NCAA clearinghouse.
- Students, it is your responsibility to let Mr. Poore, Athletic Director, know if you intend on signing to play sports in college. Give him two weeks notice in advance of the NLI date.

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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!
- 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.

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# Resumes

- In February, I will work with Mrs. McGrath to do a unit on resumes.
- 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.

# Conclusion

Action points:

- Decide on College Admissions testing and begin practicing so that you get a score that supports your GPA
- Sign up for Junior Student/Parent/Counselor meeting
- Saves dates for College Counseling Events





# THANK YOU

Cary Christian School College Counseling Presentation