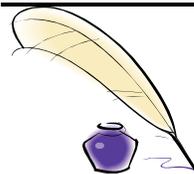


COLLEGE INKLINGS

THE ACADEMY OF THE HOLY NAMES
COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XXII, NUMBER 1
September, 2017



An Introduction

College Inklings is our monthly newsletter designed to keep you apprised of events, issues, and trends in the college admissions process.

The counseling department also puts out a bi-weekly memo which lists specific scholarship opportunities, college visits, and college-related events. Juniors and seniors receive the memo in Power School every other week. Both the newsletter and the weekly memo can be found on the school website on the College Counseling page. These two publications are our best means for constant communication to our students and parents.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with your questions at 839-5371.



College Fair 2017

You are cordially invited to attend our 21st annual College Fair, hosted by the Academy of the Holy Names in conjunction with the Bay Area Association of Independent Schools.

WHEN: Sunday, October 1st, 2017

1 to 3 PM

WHERE – THE COLISEUM

Downtown St. Petersburg

535 Fourth Avenue North

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Over 200 colleges and universities will be represented. This is an ideal opportunity to meet with college admissions counselors to gather information on schools that might be an ideal fit for you. **Juniors and their parents are strongly encouraged** to attend this event. Sophomores and seniors are welcome and eager freshmen may also attend.

Details with a list of participants will be distributed to the students in homeroom the week prior to the event. Parking is free and available behind the Coliseum and across the street. Doors open promptly at 1 PM.



TESTING

Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. The PSAT is a practice SAT to prepare students to take the SAT in the spring of the junior year. It is an excellent predictor of how a student will ultimately fare on the SAT. PSAT preparation materials will be distributed to the students. Please review the PSAT Student Bulletin and take the PSAT practice test prior to test day. ALL students should come prepared on test day with their Social Security numbers, sharpened #2 pencils, and a calculator.

Students will report to their assigned rooms on the morning of October 11th and they will begin testing immediately at 8 AM.

PLEASE NOTE THE 8 AM start time; it won't be a late start day!!!

Testing will end at approximately 11:30 AM. Students must wear their school uniforms. Please contact the College Counseling Office if you have any questions.

We are pleased to offer an optional PRACTICE PSAT test to sophomores and juniors on Saturday, September 23rd at 9 AM here at AHN. Students will check in between 8:30 and 8:45 AM and testing will begin promptly at 9 AM. Testing will conclude at noon.

To register for the practice PSAT, please go to: <https://www.revolutionprep.com/partners/practice-exams/>

(Enter in the zip code: 33629)

Registration deadline is Monday, September 18th.



The Finish Line...

A reminder that AHN requires that **ALL** state of **Florida public** university college applications (except for UF and FSU) be submitted by **Wednesday, September 20th**. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** **Applications to UF and FSU must be completed by October 1st at the very latest.**

Friday, December 1st is the deadline for **seniors** to hand in **ALL college applications!** Applications will not be accepted after this date.

Wise seniors will complete their applications by the priority deadline of November 1st.



SENIORS:

On Wednesday, October 11th, PSAT Day, Mrs. Dwyer and Ms. Keegan will be available to assist you with your out-of-state college applications and your college essays. This is an excellent opportunity to make great strides in completing your college applications.



College Planning Night for Juniors

Juniors and parents of juniors are invited to attend our annual College Planning Night on **Wednesday, November 8th at 6:30 PM** in the Brady Center. A panel of college deans of admission will answer your questions on topics including: choosing colleges, deadlines for submitting essays, resumes, and letters of recommendation, SAT and ACT testing, financial aid and scholarships, the Florida Bright Futures Program, and the application process. Hope to see you there!



Florida Bright Futures Program

The Florida Bright Futures Program provides scholarships for Florida residents who attend college IN-STATE, provided that they meet the academic criteria for eligibility.

On Friday, October 13th, the seniors will report to their homerooms during the advisory period. They will be required to bring their MacBooks and they will go online to register with the Florida Bright Futures Program.

Seniors are required to register online with the Florida Department of Education in order to give the Academy of the Holy Names the right to release their academic information to the Department of Education.

Every senior is required to submit this form, whether or not she plans on attending college in Florida. (The Florida Bright Futures funds are made available to any student who initially qualified for the program at high

school graduation, should she decide to transfer to a school in Florida during her undergraduate years in college.)

The test score requirements are as follows:

Florida Academic Scholarship-Minimum of **29** ACT Composite or **1290** SAT combined Critical Reading and Math scores.

Florida Medallion Scholarship-Minimum of **26** ACT Composite or **1170** SAT combined Critical Reading and Math scores.

It is critical for each student to provide her **CORRECT** Social Security Number to avoid major problems with obtaining her scholarship money. Also, each student will receive a letter from the Florida Department of Education in late December that will confirm submission of her Florida Financial Aid Form and this letter will contain a **pin number** that will allow the student to view her account online and to make any necessary changes in the future. **HANG ON TO THE PIN NUMBER!!!**

Your transcript will be submitted to the Florida Department of Education for review in early March. For more information on the Florida Bright Futures Program go to:

<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/> or call the Florida Bright Futures hotline at 1-888-827-2004.



Advice to ponder...

(Courtesy of “Don’t trust your friends’ advice on getting into college — and other tips from admissions experts” by Valerie Strauss, August 11, 2016, The Washington Post.)

- “Just because you haven’t heard of a college, doesn’t mean it isn’t ‘good.’ College is what you make of the experience, not the experience that is handed to you. You are going to be fine wherever you end up, as long as you put some effort into it.”
- “Relax!! It will all be okay! Believe in yourself and your abilities and things will work out.”
- “It’s OK to admit you don’t know what you want. In fact, you probably shouldn’t know what you want. Everyone around you who says they wished they had been more directed and goal-oriented when they applied to college has forgotten what it was like to be a senior in high school.”
- “If you focus exclusively on your reach schools, you’re likely to be disappointed, and if you can’t find more likely options that you’re truly excited about, among the over 3,000 options, you have no one to blame but yourself.”
- “This is one of the best adventures you will embark on. Enjoy it!”