

COLLEGE INKLINGS

THE ACADEMY OF THE HOLY NAMES
COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER
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Florida Bright Futures Program

Seniors: ALL seniors are required to register for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship between **7:45 AM** and **8:45 AM** on **Wednesday, October 18th** in the **2nd Floor ILab.**

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.) Each senior has until graduation to qualify for the scholarship.

*****Please note –You will need to bring your laptop and your correct Social Security Number in order to register for the program.** 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.



2017 Financial Aid Workshop

The Academy of the Holy Names Guidance Department will host its annual Financial Aid Workshop for parents on **Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 6 PM in the 2nd floor ILAB.**

The workshop will be presented by **Ms. Jacqueline LaTorrella, Director of Financial Aid** at the **University of Tampa**. Ms. LaTorrella will review the financial aid application process, the FAFSA, scholarships, loans, and other pertinent information related to funding your daughter's college education.

Parents of every grade level are welcome to attend this event. Please contact Miss Keegan or Mrs. Dwyer in the guidance department if you have any questions.



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 North**. All juniors and parents are strongly encouraged to attend. A panel of college admission experts will address the many ways you can skillfully navigate the college application process.

No RSVP necessary. Please contact Ms. Kerry Keegan in the College Counseling Office if you have any questions. KKeegan@holynamestpa.org.



PARENT COFFEE

The AHN Guidance Department cordially invites the parents of our juniors to attend a Parent Coffee on **Tuesday, November 14th at 8:30 AM or 4:00 PM in the 3rd Floor Board Room**.

The AHN College Planning Timeline, best college fit, and the Florida Bright Futures Program will be covered. Please RSVP here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/BryvhaHd6FNvYzzG2>

OR contact Ms. Zummo at 813-839-5371, x265.



The Finish Line...

A reminder that **Friday, December 1st** is the FINAL deadline for **seniors** to hand in **ALL college application transcript request forms!**

Transcript request forms **will not** be accepted after this date.

Please note-WISE students will submit all college applications by November 1st in order to meet most Early Action and scholarship deadlines ☺.

To date, 87% of the Class of 2018 have applied to college. A total of 76 of 115 seniors have submitted 361 college applications to 65 colleges and universities! Please remember to submit acceptance letters, deferral and waitlist letters, and merit-based scholarship award letters to Mrs. Dwyer and Ms. Keegan.

Students are responsible for tracking their submission status for all college application

materials by referring to their status page on their online account page at each school and/or by calling the admission office at each school. Please feel free to contact the College Counseling Office if you have any questions.

Juniors: Save the Date

for the 7th annual

Tampa Bay Case Studies Program

Juniors and their parents are cordially invited to attend our 7th annual **Tampa Bay Case Studies Program**. Admissions professionals from colleges and universities throughout the United States will allow our students and parents to sit in on small group **mock admission panels** followed up by a **college fair**. This is an excellent opportunity for our families to get an inside look at what goes on in the college admissions process as well as an opportunity to meet with the heads of admission from a variety of schools.

This year the program will be held here at **the Academy of the Holy Names on Sunday, January 21st, 2018 from 1 to 4 PM**. Last year over 900 individuals attended this program. Due to limited space, this program is strictly for our juniors and their parents **only**.

Information for registering online for the program will be forwarded to you in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Dwyer or Ms. Keegan.

Please provide several dates and times when you and your parents are available to meet with her.

Appointments will be made on a first come-first serve basis throughout the spring semester. Please contact your counselor by stopping by her office or via email at DDwyer@holynamestpa.org or KKeegan@holynamestpa.org.



Tips for Parents: Dos and Don'ts for Helping Your Child Through College Admission

The college search and admission process is a life-changing event for your child, and often for the whole family. The beginning of the college search signals the beginning of a child's transition from teen-ager to young adult. As a result, it can be difficult for parents to strike the right balance of helping their child without taking over. Here are some dos and don'ts for parents entering the world of college admission.

DO Learn About the Process

Even if you have vivid memories of your own college decisions, realize that the college admission process has changed since you attended. Invest some time in researching today's college admission trends.

DO Discuss Restrictions Up Front

If there are financial or geographic restrictions that limit the range of colleges your child can consider, discuss them with your child at the beginning of the college search. Then your child won't waste time and energy researching colleges that she won't be able to attend.

DON'T Limit Choices Based on Fees

"Parents should certainly be willing to lay out economic realities to their children at the front end of the college search process, but should not shut out options based purely on sticker price," says Michael E. Dessimozi, associate vice president for enrollment services at Roosevelt University (IL). It's always a good idea to encourage your child to include several affordable colleges among his college choices. But remember that financial aid often helps families send their children to even the most expensive colleges. No matter your income level, find out all you can about financial aid.

DO Remind Your Child of Deadlines

The life of a high school student is often very busy, and teenagers are still learning time management skills. So help your child begin keeping a calendar or day planner to keep track of all those college application deadlines (as well as her school work and activities).

DON'T Nag

"Say what you have to say and drop it," advises Scott White, a counselor at Montclair High School (NJ). "If the process delays or changes because students don't do what they are supposed to do, this is one time they may have to live with the consequences."

Remember, the goal is for your child to "own" the process, so that she can make college decisions that are right for her.

DON'T Make Decisions for Your Child

Your child needs to choose a college based on her individual abilities, interests and personality. To that end, beware of pressuring your child to apply to the college(s) you would like her to attend.

Of course, encourage your child to apply to a good range of schools, but your child must decide for herself which colleges to apply to and which college to attend. After all, your child will be the one who spends several years living and learning at college.

DO Be Your Child's Cheerleader

The college admission process can be stressful. Your child may feel uncertain about the decisions she must make, fearful of rejection from colleges, or anxious about meeting deadlines for both college applications and her school work. Over the course of the search process, your child may change her mind (more than once) about her career aspirations, academic goals, or what she wants in a college. All of this is normal. Parents can help their college-bound child by offering plenty of encouragement, a listening ear, and gentle guidance. And don't forget to celebrate each step along your child's journey from high school to college.

Written by Jennifer Gross, NACAC 2004.