



Christian Gentlemen

Intellectually Competent

Prepared to Participate in a Changing World

Physically and Emotionally Developed

# Class of 2024

SENIOR PARENT COLLEGE NIGHT

# Counseling Services

- ▶ Counselor's offices are located in the Guidance Center on the first floor of Villanova Hall
- ▶ Counselors are assigned to students based on their last name:
  - ▶ Abbo-Granda: [Mr. Golden tgolden@sahs.org](mailto:tgolden@sahs.org), x5523
  - ▶ Grauerholz-Parada: [Ms. Colorado bcolorado@sahs.org](mailto:bcolorado@sahs.org) x5578
  - ▶ Parente-Zoni: [Dr. Rey jrey@sahs.org](mailto:jrey@sahs.org), x5531

# College Search / Research Process

- ▶ "There is a college for everyone!"
- ▶ Nearly 4,000 4-Year Colleges in U.S.
- ▶ 116 Community Colleges in California
- ▶ The "Right-Fit" Colleges are the Goal
  - ▶ Selectivity
  - ▶ Major
  - ▶ Other programs
  - ▶ Environment...

# St. Augustine High School College Handbook

- ▶ Online at: [www.sahs.org](http://www.sahs.org) > Academics > College Handbook
  - ▶ Information on:
    - ▶ Scoir
    - ▶ Types of colleges
    - ▶ College search and visits
    - ▶ Applications
    - ▶ Testing
    - ▶ Financial Aid
    - ▶ NCAA Eligibility

# The Final College List

- ▶ We recommend applying to 4 to 8 colleges:
  - ▶ 1 to 3 “Reaches”
  - ▶ 2 to 4 “Evens”
  - ▶ 1 to 3 “Pluses”
- ▶ Use the Scattergrams in Scoir to determine if a college is a Plus, Even, or Reach for your son.

# Factors in College Admission

## ▶ **Top Factors of Considerable Importance**

- ▶ HS Grades
- ▶ Strength of curriculum
- ▶ Application Essay or Personal Statement
- ▶ Demonstrated interest ... at some schools
- ▶ Letters of recommendation
- ▶ Extracurricular activities
- ▶ Admission test scores ... ?!
- ▶ Interview

# TESTING



- ▶ Many colleges will be test optional this year, but check directly on each colleges' website. For a list of test optional schools, visit [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)
- ▶ UC, CSU, USD are examples of “test blind” or “test free” schools
- ▶ We recommend that you take an SAT or ACT if possible, but don't panic if you can't get it in.
- ▶ If needed - Register for SAT ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) and/or ACT ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)) ASAP!
- ▶ December is final test that can be used for most colleges (November for EA or ED applications)

# Testing Reminders

- ▶ The “usual advice” - If he did better on one test or the other—SAT or ACT—that is the test he repeats, and submits. For this year... consult with your counselor about submitting a test to a particular college.
- ▶ Fee Waivers are available for low-income families that meet the requirements. Contact your counselor if you think you might qualify.
- ▶ The earlier you register the more likely you will get a favorable testing location.
- ▶ **Saints will be hosting the SAT exam on October 11**



# Applications



# Applications

- ▶ California State Universities (CSU)
  - ▶ Cal State Apply
  - ▶ CSU applications will “go live” on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>
  - ▶ No SAT or ACT accepted -Test Blind
  - ▶ One application per campus
  - ▶ Deadline is Nov 30<sup>th</sup> (but don't wait until then!)
  - ▶ No essay required, just GPA and SAT/ACT test scores
  - ▶ No letters of recommendation accepted



# Applications

- ▶ University of California (UC)
  - ▶ [admissions.universityofcalifornia.edu](https://admissions.universityofcalifornia.edu)
  - ▶ UC application is available now, can be sent beginning Oct. 1
  - ▶ Deadline is November 30th
  - ▶ No SAT or ACT accepted -Test Blind
  - ▶ One application for all campuses
  - ▶ Must answer 4 of 8 Personal Insight Questions
  - ▶ Application also includes space for activities & awards



# Applications

## THE COMMON APPLICATION

- ▶ The Common Application is used by over 1,000 colleges nationwide
- ▶ The majority of private schools, and select state universities use the Common App for their application
- ▶ The Common Application requires:
  - ▶ One teacher letter of recommendation (some need 2)
  - ▶ One counselor letter of recommendation
  - ▶ One essay (selected from choice of 7)
  - ▶ Some schools will have supplemental questions or essays specific to their school that must be written

# Other Applications

- ▶ Applications for many state institutions will be completed directly on that school's website (i.e. Grand Canyon, New Mexico, Boise State, etc.)
- ▶ SCOIR/Coalition Application

\*Use Common Application for schools when possible to save time

# Create Calendar for Deadlines

- ▶ University of California – November 30<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ California State Universities – November 30<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Common Application Schools – Dates vary
  - ▶ Ex 1: University of San Diego – December 1st
  - ▶ Ex 2: Villanova University – January 15th
  - ▶ Ex 3: University of Michigan – February 1st
  - ▶ Ex 4: Arizona State University – Rolling Admissions (Nov 1st Priority)

\*Don't forget Early Action/Early Decision deadlines!



# Application notes

- ▶ Most students will apply between September and early January
- ▶ Counselors are available to help students with their applications during office hours, at lunch, and after school
- ▶ When applying online, make sure to download a copy of the application, and the proof of payment for your records

# Scoir

- ▶ Seniors should begin adding the schools to the “applying” list so counselors know to send documents to those schools
- ▶ Register for visits from approximately 100 colleges representatives to Saints this fall
- ▶ New career assessment tool
- ▶ Request letters of recommendation through SCOIR



# Letters of Recommendation

- ▶ Letters are not accepted for UC/CSU
- ▶ Letters must be requested through Scoir
- ▶ Give plenty of notice to teachers and counselor. Letters may go in before or after applications are sent
- ▶ Please use 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers if at all possible.
- ▶ “Thank you” notes are important.

# Financial Aid

- ▶ The FAFSA is the key to all college financial aid
- ▶ FAFSAs are to be submitted after December 1<sup>st</sup> using the previous years tax return
- ▶ The CSS PROFILE is required by many private colleges and some public universities, check to see if they want this form, which should be filled out in October. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- ▶ We will file the Cal Grant GPA Verification for all seniors automatically.

# Scholarships

- ▶ A scholarship list is available on the Counseling page of the Saints website.
- ▶ Use FASTWEB & Other FREE online services
- ▶ Check your workplace for scholarships.
- ▶ ROTC scholarships should be done ASAP.
- ▶ Check the colleges for merit money.
- ▶ Check online Financial Aid predictors

# The Last Word

- ▶ Attend Financial Aid Night in December
- ▶ Attend APA College Topics Night on October 25th
- ▶ Help your son stay on track by keeping a calendar of test dates, and due dates.
- ▶ \*Set limits and boundaries for talking about college\*
  - ▶ This process can be stressful, try to enjoy Senior Year
- ▶ Be good to each other
  - ▶ What is right for someone else's son may not be the best thing for your son!



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