

College Planning

Saint John's
Catholic Prep



Why go to college??

- ~A college education secures our future. The number of employment opportunities is greater and statistics reveal that most leaders are college grads.
- ~It is not just the earnings. A college education makes you a rounded person. It shapes your communication skills, expands your knowledge base, makes you methodical and organized, and exposes you to a whole new world of learning.

Top 3 Factors Colleges Consider

- Grades in College Prep Classes

Nearly three-quarters of colleges rate this as having the highest level of importance.

Students who take college prep courses are more likely to graduate college in 4 years.

Top 3 Factors

- Standardized Test Scores

Colleges will take the highest SAT or ACT scores.

Rated as having significant priority by nearly 60% of colleges...especially important at larger Universities.

Top 3 Factors

- Weighted GPAs

More weight given for advanced courses.

Overall Grade Point Average is considered to be a significant factor colleges consider.

Other Factors

- Academic

Rank or Decile

Teacher/Counselor Recommendations

Application Essay

SAT Subject Tests

Other Factors

- Non-Academic Factors

Extracurricular Activities

Demonstrated Interest

Student Interview

Sophomore and Junior Year

- Take PSAT

Sophomores-Great Practice

Juniors-Great Practice and consideration for
National Merit Scholarship

Junior Year

- Spring
 - Take SAT or ACT
 - Take Subject Tests
- Spring and Summer
 - Focus on Extracurricular/Work/Volunteer Activities
 - Keep Resume updated

Senior Year

- Fall

Take SAT or ACT

Finalize list of schools

Reach-2

Fit-3

Safety-2

Check deadlines for applications and financial aid information

Senior Year

- Fall Continued

Work on application essay

Complete resume, Getting to Know You form, and Parent Brag form

Look for scholarships

Ask for recommendations and submit transcript requests

Senior Year

- Fall Continued

Send SAT or ACT scores from College Board

www.collegeboard.com

Obtain PIN www.pin.ed.gov

Jan. 1-Complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) www.fafsa.ed.gov

Write thank you notes to those who wrote recommendations

Admissions

- Early Admission (usually Nov.)

For those who have a consistent record, meet or exceed admission profile, who have found a school that is a strong match, and are sure that the college he/she is applying to early is a good match.

Early Action-non-binding-receive early response

Early Decision-binding-must attend that college

SAT or ACT

- SAT

Includes math up to basic geometry and algebra II

No science

Reading-sentence completion, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension

Writing-essay, questions testing grammar, usage, and word choice

There is a penalty for wrong answers. If you are not sure of an answer and cannot narrow choices, do not answer.

SAT or ACT

- ACT

Math-up to trigonometry

Science-charts, experiments

Reading-four passages (prose fiction, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences)

English-stresses grammar

Writing-optional (though recommended)

No penalty for wrong answers.

SAT Subject Tests

Some colleges require one or two Subject Tests

- U.S. History
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

---take immediately after finishing the course

- Foreign Language

---recommended after 2 years

School Code

- When taking standardized tests, please remember to provide Saint John's School Code—210545—so that we receive your scores.
- NCAA code is 9999

NCAA

- For student-athletes interested in playing Division I or II schools, you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Important to verify their course requirements.
- Transcripts and Standardized Test Scores must be sent to NCAA. On or after April 1, the final authorized signature is signed online.

Financial Aid

- Merit-based Aid

Academic scholarships, athletic scholarships, and other scholarships

- Need-based Aid

Based on family's ability to pay

Gift aid--scholarships and grants

Self-help aid--loans and work study

Scholarships

- Check Guidance Office
 - Frederick County Community Foundation
<http://www.cffredco.org>
 - Civic Organizations (Elks, Rotary, Kiwanis)
 - Private companies
 - www.fastweb.com
- Be wary of scams—If you have to pay for it, question it!

Tips

- Students be involved in the entire process and have full understanding of application process and financial aid information.
- Check college's academic requirements
- Attend local college fairs
- Explore college websites
- Visit schools when possible

Tips Continued

- Consider asking for interview
- Keep a binder/folder of college materials with a checklist to keep organized
- Find out what schools will accept the Common Application
- Some smaller, private schools require the CSS Financial Aid Profile to be completed.

Objective Guides

- Provide information from a database such as number of students or average SATs.
- Examples:
 - Profiles of American Colleges by Barron's
 - Fiske Guide to Colleges
 - Peterson's Four-Year Colleges
 - The College Board Handbook

Subjective Guides

- Provides information based on opinion such as the “10 hottest schools”
- Examples:
 - Choosing the right College
 - The Ultimate College Guide by US News and World Report
 - Colleges That Change Lives
 - Cool Colleges

Choosing a college: Checklist for students

- Is your GPA comparable to the college's GPA acceptance?
- Do your standardized test scores fall into the school's average range?
- Will you be able to visit the school?
- Will the school be hosting any open houses or attending any college fairs near you?

Checklist Continued

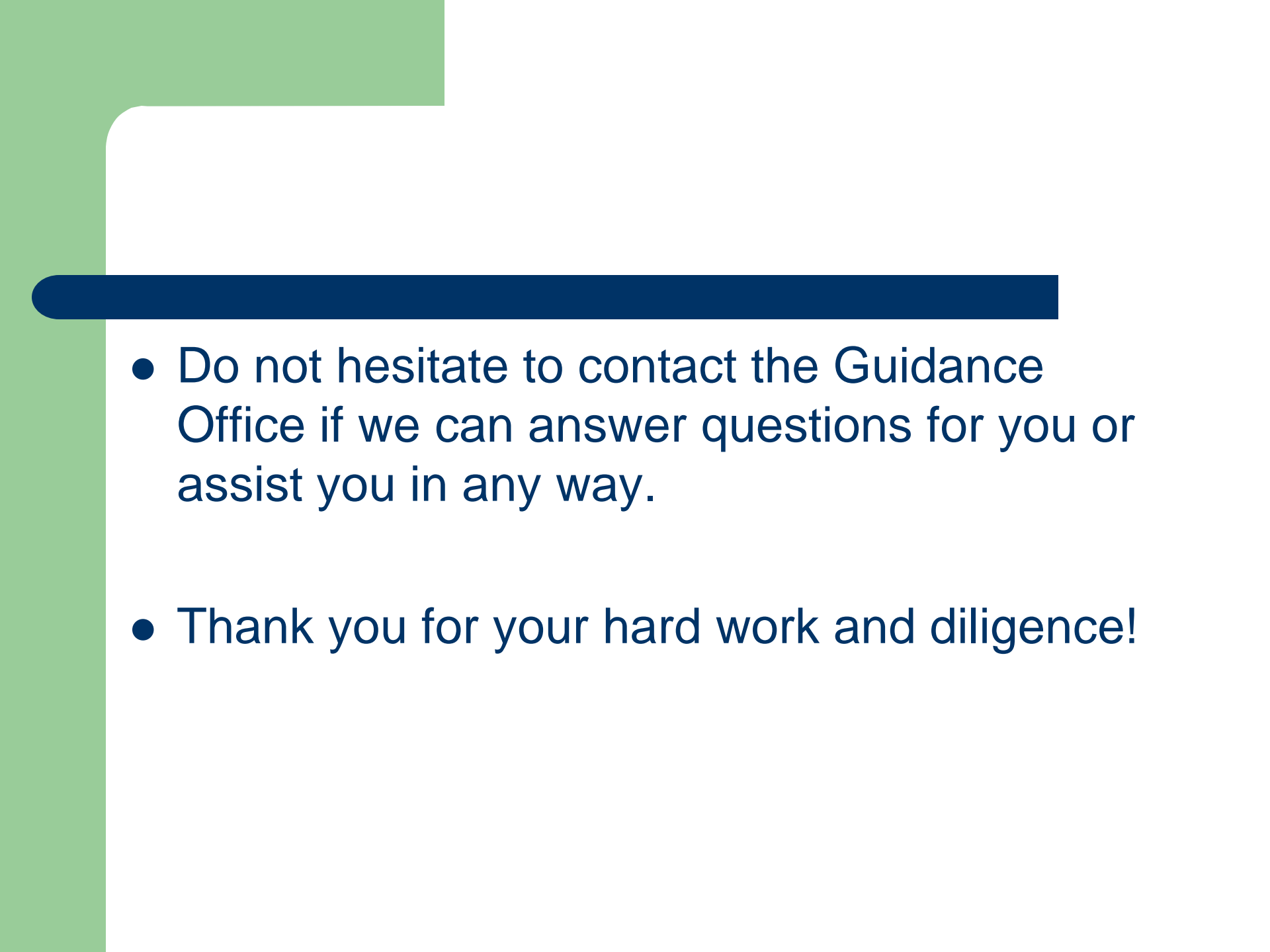
- Is the location a fit for you? (big city, small city, cold climate, hot climate, etc.)
- Is this the right size school for you?
- Does the school offer courses that will interest you for four years?
- Does the school traditionally offer a strong financial aid package?

Checklist Continued

- Can you get a scholarship at this school?
- Does the campus life at the school interest you?
- Are there extracurricular activities you would be interested in?
- Is the school within our financial budget?
- Is the school within a distance that is reasonable to family?

Making the Decision

- Communication is vital.
- Best for parents to act as coaches, empowering their child and trusting that they know where the best fit will be.
- Share concerns, needs, financial ability, and fears.

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- Do not hesitate to contact the Guidance Office if we can answer questions for you or assist you in any way.
 - Thank you for your hard work and diligence!