

# College Planning

Saint John's Catholic Prep

# Words of Wisdom

- ▶ 70% of colleges accept an average of 70% of applicants
- ▶ The college admissions process is a partnership
- ▶ 50% of college freshmen enter undecided on their major
- ▶ Don't rule out colleges because of cost
- ▶ Beware of rankings
  - ▶ National Survey of Student Engagement\*
  - ▶ [www.whatwilltheylearn.com](http://www.whatwilltheylearn.com) \*
- ▶ Start early & be organized

# Agenda

- ▶ The Timeline
- ▶ Standardized Tests
- ▶ The College Search
- ▶ The Application Process
- ▶ Financial Aid
- ▶ Naviance's Family Connection



# The Timeline

## Fall of Junior Year

- ▶ October: PSAT
- ▶ Register for Standardized Testing:
  - 3 SAT, 3 ACT or Combo
- ▶ Create a Criteria List
- ▶ Do Electronic College Searches
  - Naviance, CollegeBoard, etc.
- ▶ Schedule & Do College Visits
- ▶ Do Interest Inventory & Career Profiler on Naviance Family Connection

## Spring of Junior Year

- ▶ Test Prep
- ▶ College Visits
- ▶ Narrow List of Colleges
  - 10-15 very interested by 6/1/16
  - Add to Naviance FC
- ▶ Fill out Resume, Parent Form and Student Info Form in FC
- ▶ Join Colleges' Social Media Pages
  - Instagram, FaceBook, Twitter
  - @sjcpcollegenews



# The Timeline

## Summer after Junior Year

- ▶ Create Organization Chart for Applications
- ▶ Do Essays
- ▶ Send Test Scores
- ▶ Set Reminders for Application Deadlines (2 week rule)
- ▶ Transfer Colleges from “interested in” to “applying to” in Naviance FC
  - about 8
- ▶ August 1: Fill out common application at [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org)

## Fall Senior Year

- ▶ September: request teacher recommendations in person & then Naviance Family Connection
- ▶ August-Thanksgiving: Submit Applications
- ▶ Request transcripts to be sent (paper not FC)
- ▶ November-February: Financial Aid & Scholarships



# Standardized Testing

- ▶ Register for SAT and Subject Tests\* at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- ▶ Register for ACT at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- ▶ 3 Tests by the end of junior year
  - SAT, ACT, or Combination
- ▶ Test Prep

ACT	Old SAT
4 multiple-choice sections: English, Math, Reading & Science	Tests on critical reading, math & writing skills
Writing test optional, 30 minutes	Essay is required, 25 minutes
214 questions, 2 hrs & 55 mins test time (not including essay & breaks)	170 questions, 3 hrs & 45 mins test time (not including breaks)
Score Range: 1-36 National Average: 21	Score Range: 600-2400 National Average: 495cr/511m/484w
Math includes Trigonometry	Math includes Algebra & Geometry
English tests on grammar, punctuation & reading comprehension	Focuses heavily on grammar & vocabulary
No penalty for wrong answers - GUESS!	¼ off for wrong answers
Sciences tests on logic & reasoning rather than science terms taught in classroom	Does not test on Science

ACT	New SAT
4 multiple-choice sections: English, Math, Reading & Science	4 multiple choice sections: Reading, Writing & Language, 2 Math - with & without calculator
Essay optional: 40 mins	Essay optional: 50 mins
Testing time: 2hrs 55 mins (not including breaks & essay)	Testing time: 3 hrs (not including breaks & essay)
Score range: 1-36	Score range: 400-1600
Math: Pre-Algebra, Elementary & Intermediate Algebra, Coordinate & Plane Geometry, Trigonometry	Math: Algebra, Problem-Solving & Data Analysis, Advanced Math
Reading & Language: 1 Prose Fiction or Lit Narrative, 1 Social Science, 1 Humanities, 1 Science	Reading & Language: passages = 1 US & World Lit, 2 History & Social Sciences, 2 Science, grammar, no more vocab!
Science: Data Representation, Research Summaries, Conflicting Viewpoints	N/A



# The College Search

- ▶ Location
  - rural, suburban, urban
  - radius from home
- ▶ Size
- ▶ Academics
- ▶ Clubs and Athletics
- ▶ Support Services
- ▶ Competitiveness



# The Application Process

## Factors in the Admissions Decision

- ▶ Transcript
  - rigor\*, gpa, trends
- ▶ Standardized tests
  - [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)
- ▶ Essay - 80/20 rule
- ▶ Resume
- ▶ Recommendations

# The Application Process

## Deadlines

- ▶ Early Action
- ▶ Early Decision “I have decided”
- ▶ Regular Admission
- ▶ Rolling



# The Application Process

- ▶ Applications (Data Entry)
  - Common Application vs. colleges' applications
  - August 1
  - Submit all apps by Thanksgiving!
- ▶ Essay
  - compare questions before writing!
- ▶ Recommendation Letters (in person and on Naviance FC)
- ▶ Test Scores (College Board or ACT)
- ▶ Transcripts (form in School Counseling Office, not Naviance FC)

# Financial Aid

- ▶ Free Application for Student Aid - FAFSA
  - Can fill out as early as October
  - “online by Valentine”
  - Determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), not your need

	Public	Private	Community College
Cost of Attendance	\$22,000	\$45,000	4,000
EFC	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>
Need	\$2,000	\$25,000	No Need

# Financial Aid



- ▶ CSS Profile
  - some private colleges
  - early deadline for submission
  - available at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- ▶ Scholarships
  - most money comes from private colleges' merit programs
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - SJCP College Corner

# Naviance Family Connection

## Portal to all things College Admissions

- ▶ Tasks
- ▶ College Tab
  - College Match
  - College Search
  - Scattergrams
  - Colleges I'm interested in
  - Colleges I'm applying to
  - Scholarships
- ▶ About Me Tab
  - Strengths Explorer
  - Career Interest Profile
  - Resume
  - Mobile App

