

## **A note from the COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER Registration 2020**

Dear Parents of Seniors:

It must be hard to believe you are nearing the end of a very important journey and ready to embark on a new phase of parenting. It can be a bittersweet time watching your student survey college campuses, the military, or workforce opportunities. It is comforting to know that the Lord will direct their steps during this exciting season of life.

Watch your email for links to Parent Perception and Optional Information **forms to be completed by you no later than September 8**. These completed forms will help us create strong college admissions and scholarship recommendations for your student.

In the coming weeks we will be introducing the Career Readiness Portfolio housed on the CIS (Career Information System) website. Completion of the senior year items within the portfolio will be a graduation requirement. **It is vital that seniors complete these items by the required deadlines. The first items will be due within the first week or two of the school year.**

Shortly after school begins we will be hosting two very important events:

**College Knowledge Night** (Date, time, location/format to be announced soon). This evening is designed to provide seniors and their parents with information on the college search process, financial aid, scholarships, college testing (SAT,ACT,SAT Subject, and CLEP Tests), NCAA requirements, etc. We would like to invite you to attend together as this will create a great opportunity for dialogue.

**Financial Aid and FAFSA Information Night** (Date, time and location/format to be announced soon). I urge all seniors and their parents to attend. Recently some MAJOR CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE FAFSA. The FAFSA application opens on October 1. You will want to submit your application as close to October 1 (not before) as possible.

Senior advisors Leah Green, Marc Powell, and I will be working together to make this a very special year for your student. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you and your student. It is going to be a great year!

Warmly,

Jeanne Schaffner  
College & Career Counselor

## **On Track to Graduate?**

Please contact our registrar Sami Beam right away should you have any questions about the graduation credit checklist you received this summer.

## **Upcoming Events and Information**

- Senior Family Potluck and College Knowledge Night (**Date, Time, Location/Format TBA**)
- Financial Aid Night (**Date, Time, Location/Format TBA**)
- Scholarship opportunities
- College information sessions
- Graduation/Baccalaureate information
- Test dates

*We will do our very best to keep you up to date. **Please be looking for announcements from the College & Career Department. You won't want to miss time sensitive information!***

## **COLLEGE INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Each month there will be admissions representatives from a variety of universities and colleges meeting with us virtually to expose our students to what they have to offer. Seniors are required to attend a minimum of four presentations and fill out an associated reflection questionnaire. They will be guided by the Career & College Office in how to assess which places of learning or training might be most fitting for each individual.

## **FEE WAIVERS**

Fee waivers are available for the SAT and ACT and for many college applications. They are based on eligibility for federal free and reduced lunches. I would be happy to help you obtain a waiver if you think you qualify. Please don't be shy about this! Senior year expenses can add up.

## **REGISTER NOW TO TAKE THE SAT OR ACT!** **(See the attached list of test dates and registration deadlines)**

Due to COVID19 most colleges have dropped their testing requirements for the Class of 2021. There is national debate about the future of standardized testing as admission requirement beyond 2021, as well. However, taking the ACT or SAT this fall is advisable if you are able.

## SAT/ACT

*Students tend to be most successful when taking the SAT or ACT in the winter or spring of their junior year or early in the senior year. A student may take these exams as often as they wish, and most colleges will make admissions and scholarship decisions based upon the student's highest score.*

The ACT includes a science reasoning portion beyond the verbal/math test. They offer a writing option as well. The SAT includes reading, math and writing portions. *Students should take the writing section as many colleges require it for admission.*

ACT and SAT practice tests can be taken online without charge at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Repeated exposure to these exams usually brings an increase in scores. There are many helpful test preparation options. The Assistance League of Corvallis offers a class that helps prepare students for the SAT. Registration details will be announced in the senior newsletter and the Eagle Happenings. CIS has a battery of prep options and many companies offer programs online. Test prep books and software options are readily available at public libraries, bookstores, and even on Craigslist!

## SAT SUBJECT TESTS

Students considering application to *highly selective universities* sometimes are also required to take 2-3 SAT Subject Tests administered through the College Board. If you plan to take these exams you will want to do so as close to the end of the applicable classes as possible so the information is fresh in your mind. Please go to <http://sat.collegeboard.org/about-tests/sat-subject-tests> or contact me for more information.

## CIS: AN EXCELLENT RESOURCE

Santiam Christian subscribes to the computer-based Oregon CIS (Career Information System) program which is a tremendous asset in the career guidance process.

This tool:

- **Houses** the Career Readiness Portfolio which is required for graduation from Santiam Christian
- **Helps** students discover more about their interests and aptitudes
- **Aids** in the process of preparing resumes for college applications and the job force.
- **Offers** career information, standardized test preparation, and a scholarship data base.

As students access their personal accounts they can record current volunteer activities, job experiences, and awards. This information can then be easily uploaded when applying for scholarships through the Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC) their senior year.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Santiam Christian's scholarship database is updated weekly and can be found on the SC website at <http://www.santiamchristian.org/academics/collegeplanningandprograms.cfm> under "Financial Aid". Please note that within the Excel Spreadsheet there are separate tabs for local and national scholarships. Another great scholarship database can be found on CIS.

***Your student's chief enemy in this process is procrastination.*** Once they have applied for one scholarship, it is fairly easy to reproduce their efforts and apply for more. It is imperative that you and your student pay close attention to due dates and eligibility requirements. Many scholarships require items such as letters of recommendation and transcripts, so it is important to begin the process weeks in advance of the due dates.

**Free** scholarship searches are an excellent means of finding a "match" for your student. *Please beware of programs that charge a fee.* Legitimate scholarships or scholarship databases do not require a fee!

Good planning and time management are essential to successful pursuit of scholarship monies.

## SENIOR GRADUATION SLIDESHOW

**SENIOR SLIDESHOW (Due Date NO LATER THAN March 31):** A great highlight of the graduation ceremony, it features one baby picture, one growing up picture, and one senior picture. Christmas Break is a great time to walk down memory lane, while searching for pictures. Dress should honor the SC Appearance Policy.

## 2020-21 Standardized Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

### SAT and SAT Subject Tests

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
September 26	August 26	September 15
October 3	September 4	September 22
November 7	October 7	October 20
December 5	November 5	November 17
March 13	February 12	February 23
May 8	April 8	April 20
June 5	May 6	May 18
August 24 (Tentative)		

(To register and pay go to <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register>)

### ACT Test

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
September 12	August 28	No Late Fees
October 10	September 17	September 18-25
December 12	November 6	November 7-20
February 6	January 8	January 9-15
April 17	March 12	March 13-26
June 12	May 7	May 9-21
July 17	June 18	June 19-25

(To register and pay go to <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/>)

### Advanced Placement Exams

Exam	Date/Time
U.S. Government & Politics	Monday, May 3, 8 a.m.
Calculus AB	Tuesday, May 4, 8 a.m.
U.S. History	Thursday, May 6, 8 a.m.
English Language & Composition	Wednesday, May 12, 8 a.m.
Statistics	Thursday, May 13, 12 noon

### PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

Exam	Date
PSAT/NSMQT* (Juniors)	Wednesday, October 14

\*Juniors at Santiam Christian are required to take the PSAT/NSMQT and are already registered.