

A note from the COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER Registration 2020

Dear Parents of Juniors:

I am sincerely looking forward to this coming year and getting to know each student better! I am eager to learn about their interests and aspirations and assist them in creating and achieving vocational and college or post high school training goals.

We will be encouraging your son or daughter to be praying about their future, stay focused in their academic pursuits, begin concentrating their energies on the activities they value most, and volunteer in their community and churches. Of course, the COVID19 situation poses challenges. Showing creativity and initiative in their pursuits during this season will speak volumes to college admissions offices and scholarship committees.

I highly recommend visiting college campuses, as getting a feel for “college life” can inspire your student to fully engage in their high school experience. We will continue to expose them to vocational as well as college options throughout the year. Because in person visits are not currently an option, colleges across the country and around the world are providing unprecedented virtual experiences for students.

We will be scheduling a “college knowledge” night to share important details pertinent to keeping your student on course for graduation and post-high school success. The date and time will be forthcoming. Becoming familiar now with what lies ahead will reduce stress as the high school years fly by.

In the coming weeks we will be introducing the Career Readiness Portfolio housed on the CIS (Career Information System) website. Completion of the portfolio will be a graduation requirement. During each year of high school, there will be a list of items to complete.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. I am confident a great year awaits your son/daughter!

Warmly,

Jeanne Schaffner
Counselor

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STANDARDIZED TESTING

(See the attached list of test dates and registration deadlines.)

With the access to testing challenge posed by COVID19 many colleges have changed their testing requirements (some temporarily, and some permanently). **Until all colleges make a universal change, all students should take the PSAT and SAT or ACT during high school.**

Now is the time for juniors to map out their standardized testing schedule for the rest of high school!

PSAT

All juniors will take the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) which will be administered on our campus on Wednesday, October 14. PSAT scores are used to identify National Merit Scholarship Competitors and predict how a student will perform on the SAT. SAT or ACT results are used as a college readiness predictor and are required for entrance into most colleges. Scores are often used as a qualifying gauge for scholarships as well.

Once a student has taken the PSAT, free personalized SAT practice tools based on their results are available through the College Board and Khan Academy.

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 when they have completed the Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II sequence as well as junior English. 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 newly redesigned SAT was launched in March of 2016. It includes critical reading, math, and an optional writing section. *It is recommended that all students take the writing section, as it is required by many colleges.*

The ACT includes a science reasoning portion beyond the verbal/math test. They offer a writing option as well. *It is recommended that all students take the writing section, as it is required by many colleges.*

ACT and SAT practice tools can be found online at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org.

An important note: Community colleges do not require the exams unless you are dual-enrolled with a four year university, but because *many* students change their minds about college and career choices late into their senior year, ***I think it is advisable that all students take the SAT or ACT at least once*** in order to keep their options open.

SAT SUBJECT TESTS

Students considering application *to highly selective universities* may also be required to take 2-3 SAT Subject Tests administered through the College Board. If you plan on taking 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.

FEE WAIVERS

Fee waivers are available for most aptitude tests and college applications based on eligibility for federal free and reduced lunches. I would be happy to help you attain a waiver if you think you might qualify.

JUNIOR YEAR: OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

Hopefully, the COVID19 restrictions will be behind us and this spring juniors will be visiting at least one university as well as taking part in the *Benton County Career Convention*.

Another outstanding opportunity for you and your student is to attend the *National Portland College Fair* or the *West Coast Christian College Fair* which will likely be virtual this year. Please be on the lookout for announcements about these and other valuable experiences.

We will also be providing opportunities for students to meet virtually with college admissions staff from many colleges as well as providing career exposure opportunities.

MILITARY ACADEMY APPLICATIONS: THE TIME IS NOW

If your son or daughter is interested in seeking admission to one of the military academies, they should begin the process of seeking nomination from their senator, congressional representative, or the Vice President now. Please let me know if I can assist you in this process.



OREGON CIS

CIS : An Excellent Place to Begin Career Exploration

<http://oregoncis.uoregon.edu/>

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.

More news will be coming soon about the new single sign-on system that will allow students to login using their student email username and password.

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/register/>)

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/NMSQT* (Juniors)	Wednesday, October 14

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