



SANTIAM CHRISTIAN

Character, Leadership and Community.

A Note from the CAREER AND COLLEGE CENTER Registration 2021

Dear Parents of Freshmen & Sophomores,

It is my privilege to assist our students as they formulate their post-graduation plans. Exciting challenges and opportunities are on the horizon, including career and college or vocational training decisions. I am committed to keeping you informed while serving your son/daughter on this journey.

It is not too early to begin some preliminary activities in preparation for life after high school. Praying about the future, staying focused in academic pursuits, participating in a wide-range of activities, and volunteering in the church and the community are ways your student can build a great foundation for what is ahead. Showing creativity and initiative in their pursuits during the COVID19 season will speak volumes to college admissions offices and scholarship committees. Visiting college campuses and getting a feel for “college life” can inspire your son or daughter to fully engage in their high school experience. Right now colleges across the country and around the world are providing unprecedented virtual experiences for students. Seeking admission to military academies also requires some early action.

Last year was the inaugural year for the Career Readiness Portfolio (CRP) housed on the Career Information System (CIS) website. Completion of the portfolio is a graduation requirement. During each year of high school, there is a list of activities and assignments to complete.

During the school year we will be hosting a career & college knowledge night to share important details pertinent to keeping your student on course for graduation and a promising future after high school. Please watch for announcements, mark your calendar, and be sure to join us with your son or daughter. Becoming familiar now with what lies ahead will reduce stress as the high school years fly by. You may even want to consider joining us for FAFSA & Financial Aid Night this fall to learn about how to find funding for college.

Throughout the year we will keep you apprised of time sensitive announcements and information about many great career exposure, leadership, scholarship, and educational opportunities.

I have attached some preliminary information that I think you will find helpful. If you have any questions please do contact me. I eagerly look forward to working with you and your student. I’m confident a great year awaits all of us!

Warmly,

Jeanne Schaffner
College and Career Counselor

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STANDARDIZED TESTING

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 plan on take the PSAT and SAT or ACT during high school.**

PSAT

PSAT Opportunities for 2021-2022

The PSAT is the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and it is a standardized test administered by the College Board. This multiple choice test covers Reading, Writing & Language, and Math. More than 3.5 million high school students (mostly juniors and sophomores) take this exam nationwide each year.

The College Board has introduced an SAT Suite of Assessments that are designed to provide assessments that reflect the knowledge and skills that current research shows are essential for college and career readiness and success. The following assessments are good practice opportunities for the students to become accustomed to the test format of the SAT.

*Though only the scores from junior year are official, in the spring we will have freshman and sophomores take a practice version of the exam (PSAT 8/9 for freshmen and PSAT 10 for sophomores), as repeated exposure to standardized tests is proven to increase success. **The CollegeBoard reports that, on average, students who take a PSAT/NMSQT score 133 points higher on the SAT than students who do not take the exam.***

These exams take a few hours to administer and will take place on a regular school day. **By taking the exam, students will get valuable feedback and access to online resources that will help them prepare for taking the SAT in the future.**

SAT/ACT

The SAT or ACT are required for entrance into a majority of colleges and scores are often used as a qualifying gauge for scholarships. An exception to this requirement is being made by many colleges for the Class of 2021 & 2022.

The **ACT** includes a science reasoning portion beyond the verbal/math test. It offers a writing option as well. The **SAT** includes reading, math and writing portions. ACT and SAT practice tools can be found at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org.

Some students consider taking the **SAT or ACT** during their early high school years but in most cases, *they are most successful when taking it in the winter or spring of their junior year or early in their 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 scores in each section.



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
- **Offers** career information, standardized test preparation, and a scholarship data base.