



Scottsdale Preparatory Academy

A GREAT HEARTS ACADEMY

COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

February, 2018

Upcoming Events

ASU Barrett Summer
Scholars Info Session

2/15/18 - 11:30am

SPA Tech Lab

NAU Admitted

Student Event

3/4/18 2:00pm

Phoenix Airport

Marriott

RSVP

Great Hearts ASU

Barrett Day 4/7/18

10th & 11th Grade

9:00am and 11:00am

Financial Road Map
to College

5th-10th

4/12/18 6:00-7:00pm

SPA Tech Lab

Host: Monica Felton

Quick Links

[College Counseling
Website](#)

[ACT](#)

[CollegeBoard SAT](#)

[Naviance for high
school students](#)

Standardized
Testing Dates
With
Registration
Deadlines
ACT

April 14; Register 3/9
June 9; Register 5/4
July 14; Register 6/15

SENIORS

Seniors who applied Early Action, Early Decision or Restrictive Early Action have heard back from colleges. Many have made their initial enrollment deposit at their college of choice and are on their way to selecting dorms, and signing up for orientation sessions. To see an updated admit list, go to SPA [College Acceptances](#).

One of the ways we celebrate student achievements and admission decisions is through Senior Highlights on [SPA Facebook](#). Our first student highlighted was Emma Mull who will be attending Hillsdale College in Michigan. Seniors should complete the Senior Facebook Survey on Naviance to get started. It's very exciting for our families to read about the journey from freshman to senior year!

Seniors, don't forget to notify College Counseling and/or update your Naviance account if you have made your college decision. And, if you plan to add an additional college to your list, tell your counselor personally so we can make sure documents are sent. All mid-year reports have now been sent to colleges that were already on student's application list.

COLLEGE VISITS

College visits take place primarily in the fall. However, be sure to check Naviance periodically to keep plugged for 2018 visits. Baylor, Ottawa and NAU are coming soon. A representative from the Air Force ROTC will set up a table outside the multi-purpose room on Thursday, 3/1 at 11:30 a.m. The Airforce ROTC offers full and partial scholarships for four years in many STEM related fields. Check your Naviance account for a complete schedule. Don't have a Naviance account yet or can't remember your password?, Please see Mrs. Fletcher or Mrs. Sterner and we will set you up. We just need a **student** email address.

Advanced Placement Testing

Scottsdale Prep is offering limited AP testing on campus this spring. If your student is a part of one of the AP Preparation Clubs and/or plans to prepare outside of school for one of the following: AP US History, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP Physics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Latin, they may take those tests on campus during the month of May. Please click [here](#) for the registration form and test options, as well as additional details on the preparation needed.

Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors

Many summer enrichment program application portals are now open and some deadline dates are early in the year for more competitive programs. College Counseling has a list of some popular programs on our [website](#). However, you can also *Google* an area of interest or go to the university website and type in "summer programs". There are literally thousands of programs to explore. Some students opt to work, volunteer or take a summer school class. The option is yours--- just make your summer count in getting you closer to exploring options for college and beyond.

Register

SAT

3/10; Register 2/9

5/5; Register 4/6

6/2; Register 5/3

Register

[ASU Barrett Summer Scholars](#) is hosting an information session on

Thursday, 2/15 at 11:30 a.m. on our campus. Students from grades 8-

11 are welcome to attend.

Sophomores

College Counseling is sponsoring a **field trip to NAU** in April during the school day. This is a great way for students to gain exposure to a college environment, learn about majors and scholarship opportunities such as the Lumberjack Scholarship that provides full tuition for four years, and even eat in the student union. Permission forms and fee's will follow. There is a minimal fee of \$15 passed on to families for transportation costs. More information will follow over the next few months.

Are you perplexed as to whether you are better suited to take the SAT or the ACT test for college admissions? Vogel Test Prep to the rescue! They will be holding a hybrid SAT/ACT Comparison Test on our campus on Monday, May 7th. (This is a school holiday so please plan accordingly.) The test is optional, but will provide guidance to families as to the test that is better suited to their student. While the PSAT is used for National Merit qualification, there is no obligation to continue to take the SAT if you are better suited to the ACT. Sign up's for this event will be made available as the date gets closer.

Juniors

Young men interested in government, politics and the importance of citizenship will benefit from attending The American Legion Boys State. Scottsdale Prep can nominate one male junior to attend. The session will be held June 3-June 9th. Our past nominees have a strong GPA and are actively involved in extracurricular activities on our campus. They also serve as strong role models at our academy. If you would like to be considered, please send an email to dsterner@scottsdaleprep.org Learn more by going to [Boys State](#) .

It's not too early to think about your college application essays. We will work on this in more detail in our College 101 class this year. However, to get a sneak peek to get going on idea generation, it's helpful to look at the prompt questions. The Common Application just announced that the essay [prompts](#) for 2018/2019 will remain the same from last year. Another new college application application platform is the [Coalition](#) Application. There are far more colleges (747) that use the Common App. The Coalition serves 113 colleges and it is growing. A few colleges are Coalition exclusive and these include the University of Florida, University of Virginia and the University of Washington. Here are the Coalition essay [prompts](#). We utilize the Common App in College 101 because of the large number of colleges that utilize this platform including ASU and UA.

At this point in the year, every junior should be registered to take the SAT or ACT for college admissions. Even if your college is "test optional" meaning they do not require a standardized test for admissions, many colleges utilize these tests for placement in college level classes or for scholarships. Every student should take one or both tests at least once. Students who start at a community college are often asked to submit SAT or ACT tests if they transfer after one year to a university. Test Optional colleges can be found at [FairTest](#).

Fee Waivers - Fee Waivers for standardized tests (SAT/ACT) and college application are available if a family qualifies. The income guidelines are the same guidelines used by the State of Arizona for federal programs [ESEA](#) guidelines determine eligibility. Please reach out to College Counseling if you think you may qualify so we can help you.

SOCIAL MEDIA - A GIFT OR A CURSE?

Like it or not, social media is here to stay. It is one way that colleges are effectively communicating to students about programs, culture, social events, etc. The most commonly used are Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. We strongly encourage students to follow Facebook pages for any university they are considering. (Parents, you can also find a parent network page for the school as well.) Students can find special FB pages for athletics, alumni, clubs, intermurals etc. Want to find out whether there is a Campus Crusade for Christ on campus? Google it and you may find a FB page as well. Jewish students may wish to find out if a Hillel organization exists on campus and what types of activities they sponsor.

Schools also have Twitter feeds that you can follow to learn about issues important to the university. All of these vehicles are helpful to you in learning about fit, and answering that very important question on the application, "Why do you want to attend XYZ University?"

The downside to social media is that it can be misused. Young adults sometimes don't carefully consider what they post on social media, not realizing it can have far reaching consequences for their future. According to NACAC, approximately 1/3 of college admission reps do random checks on what has been posted about a student. While it's a great way to learn about an award that was presented to the student, it does not go well if an incriminating picture or post is found. Keep your on-line presence professional. Even future employers evaluating a student for an internships may also look at it.

Your College Counseling Team

Don't forget to check our [website](#) for regular updates!

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