



Scottsdale Preparatory Academy

A GREAT HEARTS ACADEMY

COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

April, 2019

Upcoming Events

SAT School Day -
Tues, 4/9 in SPA gym;
all Juniors will test at
SPA to meet State of
Arizona requirement
Senior Preview Night
Tues, 4/10 @ 6-
7:30 for Rising
Seniors
Financial Road Map
to College
for 8th-10th grade
4/10 6:00-7:00 pm
SPA Tech Lab
Host: Monica Felton
UA Field Trip for
Sophomores Wed,
4/24; buses depart
@ 7:30 am for Tucson

Sr. Dinner

McCormick Ranch

Golf Club Thurs,

5/16 6:30 pm

Quick Links

[College Counseling Website](#)

[ACT](#)

[CollegeBoard SAT](#)

[Naviance for high school students](#)

Standardized Testing Dates With Registration Deadlines

ACT

April 13

June 8; Register 5/3

SENIORS

Congratulations to the [Class of 2019](#) for the many options they have for college! The celebration of their achievements will be the Senior Dinner to be held at McCormick Ranch Golf Club on Thursday, 5/16 at 6:30. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. This is a special evening when Great Hearts faculty toast every senior individually. Seniors can bring two adults. Student dinner is covered by SPA; guests can sign up and pay at the [SPA payment portal](#). Seniors, did a teacher agree to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf? Don't forget to keep them in the loop when you are admitted to various colleges. They like to know what the final outcome is as well. A personal hand written note of gratitude is a very nice touch

One of the ways we celebrate student achievements and admission decisions is through Senior Highlights on [SPA Facebook](#). 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! Send a picture to Mrs. Sterner to be included with your post.

Lastly, don't forget to notify College Counseling and/or update your Naviance account if you have committed to a particular college. Please reach out to us if you need help making that final decision. Lastly, if you are having trouble comparing college options, utilize a [matrix](#) to compare colleges. Let Mrs. Sterner know if you need help deciding. Sometimes and impartial view is helpful in the process.

SPECIAL UPCOMING COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPLORATION EVENTS

[Colleges That Change Lives College Fair](#) - August 14th at 7:00 p.m. at DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, AZ. Learn what makes these outstanding small liberal arts colleges unique. Based on the book: **[Colleges That Change Lives](#)**. Learn about the college search process and visit with admission representatives.

[Brigham Young University Information Session](#) - Tuesday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. at North Phoenix Prep in the Archway Multi-Purpose Room. Sign up [here](#).

[The Rocky Mountain Area College Fair](#) will be held on the ASU Tempe Campus (1290 S. Normal Avenue in the Memorial Union Building) on April 28th from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. [Register](#) beforehand. Colleges from the Rocky Mountain area will be participating.

[United States Service Academy Conference](#): Any student who wants to attend college at a Military Academy (West Point), the Air Force Academy, the Naval Academy or the Merchant Marines needs a Congressional nomination as part of the application process. Learn how to prepare to be a competitive applicant at the annual [Service Academy Conference](#) that will take place at Horizon High School on Saturday, April 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parents and students are encouraged to attend. RSVP schweikert.academy@mail.house.gov If you have questions, call 480 946-2411

[Bowdoin, Carleton, Davidson, Haverford and Vassar](#) information meeting on April 30th at 7:00 p.m. for students and parents at the Sheraton Mesa Hotel at Wrigleyville West. Peak to admission deans and learn more about programs offered at these selective liberal arts institutions. [RSVP](#).

SAT

5/4; Register 4/5
6/1 Register 5/3
[Register](#)

INTERN OPPORTUNITIES - AGE 16 OR OLDER

Students are frequently interested in interning at a company, shadowing a medical, dental or veterinarian office or participating in research at a university. Most of these opportunities are initiated **by the student**. For example, students will reach out to their family doctor, dentist, lawyer or vet and ask if they can shadow the professional. Many departments at ASU will consider utilizing a high school student intern if a student reaches out to the professor. For example, the [ASU Biodesign Institute](#) utilizes high school interns. They look for high school students (age 16 or older) who have a passion for what is being done by the professor and they want to be part of it. Students, don't be afraid to reach out to professor after you have *thoroughly* researched the department and have gained some insight. You might be pleasantly surprised by the reception you receive. It's a good idea to have a resume you can send.

SOPHOMORE FIELD TRIP - University of Arizona

The University of Arizona has custom designed a field trip for our sophomore class on Wednesday, April 24th in Tucson. We will leave SPA by charter bus at 7:30 a.m. and return around 3:00/3:15 p.m. This is a great way for students to gain exposure to a college environment, learn about majors and scholarship opportunities and learn about the new Honors Village at UA. They will also possibly engage with some SPA alumni at the Honors College! There is a minimal fee of \$25 passed on to families. Lunch is provided by the University of Arizona and any special dietary restrictions should be passed on to Mrs. Sterner beforehand. Students are allowed to wear Spirit Wear and jeans or the SPA uniform. No shorts. Athletic shoes recommended for walking the campus. Payments can be made on the [SPA payment portal](#).

Juniors and College 101

Juniors will be working on the their college application as part of College 101 in the month of April. Last month, students began brainstorming ideas for the college essay. In May, we will host a guest speaker to provide an overview on how prepare for college interviews. This month, juniors will create an account in the The Common Application and begin their application which will roll over to their senior year. The Common App recently announced that the [essay prompts](#) for 2019/2020 will remain the same from last year. Another new college application platform is the [Coalition Application](#). The Common App is still the most popular application serving over 750 colleges. The Coalition App serves 140 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. However, some state schools will also allow the student to apply via their own institution application. 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.

TESTING: To meet state testing requirements, every junior will take the SAT(*without writing*) on Tuesday, 4/9 as part of the school day. There is no fee and tests *will not* be sent to a college unless the students designates it. We also recommend taking the ACT because some students may find they score higher on that test. We recommend taking one test with the additional *writing option* in case one of the colleges on your final list requires it. 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. Students who start at a community college are often asked to submit SAT or ACT tests if they transfer before completing two years of class work at the community college. 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 based on significant financial need. 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.

Your College Counseling Team

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

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