

COLLEGE CONNECTION

Junior Edition | Fall 2015| Volume 1

Save the Date

College Planning: Part I

09/29.....Junior Bible Classes

Fall Break

10/5—10/9...Schedule college visits!

PSAT

10/14.....7:50 am in classrooms

Teacher Inservice -No School

11/6.....Schedule college visits!

Harding ACT/College Kickoff Day

03/15.....All day at Harding

College Planning Night for Parents

03/15.....6:30 pm in the Library

Standardized Testing

ACT Dates Deadlines

10/24.....09/18

12/12.....11/06

02/076.....01/08

04/09.....03/04

03/15.....ACT given at Harding

06/11.....05/06

SAT Dates Deadlines

11/087.....10/09

12/05.....11/05

01/23.....12/28

03/05.....02/05

05/07.....04/08

06/04.....05/05



The College Process Begins...

Welcome to junior year and to the beginning of the college application process! Even though you will not fill out college applications until your senior year, the college application process officially begins this year as you research and select colleges you would like to attend. Junior year is many students' favorite year in this process because the pressure of deadlines and getting accepted is not imminent, and there is time and space to improve grades and test scores, figure out who you are and what you want to be, consider what you need in a college experience, and find options that will meet your needs. The way you use your time this year will determine the level of stress you experience while applying your senior year. Use it wisely to research colleges, go on visits, become more self-aware, ask questions, get involved in meaningful activities, and improve grades or study habits so that you are in a good position when you start applying next year. As your college counselor, we are excited about beginning this process with you. We look forward to getting to know each of you and assisting you through this process!

Mrs. Banker and Mrs. Hall



Attention Prospective College Athletes:

If you are interested in playing college-level athletics, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and/or the NAIA Eligibility Center. The registration steps are as follows:

- Go to www.eligibilitycenter.org for the NCAA or www.playnaia.org for NAIA.
- Create an account and register. (Registration costs \$70.)
- Send ACT and SAT scores.
- Log in to your Naviance account to request to have a transcript sent.
- Communicate your desire to play to your coach and Mrs. Hall.

Stay Connected

Don't miss out on important college-related events, announcements, and information!

- Check your email.
- Follow us on MyBigCampus: College Counseling Group- Class of 2017.
- Check out our blog: hardingcounselingservices.weebly.com
- Follow us on Twitter: @MHA_College.



Junior Year Tasks...

- **Maintain strong grades and good study habits.** Your junior year grades may be the last grades to appear on your transcript if you apply next fall. Figure out what you need to do in order to improve your grades. Get help if needed from your teachers, counselors, peers, or parents. Colleges are looking for students who can do their work. Be sure that your grades demonstrate your potential and college-readiness.
- **Research colleges and develop a "Colleges I'm Applying To" list.** Consider what you need in a college environment to be successful. Search for colleges that meet your needs. Form a list of college options that includes reach schools, realistic schools, and safety schools. Write down important admissions information you find such as admissions rep contact information, tuition costs, admissions steps and requirements, scholarships, and deadlines.
- **Visit colleges, attend college fairs and local events, attend college rep lunch visits.** Learn about colleges and show your interest in them by attending local college events and college rep lunch visits. Visit college campuses and schedule college tours. Prepare a list of questions you have before your visit. If you need to miss a day of school for a college visit, get permission from Mrs. Semore at least a week in advance, preferably two.
- **Study for and take the PSAT, ACT, and SAT.** Take advantage of the PSAT you will take on October 15. If you did well on last year's test, spend time studying to increase your chances of becoming a National Merit Finalist. Regardless of how you did on last year's test, use this test as a free practice test and take advantage of the customized feedback offered to you in your score report and My College Quickstart account after the test. Develop a plan for taking the ACT and the SAT. Take both tests in close proximity to determine which test plays toward your strengths. When you get your results, determine which test yielded you a higher score, develop a study plan and retake the test. Aim to get the score you need for your application or scholarships before you start your senior year.
- **Get involved in things that demonstrate your passions and career interests. Document all activities on your Naviance resume.** Think about things you are passionate about and your career interests. Find activities you can participate in that demonstrate those passions and interests. Document them on your Naviance resume and keep this resume updated throughout the year. Include all school activities, awards, jobs, leadership experiences, service opportunities, and enrichment programs.
- **Get organized.** Start a file box with information you receive from the colleges to which you might apply. Create a file for each college of interest. Make a college cheat sheet for each college with all of the important information you will need to apply next year. Write dates and deadlines on a calendar.
- **Communicate with your college counselor.** Remember that Mrs. Banker is your advocate to the college reps in this process. Keep her informed on which schools you are considering and what events or activities you've attended. Email her or set up an appointment with her to discuss your college options. Let her know what she can do to help you in this process.

Colleges Visiting Fall Semester

DATE	TIME	COLLEGE	COLLEGE REP	LOCATION
10/1/15	11:35	Worcester Polytechnic Inst.	Donnelley Durham	Cafeteria
10/12/15	11:35	Villanova University	Deneen Brown	Cafeteria
10/15/15	11:35	Lipscomb University	Reggie Blair	Blue Room
10/19/15	11:35	Furman University	Tori Irvin	Blue Room
10/20/15	11:35	Berry College	James Story	Banker's Office
10/20/15	11:35	Murray State University	Tara Hawthorne	Blue Room
10/21/15	11:35	Emory University	Rashmi Anand	Blue Room
10/26/15	11:35	Freed-Hardeman Univ	Kaylan Stewart	Blue Room
10/27/15	11:35	Arkansas State University	Jeremy Sanford	Blue Room
10/28/15	11:35	Loyola Univ. - New Orleans	Elliot Downey	Blue Room
10/29/15	11:35	Belhaven University	Stephanie Wright	Cafeteria
10/29/15	11:35	Regent University	Leila Mills	Cafeteria
10/30/15	11:35	University of Tulsa	Katie Davis	Cafeteria
11/05/15	11:35	Mississippi State University	Leanna Baldner	Blue Room
12/01/15	11:35	Lipscomb University	Reggie Blair	Blue Room

College Visits are added daily. Students can see current college visits by clicking on the "Colleges" tab in their Naviance account. Students will receive an email notification when a school listed in their "Colleges I'm Thinking About" list sets up a college visit. Students must sign up for college visits through their Naviance accounts. To sign up for a visit log into your Naviance account, click on the "Colleges" tab, click on "View all upcoming visits" in the College



CHANGES TO NOTE:

ACT OPPORTUNITY:

Harding is excited to participate in ACT district testing again this year. On **March 15, 2016**, all juniors will take the ACT on campus, in classrooms during the school day. Students do not need to register for this test on ACT's website. An exam has been ordered for each junior. The \$40.00 exam fee will be collected by Harding prior to the exam administration.

SAT CHANGES:

For the class of 2017, Harding will no longer require the SAT. Students are still encouraged to take both the ACT and SAT to determine which exam will yield them a higher score. Beginning this spring, students who take the SAT will take a new, re-designed version of this test. For more information about this exam and for access to free test prep visit <https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign>.

COUNSELING OFFICE CHANGES:

The counseling office is pleased to welcome a new counselor to our staff, Mrs. Alyssa Hall, who will serve as our upper school counselor for students in grades 10-12. Mrs. Hall is a Harding Academy graduate and is excited to partner with our counseling office to help students plan their postsecondary futures. We are very excited about this new addition to our counseling team!

We also have a new, easier way for you to communicate with us this year. Email our office at our shared email address for help with any of your college related needs or questions.

counseling@hardinglions.org