

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Junior

Save the Date

College Planning: Part III

Researching Colleges

11/21-22.....Junior Bible Classes

College Planning: Part IV

PSAT Results & Course Selection

01/04-01/6.....Junior Classes

MLK Day - No School

1/16.....Schedule college visits!

Presidents Day - No School

2/20.....Schedule college visits!

ACT/College Kickoff Day

2/28.....7:50am-2:35pm at CR

College Planning Night

2/28.....6:30pm in the library

ACT Dates Deadlines

12/10.....11/04

02/11.....01/12

04/08.....03/03

02/28.....ACT given at Harding

06/10.....05/05

SAT Dates Deadlines

11/05.....10/07

12/03.....11/03

01/21.....12/21

03/11.....02/10

05/06.....04/07

06/03.....05/09



Think College Night

The Counseling Office is excited to host our second annual Think College Night. We have been active with your students this semester, spending several days in classes with them and answering some of their questions regarding college. We are excited to have the opportunity to share some of this information with you. Junior parents will attend two sessions tonight. The first is a parent panel composed parents of alumni who will share their wisdom gained from experiencing the college process with their child. This session was our most well-received last year and we are excited to offer it to you this year. Next, Mrs. Banker will talk through the information that has been presented to your student in classes this semester. Must of this information is in this handout so you can reference it later. Thank you for coming tonight. We hope you benefit from the information shared!

Mrs. Banker and the Counseling Team



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 with each organization 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. Banker.

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...

Below are the seven tasks we recommend our juniors focus on this year.

- **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. Record important admissions information you find such as admissions representative contact information, tuition costs, admissions steps and requirements, scholarships, and deadlines on your College Planning Sheet.
- **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 and remember to get documentation of your visit from your college in order for your absence to be excused.
- **Study for and take the ACT, and SAT.** Take advantage of the PSAT results you will receive December 12. Use this test as a free practice test and take advantage of the customized feedback offered to you in your score report. 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 the start of your senior year.
- **Get involved in things that demonstrate your passions and career interests. Document all activities on your Naviance resume.** What are your passions and 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, volunteer work, 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. Fill in your college planning sheet for with all of the important information you collect that will be helpful as you 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 Harding

DATE	TIME	COLLEGE	COLLEGE REP	LOCATION
11/04/16	11:35	MS State University	Leanna Baldner	Blue Room
11/10/16	11:40	Millsaps College	Catherine Box	Cafeteria
11/28/16	11:35	Herff College of Engineering The University of Memphis	Isaiah Surbrook	Blue Room
12/12/14	11:35	Lipscomb University	Landon Parrish	Blue Room

Note: 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 Visits section, and click on "Sign-up" next to the visit. Students will receive an email notification when a visit is set up with a school that is listed in their "Colleges I'm Thinking About" list. Please keep your list updated.

ACT TESTING OPPORTUNITY:



Harding is excited to participate in ACT district testing again this year. On **February 28, 2017**, all juniors will have the opportunity to 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 \$42.50 exam fee will be collected by Harding prior to the exam administration. Visit <http://www.hardinglions.org/act-information> for more info.

SAT CHANGES:

Beginning last year, Harding no longer requires the SAT. Students are still encouraged to take both the ACT and SAT to determine which exam will yield them a higher score. For more information about this exam and for access to free test prep visit <https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign>.

COLLEGE VISITS:

Harding Academy does not routinely excuse absences for visits to college or university campuses. Each student is encouraged to use the school breaks built into Harding's schedule for making such visits. Occasionally, however, a student is required by the college or university to be on campus for an audition, interview, or placement examination. In addition, there are special days hosted by colleges for student visits, or a visit may require extensive travel.

If students must miss a day of school for a college visit they must seek approval for the absences at least two weeks in advance and present documentation of their visit to Mrs. Webb upon their return to school.

COLLEGE PLANNING SHEETS:

Each junior has been given access to a college planning sheet in their google drive. Use this sheet to collect information as you research colleges this semester. Develop a list of five colleges including at least one reach school, realistic school, and safety school. These sheets will be discussed in your one-on-one college planning meeting with Mrs. Banker in the spring and will guide you as you apply next year. The deadline to complete your sheet is February 15, 2017.

Student Name:		College Planning					Last Meeting Date:	
		Reach College	Probable College	Safety College	College 4	College 5		
Name of University:								
College Representative Name and Email:								
Annual Tuition (Including Room and Board):								
GPA Required (or the average for the current freshman class.):								
Test Score Required (or the average for the current freshman class) and date of last test score they'll accept:								
Major of Interest:								
Date(s) of my college visit:								
Application Steps: List out each of the following if needed: Applications, Transcript, Test Score (Writing?), Application Fee, Essay, Letters of Recommendation, Resume, Other documents								
Application Deadline:								
Potential Scholarships:								
Scholarship Deadline:								