



# College Planning

Covenant Christian Academy

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Timeline and Information for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

# 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

- Myth: “My middle school grades don’t matter, because they do not count.”
- Truth: All of what we do helps prepare us for the future.
- What can parents do?
  - Pray for your child to desire to know God and have a relationship with Christ.
  - Have regular conversations with open ended questions about what fascinates your child and what interests they have. i.e. “what do you want to be when you grow up?”
  - Sincerely consider what kind of environment in high school and college will be best for your child based on personality, needs, and areas of interest.
  - Be honest with your children about what kind of work ethic is required from them if they seem genuinely interested in competitive schools.

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Myth: “Only grades matter”
- Truth: It’s not just about grades. It’s about learning how to learn and appreciating our God given ability to do so. Extra curricular activities and ACT and/or SAT matter as well.
- What can parents do?
  - Continue regular conversations about what they are learning at school and have your child explain how their classes are interrelating.
  - Start discussing what, if any, AP classes might be of interest. Determine if you will take AP US History or US History during 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - This might affect your course schedule and should not be considered if not willing to put in extensive work and study each night per AP class.
- Begin practicing PSAT questions.
  - You can either purchase a practice book OR practice questions online.

# 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Make sure you have a PSAT book. The PSAT is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in October for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Create accounts at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) Please use your legal name you will use for college applications.
  - This is where you will sign up for the SAT and ACT tests. There are resources here too such as practice tests.
- Think about involvement in extra-curricular activities. i.e. church, sports, volunteering, missions. All of this helps with the well rounded aspect of college applications.
- In the Spring start considering some college visits; be sure to visit more than one type of school.
- Decide about 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade schedule of courses, such as doubling up on Geometry and Advanced Math in 11<sup>th</sup> grade to make room for AP Calculus your Senior year. Determine if you will take AP English Language and Composition or American Literature during 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

# 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Take both the ACT and SAT
  - This can help determine which test is best for the student. Each student learns, and tests differently. Determining which one works best is important.
  - Take both in the Fall, then determine which one you want to retake once or twice in February through Spring.
  - We recommend you not send scores until you receive them back.
- ACT preparation class is offered in Fall by Mr. Priest. Wednesday afternoons 3:15pm – 5:15pm (8 weeks)
- Please visit colleges. Take tours, go to preview weekends. Narrow down the type of environment you'd like.
- Keep in Mind:
  - Juggling work with school, and putting in the amount of work required for more rigorous classes. Determine if you will take AP Calculus and/or AP English Literature and Composition during 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- During 4<sup>th</sup> quarter you will be invited to apply for National Honor Society.
  - Minimum of 4.0 cumulative average at end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter
- Create an account at [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org) and [www.commonap.org](http://www.commonap.org)

# 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- NHS Applications due by end of 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school.
- Decide early if you need to take another ACT or SAT test.
- Myth: “I can’t begin my application until I have all my scores in.”
- Truth: You can begin your application process early even if you do not hit the “submit” button. Schools begin a file with your name and checklist of your items as they receive them.
  - Get a transcript request from Mrs. Marietta, fill it out and give to Mrs. Zauche.
  - If you did not choose to have ACT and SAT scores sent at the time that you took the tests, then log back onto your account(s) and request the scores be sent to specific colleges. This is about \$11 per test per school.
  - When filling out online applications use [jmarietta@covenantrams.org](mailto:jmarietta@covenantrams.org) as the email for Mrs. Marietta as Guidance Counselor. This will generate an email with a link to ensure schools will receive additional required information.
  - Speak to teachers before you use them as a reference for letters of recommendation. Give them a heads up and make sure you have the proper email address.

- Early Decision vs. Regular Decision
  - Many schools have an early application deadline sometime in October or November
    - Pros: Shorter application with less essays, acceptance sooner, can begin honor's program application, can begin financial aid/scholarship applications.
    - Cons: If you are denied, you are not allowed to continue application process or re-apply until the following year.
  - Regular decision application deadline is usually mid January through mid February. Large schools usually have a set date they will release their decision nation wide.
- You may go to [www.FAFSA.gov](http://www.FAFSA.gov) as early as October 1<sup>st</sup> each year to fill out your financial aid information. You will need to use your tax returns from 2 years prior to the Fall term you are applying for. For admission in the Fall of 2018 you will use your 2016 tax return information. Provide yourself time for this as it can be extensive.
  - Colleges view your financial information based on your FAFSA form, and can determine possible additional money they might be able to offer.

# Zell Miller vs. HOPE Scholarship

- Graduate from CCA with a college prep diploma
- Zell Miller Scholarship
  - Graduate Valedictorian or Salutatorian
  - Earn a minimum of a 3.7 GPA AND a 1200 on the SAT OR 26 on ACT in a single test administration
  - Complete 4 High School academic rigor courses
    - Advanced Math, Chemistry, Physics, Spanish 2 & 3, and AP classes qualify
- HOPE Scholarship
  - Earn a minimum of a 3.0 GPA
  - Complete 4 High School academic rigor courses
    - Advanced Math, Chemistry, Physics, Spanish 2 & 3, and AP classes qualify
- <https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/hope-zell-miller-scholarships/hope-scholarship/eligibility/>