

Welcome to Family College Night



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:15

CCS Guidance Team Information

Clay Kessler - kesslerc@carmelchristian.org

Carey Haan - haanc@carmelchristian.org

Marsha Berry - berrym@carmelchristian.org

Guidance office location - 2nd floor of HS directly across from the stairs

Guidance Resource information - located on the CCS website; can access either by the Academics drop down or through Carmel Parent

*****This slide presentation as well as resource information provided in packets today will be available to access this week under the Guidance section on the CCS website*****

*****Guidance team will be available down front of the auditorium after this presentation to answer any additional questions.*****

High School Guidance Team

Marsha Berry

College Counselor

- *Meet with rising seniors and parents to provide support during the college process*
- *Provide student essay writing workshop and proofing*
- *Application process support*
- *Submit transcripts and letters of recommendation to colleges*
- *Naviance and Common App training*
- *Write a Letter of*

Carey Haan

Academic Counselor

- *Meet with students in grades 8-11 to plan high school courses*
- *Help with appeal process for honors and AP courses*
- *Meet with high school students to model how to be a self-advocate and provide strategies on how to stay in good academic standing*
- *Review graduation requirements to ensure*

Clay Kessler

Personal Counselor/Registrar

- *Counsel high school students and support grades 9-12*
- *Provide information and counseling on anxiety and depression, teen issues.*
- *Provide support for families*
- *Teach on mental and emotional health*
- *Host Parent Chat seminars*
- *Crisis intervention*

College Planning Timeline: Ninth Grade

FOCUS: Strong Start and Good Habits



PSAT during school day (Anticipated date: Oct. 14, 2020)

Focus on Academics/Reach out to teachers during office hours for help

Consider new extra curricular activities/volunteer and job opportunities

Students make tenth grade course selections with Mrs. Haan

College Planning Timeline: Tenth Grade

FOCUS: Academics, Involvement & Service

- Pursue consistency in clubs & service groups; leadership opportunities with increasing responsibility
- PreACT (Anticipated date: Oct. 14, 2019)
- Students consider Honors and AP subjects with Mrs. Haan and select classes for junior year
- Summer: Visit college campuses
- Consider ACT/SAT prep options

College Planning Timeline: Eleventh Grade

FOCUS: Standardized Testing and College Research



Fall/Spring: Take official SAT/ACT tests; Attend college fairs

Connect with college reps

PSAT/NMSQT during school day (Anticipated date: Oct. 14, 2020) -11th graders can qualify for National Merit Scholarship Program

College Research with Mrs. Berry (Lunch & Learns)

Senior Year Planning: Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Haan & Students, Parents

Begin exploring Naviance Account - add colleges to “colleges I’m thinking about” section

College Planning Timeline: Eleventh Grade

- **March: Essay Writing - Rough Draft: Mrs. Berry and English Department Faculty Members**
- **Spring: Plan campus visits/camps**
- **May: Students request letters of recommendation**
- **Summer: Sign up for College Boot Camp with Mrs. Berry**

College Planning Timeline: Twelfth Grade

FOCUS: Completing Essays and Applications

- Attend College Boot Camp (Date: TBA)
- Fall: Students reconnect with college reps
- Fall/Winter: Navigate Naviance and the Common Application; Admit applications for early action in October
- Winter: Final ACT/SAT & GPA review; Private Scholarship Apps
- Winter/Spring: Update Mrs. Berry on student decisions & awards
- May: Valedictorian/Salutatorian identified & Graduation

NCAA Eligibility Center



Eligibility Basics- Know the Requirements

English- 4 years

Math (Algebra 1 or higher)- 3 years

Natural/Physical Science (including 1 lab if offered)- 2 years

Additional (English/Math/Science)- 1 year

Social Science- 2 years

Additional Courses (any of the above classes, foreign language, comparative religion/philosophy)- 4 years

****Note:** Carmel Christian School's graduation requirements fulfill NCAA requirements. However, NCAA will recalculate GPA with their sliding scale for core courses.

NCAA Eligibility Center



Grade 9: Student reviews list of high school's core courses to ensure he or she takes the right classes

Grade 10: Student registers with the NCAA Eligibility Center at eligibilitycenter.org

Grade 11: Student meets with counselors to make sure he or she will graduate with all required NCAA core courses. Student takes ACT or SAT submitting scores to the NCAA using code 9999. At end of year, counselor provides student's official transcript to NCAA Eligibility Center.

Grade 12: Student finishes NCAA core courses and submits any additional test scores. After graduation counselor provides students final official transcript.

SAT and ACT Registration

- Students will need to register themselves for the SAT or ACT tests at the dates they choose to take them.
- It is typically recommended that each student take each test more than once to help increase their scores.
- Link for SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
- Link for ACT: <https://www.act.org/>
- Both sites offer great resources to help prepare students for the tests

College Rep Visits at CCS

- **College Reps from schools across the nation schedule to come to the school to meet with students and provide information**
- **Visits typically occur during Crew classes on Mondays or Wednesdays or during one of the lunch periods**
- **These visits are great opportunities for students to gather information and make important connections with the colleges of their choice.**
- **These visits are optional but highly encouraged.**
- **How should students prepare?**
 - Encourage students to introduce themselves
 - Review etiquette and meaningful questions
 - Students typically stop by for 5-10 minutes
 - Students will provide contact information to schools of their choosing so that they can receive updates and additional information about the school and stay connected.

College Admissions Questions

The following questions were recently presented to a panel of college admission reps.

Their answers are paraphrased after each question in blue. We always encourage students to contact college admissions representatives directly with specific questions for the most complete and accurate information. Our hope is that these brief introductions to common topics will help you get started in that process.

Application Process Q & A

When is the best date to apply to college? What is Early Action?

Early action indicates an early application deadline. Sometimes this date allows students to apply for more scholarship opportunities. Early decision is a binding early action deadline. We do not recommend early decision applications as they require commitment on behalf of the student to attend a college if he or she is accepted. The best date to apply is when you have all of your pieces prepared - and before the regular decision deadline. If you are prepared early, the early action deadline can be a good idea.

How many AP courses should students take in order to apply and be strongly considered by your school?

Agreement on all fronts: students should take the combination of standard, honors, and AP courses which allow them to maintain a strong GPA (above 3.0) and demonstrate increased rigor as they progress from ninth to twelfth grade. A high number of AP courses with grades of C or below do not help a student gain admission.

Application Process Q & A

Can you please explain the college rep structure (those that receive, evaluate and select applicants)? How do I connect with a rep that will review my application?

Some schools assign reps by region and others by major. The best way to connect with a school is for the STUDENT to contact the admissions office and inquire. The office will connect each student with the appropriate rep for their circumstances. In smaller schools and in larger schools with many reps, the person a STUDENT builds a relationship with will be able to advocate for his or her application and admission. In other situations, this is done by committee called "holistic review". In both scenarios, personal contacts with demonstrated interest from the STUDENT can only be helpful. Our reps could not stress enough how necessary it is for communication to be initiated and continued by STUDENTS. Parents are highly valuable, but in this process they cannot take the lead.

Admissions Process Q & A

What does your school consider most heavily when deciding if a student is admitted? GPA? ACT/SAT Scores? Service? Leadership? Extra-curriculars?

GPA and test scores are at the top of each college's criteria list for admission. However, some schools will index GPA and test scores so that high achieving students who are not strong test takers still have a good opportunity to be admitted (Gardner Webb University is one example). Service, leadership, and extra-curricular activities can set students apart in the application review and absolutely play a part in scholarship awards.

What is the target GPA range for applicants to your school? Do you consider weighted or unweighted?

Each school differs on this answer. For example, East Carolina University considers unweighted GPA - meaning that quality points for honors and AP courses are not considered, but The University of Alabama looks for weighted GPA of 3.5 or above. The best way to get an accurate answer to this question is to ask your specific school's admission office directly. They will happily tell you the truth.

Admissions Process Q & A

Are public schools allotted a certain number of admissions to various in-state colleges based on factors like high school size?

NO! All admissions representatives agreed with a resounding NO to this question. This is a rumor they would love to squash. There are no quotas based on zip code, school district, school size, or region for college admission to public universities in North Carolina (Alabama and South Carolina agreed). However, each public university system sets a limit on the number of out-of-state applicants accepted. This varies widely by state. All NC public universities have a target of less than 18% admitted out-of-state students. Many are below this percentage. In Alabama, the out-of-state admitted student population is 57%.

Are private schools considered likewise? Is CCS?

There are no disadvantages of being enrolled in a private, Christian school in the admissions process. Since no quotas exist for admission based on school size or type, there are no limits to acceptance based on high school choice.

Standardized Tests Q & A

What is the best way to prepare for the SAT/ACT and when should our students take these tests?

Junior year is the best time to officially test. Key words for practice are EARLY and OFTEN. Carmel Christian School offers the PSAT for students in grades 9, 10, and 11 annually with a Pre-ACT in grade 10 as well. This protocol satisfies both early and often. Free resources are always a good idea and tutoring should be for specific subjects or skills.

Are students required to take SAT Subject tests? If so, when?

None of the colleges represented require SAT Subject tests. (Our Guidance Office has observed a need for SAT Subject tests for international students, specific majors in competitive programs, or for honors college and scholarship awards.)

Are any specific tests required for admission to a military academy?

Even students interested in military service should take the SAT. This score in combination with GPA and physical fitness can help students earn high dollar scholarship awards to attend over 60 different universities in the USA.

Scholarship and Financial Q & A

When is the best time to apply for financial aid and/or scholarships?

*EARLY! Research scholarship opportunities beginning 2-3 years in advance so you can position yourself to be a strong applicant. It is important to know the criteria so you can be prepared. DO NOT PAY FOR SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES. The most legitimate scholarship opportunities are published online for free. The top two websites to use are www.fastweb.com and <https://myscholly.com> (also available as an app). The FAFSA opens October 1 and can be filled out online or even on your phone. **Submit the FAFSA on October 1 of senior year for the best opportunities.***

Is it mandatory to fill out a FAFSA?

No. Admission does not typically require the FAFSA. However, most schools will require you to fill out the FAFSA as part of their financial aid process.

Scholarship and Financial Q & A

Does in-state tuition for out-of-state residents exist?

For private institutions, in-state and out-of-state tuition are the same, so YES.

*For public universities, this is **not** an option based on residence if you are out-of state. There are many rumors about qualifying for in-state tuition in SC if you reside in NC and vice versa. These rumors are FALSE. Some public universities will award merit scholarships to high achieving students from out-of-state and those awards will reduce their tuition to nearly an in-state amount.*

Also, you will be required to create an account with the Residency Determination Service as an NC resident to verify your correct state of residence. Even if you own a home in another state, you will only qualify for in-state tuition in the state of your primary residence. Furthermore, the only way to apply for residency for your student in another state is if you also move with him or her to that state or decline to claim your student as a dependent on your tax return.

College Search Q & A

When is the best time to plan college visits?

Please get started as early as possible with a casual approach. If you are taking older siblings to camps or visits on campus, feel free to bring younger middle school aged siblings along. Beginning in tenth grade, be sure to schedule time with a live person for Q&A in addition to touring the campus, sampling the dining options, seeing the housing options, and attending any available offerings (sit-in on a class, attend an athletics or fine arts event, see a presentation offered by major or academic program, etc.). Summer is a great time to get on campus for tours. Be sure to register 2-4 weeks in advance; schools with a lot of interest may require more advanced registration. Remember: each student is allowed 2 excused absences every year to visit colleges - take advantage of this opportunity and be sure to proactively complete missed assignments ahead of time.

College Search Q & A

Do all universities provide accommodations for students with documented learning disabilities and/or provide access to academic support staff, peer tutors and notetakers, specific skill specialists, technology assistance and ASD support?

Absolutely, yes. Be upfront and honest about your needs for support and share your documentation early. The more a college knows about your unique learning needs, the more they can come alongside you and support your success.

College Search Q & A

Are gap years and delayed starts good options for graduating high school students?

The growing trend of taking a gap year or gap semester to do mission work, travel, or complete an internship is viewed very favorably among college admission teams. The key is to research your options early. Some schools allow spring semester start dates, while others do not. Step 1 is to apply to college and gain acceptance/financial aid awards. Step 2 is to communicate with the college about your plans to pursue a meaningful activity in lieu of attending in the fall. Most colleges will simply press the “pause” button on your status and present the same opportunity for admission the following year or semester.

One word of caution: do not attend any other institution during the gap year. This will change a students' status from freshmen to transfer student and erase previously awarded offers.

Campus Life Q & A

What are some ways that I can encourage my college freshmen to attend church or join a discipleship community once he leaves home?

Two suggestions seem to yield great results. First, casually mention the idea of joining a campus ministry or finding a church to your student. Then, contact an adult on campus (campus minister, student minister, pastor, small group leader, etc.) to pursue him directly. They will “ambush” your student with a text, email, or offer to hang out. Taking parents out of the equation allows students to own this pursuit and respond independently. This is the goal!

How do students learn about different organizations and ways to connect (Greek life, ministries, student government, etc.) once they get to college?

In the first two days on campus, every school seems to offer an “org fair” where students show up to pick up free food and get connected. All campus organizations are also listed on the college’s website. Learning communities and dorm floor leaders will also encourage everyone to find at least one place to get involved.

Thank you for coming!

Please contact us

berrym@carmelchristian.org

(college-related; AP; SAT/ACT)

guidance@carmelchristian.org

with any follow up questions.