



# Scottsdale Preparatory Academy

## A GREAT HEARTS ACADEMY

### COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

December 2017

#### Upcoming Events -

##### Families Welcome!

##### ROTC and other Military Options:

Michael Fernandez,  
SPA Alumnus

Thurs, 12/7 @ 8:35  
a.m. Tech Lab

##### SPA Alumni Panel

Wed, 1/10/18

11:45-12:30 SPA Gym  
Introduction to College

Freshman/Sophomore Families

Thurs., 1/11/18

6:00 p.m. SPA Theater

##### Interpreting Your PSAT Scores

##### Princeton Review

Speaker

##### Freshman- Junior Families

Thurs., 1/11/18

6:45 p.m. SPA Theater

#### Quick Links

##### College Counseling Website

ACT

##### CollegeBoard SAT

##### Naviance for high school students

#### Standardized Testing Dates With Registration Deadlines

#### College Counseling - Special Events

College Counseling is sponsoring numerous events in December and January. Families are encouraged to attend!

##### ROTC and Other Military Options for College Bound Students -

Thurs, 12/7 at 8:35 a.m. in the Tech Lab. Michael Fernandez, a SPA graduate, will talk about military academies, ROTC and Officer Candidate School.

**SPA Alumni Panel** - Wed, 1/10 at 11:45 in gym. Learn about the experiences of our SPA students in their journey from college selection to their transition and first year experiences. A variety of colleges will be represented.

**Introduction to College**, Thurs, 1/11 6:00 p.m in the SPA theater. - An information night for Freshman and Sophomore families about what you can be doing now to prepare for college.

**Interpreting Your PSAT Score Report**: Thurs, 1/11 at 6:45 p.m.

Princeton Review will hold an information session to better understand your PSAT score report. Information about National Merit qualification will also be presented.

#### Interpreting Your PSAT Score Report

Students will have access to their PSAT score reports on the CollegeBoard website on Monday, 12/11/17. Students who do not yet have a CollegeBoard account can create [one](#). All score reports will also be sent directly to SPA and we will distribute them when they arrive. Take time to review your score report so you can learn what your scores mean in comparison to others, rework problems you missed, and develop a plan for improving your test taking skills by taking advantage of [Khan Academy](#), free on-line tutoring. As a result of Khan Academy's partnership with CollegeBoard, your PSAT scores can be imported to the Khan Academy site, and you will receive an individualized tutoring program. College Counseling will host an information session sponsored by Princeton Review on Interpreting Your PSAT Test Score Report. It is scheduled for Thursday, January 11th at 6:45 in the SPA theater. Juniors will learn more about National Merit qualification and everyone who took the test is encouraged to attend.

#### Seniors - Next Steps - Accepting EA/ED offers and Making Deposits!

Many students applied to college either Early Action, Priority or Early Decision so December is a very exciting month with admission decisions coming out as early as December 9th and even on December 25th (Boston College). Notifications arrive in a variety of ways including college portals, emails and by mail. A few words about what to do next:

**Early Decision** - This is the college of your dreams, and if you are accepted, you now must notify the other colleges where you applied that you are withdrawing your application and have accepted admission elsewhere. You can pay your enrollment and housing deposit at your ED school and CELEBRATE! Time to buy the sweatshirt! If you were not admitted, you may have been deferred to Regular Admission. Think about other colleges you may want to apply to Regular Decision with deadlines in January and February. You still have SO many options!

**Early Action**: You may have applied to numerous colleges Early Action.

## ACT

**Feb 10, Register 1/12**  
**April 14; Register 3/9**  
**June 9; Register 5/4**  
**July 14, Register 6/15**

Register

## SAT

**3/10; Register 2/9**  
**5/5; Register 4/6**  
**6/2; Register 5/3**

Register

While it is a great feeling to know you are wanted, hold off committing to one college until you have financial awards from all your colleges so you can compare.

**April 1st** - The final deadline when every college must notify all of its applicants of admission decisions although many colleges have notified much earlier.

**May 1st** - Students should notify the college they plan to attend by making the enrollment deposit and notify all others by phone or email that they will not be attending.

**Enrollment Deposits:** Families should make enrollment deposits at one institution. Since a student cannot attend multiple colleges, it is considered unethical to put deposits down at more than one institution. According to CollegeBoard, it is considered deceitful and unfair to the college who is trying to predict the size of the incoming class. It's unfair to other students who may be on a waiting list. Lastly, some colleges reserve the right to rescind an offer of admission if they discover that a student has double deposited.

Lastly, remember to file the [FAFSA](#) for free federal student aid! To obtain institutional aid, families may also need to file the [CSS Profile](#), the FAFSA and other forms as required by the college. While filing for the FAFSA is free, there are costs associated with filing the CSS Profile. Sending your CSS to one college is \$25 and an additional \$16 for every additional college.

## Should I take the SAT with Essay or the ACT?

Students often wonder what test to take for college admissions. Colleges do not prefer one test over the other, so College Counseling generally recommends students take both tests in their junior year. The ACT has an essay component in the test. The basic SAT does not include an essay component. Students have the option of signing up (and paying an additional fee) for the essay portion. Approximately 125 colleges either recommend or require the ACT or SAT *with essay*. If you don't know yet where you will be applying, our recommendation is to take the SAT once with the essay portion. If you decide on a college at a later date that requires it, you are covered. Here's a [list](#) of colleges that recommend or require the SAT with essay.

## Your College Counseling Team

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

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