

Seton Guidance Corner

February 9, 2023

Decoding Financial Aid Offers

Students who receive financial aid offers from colleges/universities where they have applied are notified of what aid they are eligible to receive and this includes types and amounts from federal, state, private, and school sources. This combination of aid is called the student's financial aid package. Students who apply to several schools should compare aid offers to see which school will be the most affordable. Need assistance in understanding financial aid offers? Click [here](#) for six helpful tips.

Seniors, were you waitlisted? What to do next...

>>1. Decide if the waitlist school is still your top-choice college.

Thoughts about schools can change throughout the course of the college admissions process, especially as decisions come in. If you receive a waitlist decision, take time to consider if that college is still a top choice. Once you have made your decision, make sure to take the appropriate steps to inform the college whether or not you intend to remain waitlisted.

>>2. Secure your spot at another school.

Many waitlist decisions do not come until later in the spring or summer, well after the May 1 enrollment deadline for many colleges. Colleges realize that students need a place to go in the fall and will not penalize someone for accepting a spot somewhere else while waiting to hear back on a waitlist decision. Make an informed decision and send in your enrollment deposit before the deadline.

>>3. Reiterate your interest in the waitlist college and update the admissions office.

Many times after accepting a place on the waitlist, colleges will encourage students to give the admissions office a little more information about what they have been doing since they submitted their applications. This can include final grades and AP test scores, updates on extracurriculars, community service, academic interests, and more. Explain why that college is still your top choice and how you intend to contribute to the campus community if admitted.

>>4. Proceed like you are not waiting for a waitlist acceptance.

It is important to have realistic expectations and focus your energy on the alternative college in which you have enrolled. Network with other students and attend orientation and freshmen events. Neglecting the college where you did accept a spot can cause additional disappointment should you not get into your waitlist college.

>>5. If you are accepted, re-evaluate your options.

If you do get word later in the spring or summer that you have been accepted off the waitlist, congratulations! Your diligence and patience paid off. However, take time to consider the offer. After preparing to attend another college, you may not want to attend the waitlist college after all. Sit down with your family and discuss your options. There may also be a cost involved, as you have to forfeit any enrollment and housing deposits that have already been put down at another school. If you decide to accept the spot off the waitlist, inform the college, and send in your deposit. Then let your alternative

college know you will not be attending in the fall after all. If you decide not to accept the spot off the waitlist, inform that college as well. (Adapted from <https://www.ivywise.com/ivywise-knowledgebase/resources/article/tips-from-the-experts-what-to-do-if-you-get-put-on-the-waitlist>.)

Harmel Academy of the Trades Q&A Night

Harmel Academy of the Trades located in Grand Rapids, MI, will be hosting a live online Q&A night next Wednesday evening, February 15. Executive Director David Michael Phelps and Chaplain Father Dominic Couturier will interact live with viewers and talk about what it means to be a part of a Catholic Trades School and how Harmel Academy is a great path for Catholic young men looking into the trades. The broadcast will begin at 6:30 PM EST with the Q&A portion of the show starting at 7:30 PM EST. To RSVP, visit https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0948a8ab23a7f5ce9-online#.

The Ronald Reagan Great Communicator Debate Series

The Ronald Reagan Great Communicator Debate Series was created to encourage high school students to become engaged and responsible citizens. The debate format exemplifies what earned President Reagan the nickname "The Great Communicator." The Presidential Style debate uses common language, humor, storytelling, and evidence to support both sides of a relevant national topic for a citizen-audience. The 2023 Regional Topic is "Resolved: All United States citizens should serve one year of mandatory national service between the ages of 18 and 26." Students who advance to debate finals at the regional competitions will receive an all-expense paid trip to the Reagan Library in Southern California for themselves and an adult chaperone, where they will compete for scholarship awards of up to \$10,000. Only high school students, grades 9-12, are eligible to participate. For more information, resources, and debate guides, visit <https://www.reaganfoundation.org/education/scholarship-programs/great-communicator-debate-series/>.

CLT, SAT, and ACT Registration Deadlines Coming Up

CLT Test Date – February 25 (Remotely Proctored)

Registration Deadline – February 20

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for CLT's free practice test.

SAT Test Date – March 11

Registration Deadline – February 10

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free SAT practice test.

ACT Test Date – April 15

Registration Deadline – March 10

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free ACT test prep.

Scholarship Opportunities

Information Security Undergraduate Scholarship

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: February 28, 2023

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/13484/information-security-undergraduate-scholarship>

Folds of Honor Scholarship

For family members of US military personnel

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: March 31, 2023

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/19711/folds-of-honor-scholarship>

Heavy Equipment Parts Express Scholarship

Amount: \$500

Deadline: April 1, 2023

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/16242/heavy-equipment-parts-express-scholarship>

Please note, opportunities in the Guidance Corner are not endorsements of the programs. They are shared as options for students and parents to carefully consider.