

# Seton Guidance Corner

February 8, 2024

## Junior Class – Save the Date!

The annual mandatory College and Career Night for juniors and at least one parent will take place on Wednesday evening, April 17, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the gym. Guest Speakers will offer presentations on the college application process, financial aid, the military, and the trades.

## A Parent's Guide to College Planning for Middle School Students

College planning can start as early as middle school, and early planning can lay a strong foundation for a student's academic future. Here are some guidelines to help prepare your child for college readiness:

- **Fostering Academic Foundations:** Encourage your child to develop strong study habits and a love for learning. This is the time to build a solid foundation in core academic skills like reading, writing, and mathematics.
- **Exploring Interests and Extracurriculars:** Middle school is an ideal time for your child to explore different interests and extracurricular activities. These experiences can help them discover passions that might influence their future academic and career choices.
- **Understanding the Importance of Grades:** While college might seem far away, it is crucial for students to understand the importance of good grades. Encourage them to take their studies seriously, but also provide the support and resources they need to succeed.
- **Starting a College Conversation:** Begin discussions about college in a light and exploratory manner. Talk about different types of colleges, what college life entails and the variety of careers that higher education can lead to.

Remember, the goal at this stage is not to create a rigid path towards college but to instill values and habits that will benefit your child in the long run. By starting early, you can make the process less overwhelming and more manageable when high school comes. <https://acceptu.com/blog/planning-for-middle-school-students?>

## FAFSA Update – Delay in Financial Aid Process

The U.S. Department of Education announced a \$1.8 billion mistake with the new FAFSA form. The SAI (Student Aid Index) calculation did not consider recent inflation and did not properly calculate how much aid a student should get. The mistake could make some students and families appear to have more income than they really do, and that means they would get less aid than they should. This includes not just federal financial aid but also state and school-based aid as well. The Department of education is working to fix the mistake; however, there will likely be a delay in the financial aid process (and possibly the admission/acceptance process) as colleges may not receive student financial information until early March. <https://www.npr.org/2024/01/23/1226406495/families-colleges-remain-limbo-education-department-promises-fix-fafsa-mistake?>

## George Mason Catholic Campus Ministry's High School Night

Juniors and seniors are invited to visit GMU's Catholic Campus Ministry on Sunday, May 5, at 5:30 p.m. Students will be able to attend CCM's Student Mass and participate in High School Night to meet staff and students as well as receive a tour of their Chapel space. When it comes to students discerning where to apply for college, GMUCCM strives to give them resources to keep living out their faith as they transition into college life. Parents will need to be in attendance as well. To register, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUfaofduxIRw2DEwgToVIYJ8cGxFjW24Iz6O77U0Bi4P1MHg/viewform>

## Summer Science Camps at Virginia Tech

Explore the world of science through action-packed and thought-provoking summer camps in the College of Science at Virginia Tech. Middle and high school students will have the opportunity to carry out experiments, work with cutting-edge technology, solve real-life problems, tour state-of-the-art research labs, and work with Virginia Tech faculty, scientists, and students. For more information about the camps offered and to register, visit <https://www.science.vt.edu/get-involved/camps.html>.

## CLT, SAT, and ACT Registration Deadlines Coming Up

**CLT Test Date – March 16** (Remotely Proctored)

Registration Deadline – March 6

Click [here](#) to register.

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

**Digital SAT Test Date – March 9**

Registration Deadline – February 23

Click [here](#) to register.

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

**ACT Test Date – April 13**

Registration Deadline – March 8

Click [here](#) to register.

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

## Scholarship Opportunities

### NVTC Foundation Kilberg Scholarship

For senior girls pursuing higher education in STEM-related fields

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: March 15, 2024

<https://www.cfnova.org/scholarship/nvtc-foundation-kilberg-scholarship-fund>

### Folds of Honor Scholarship

For family Members of U.S. Military Personnel

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: March 31, 2024

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

### Heavy Equipment Parts Express Scholarship

Amount: \$500

Deadline: April 1, 2024

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

### Lockheed Martin Vocational Scholarship

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: April 1, 2024

<https://lockheedmartin.com/vocational>

*\*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.*