

Senior Seminar Class of 2020

St. Vincent-St. Mary High School
College Counselors

Graduation Day!!

It will be here
before you know it!



What is Senior Seminar?

- Senior Seminar is a review of what you should be doing throughout your senior year to achieve your post high school goals.
- College Counselors will be meeting with each senior in **individual meetings** during the next few weeks to discuss plans and answer questions about college selection and admission, the scholarship process, and career options.
- You will receive a green STVM folder with a copy of your transcript – ***Don't Lose It!***

College Counselors

- College Counselors are assigned to students according to the first letter of their last name, but both are here to answer any senior's questions at anytime.
- Mrs. Taylor – last names A-L
 - Office Hours – Mon. – Wed. 7:30-4:00
- Mrs. Miller – last names M-Z
 - Office Hours – Wed. – Fri. 7:00-3:30
- Miss Zimmer – college counselor support
 - Mon. – Wed. – 7:45 – 3:15, Thurs. 7:45 – 2:15

First and
Foremost -

Do your best
academic
work this
year!



Website Resources

College and Scholarship Information:

- Common Application - <https://commonapp.org>
- Big Future - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>
- Fastweb - <http://www.fastweb.com>
- Naviance - www.naviance.com

Career Information:

- State of Ohio - <https://ohiohighered.org>
- Bureau of Labor Statistics - <http://www.bls.gov>
- State of Ohio - <https://ohiomeansjobs.com>

The Ideal College Bound Senior

- ***Ideally***, the college bound senior should:
 - Earned the qualifying ACT scores for graduation:
English = 18, Reading = 22, Math = 22
(seniors who haven't met these benchmarks will take the Iowa test October 16th to meet requirements)
 - Have most testing completed, but may be retaking the ACT/SAT/SAT subject tests to improve admission and scholarship opportunities
 - Have narrowed college choices to 3-5
 - Have visited some or all campuses to which they are applying

Not the Ideal
Senior????

No panic, no
stress – we are
here to help!



Fall Tasks for Seniors

- Complete items on previous slide, if not already done.
- Discover if you ***need*** a letter of recommendation for your college applications.
- Create or update resume for use when requesting letters of recommendation for college/scholarship applications.
- When asking a teacher for a recommendation, provide them with a copy of your resume and ask for the letter at least 2 weeks prior to any deadline you must meet. Be sure to send them a thank you note for their work.
- Write/edit college admission essays if required by the colleges to which you are applying.
- Finalize plans for any additional visitations to campuses.

Fall Tasks for Seniors

- Ideally, applications to college should be submitted to the college counselors by Thanksgiving break. ***Follow Directions!***
- On college applications, please list your College Counselor. ***Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Miller are sure to get your requests for transcripts.***
- Students should request transcripts through their Naviance account.
- It is your responsibility to check any deadlines for applications or scholarship opportunities.

Naviance

- Log in to Naviance – www.naviance.com
- STVM zip code = 44303
- 1 – Username = student email
- 2 – Password = your creation
- 3 – Click on “Colleges” in top right-hand corner
- 4 – Add a college to “colleges I’m applying to”
- 5 – You will request all transcripts through your Naviance account

Terms to know

- **Early Action** – early deadline, early response
- **Early Decision** – early deadline, early response, must commit to attending if accepted
- **Regular Decision** – typical deadline and response
- **Rolling Admissions** – applications accepted year-round – no admission deadline
- **Open Admissions** – all applicants are accepted who have a diploma or GED
- **Conditional Acceptance** – certain conditions must be met for admission to occur
- **FAFSA** – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Public vs. Private Colleges

- Do not rule out schools at this point because of cost. Many times, after scholarships or grants are acquired, public and private schools end up with a very similar cost.
- Any college that accepts you will provide you with a financial aid package.
- Final decisions about which college to attend will not have to be made until spring.

College Visits

- Seniors are allotted 2 days for college visits during the school year.
- Parents must call in to report the absence due to a college visit, and seniors are to bring in some verification from the college acknowledging their attendance at the visit.
- Be sure to schedule the visit through the college websites to participate in *official* visits.

NCAA/NAIA

- Athletes who hope to compete at a Division I or II NCAA or an NAIA college must register with the appropriate eligibility center.
- There is a fee to register, and this can be done at <https://www.eligibilitycenter.org> or <http://www.playnaia.org>
- Be sure to discuss this with your college counselor at your individual meeting.

College Fairs

- St. Vincent-St. Mary HS hosts a college fair on October 1, 2019 6 – 7:30pm. Be sure to attend!
- Talking to reps at a college fair is a very cost efficient way to narrow down college choices and get information from several colleges in a short period of time.
- We will advertise other college fair events through the guidance website as we learn about them.

College Representatives

- Any colleges that have chosen to visit our school will have a table set up in the cafeteria during lunch.
- Take advantage of this opportunity to ask questions you may have about that college.

**It's not too
late . .**

To be
saving for
college!



Financing Your Education

- Most scholarships are awarded by the college you plan to attend based on academic, athletic, or fine art credentials.
- Seniors and their parents will be encouraged to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). *This form documents the income information for your family to determine any eligibility for need-based financial aid.*

Financial Aid Night for Parents

- St. Vincent-St. Mary High School will host a financial aid night to explain how to complete the FAFSA online .
- A local representative from a college financial aid office will present this information to interested parents. The meeting will be held September 18th from 7 to 8pm in room 256.
- Scholarships, Grants, and the student loan process will be discussed at this meeting.

Military Recruitment

- If your plan is to enter a branch of the military, speak to a recruiter.
- Military representatives will visit during lunch and attend the college/career fair in October.

St. Vincent-St. Mary website

- The guidance webpage has links for everything you need to prepare for senior year and college.
- Visit <http://www.stvm.com> and click on the Guidance tab to access this information.
- Scholarship information is listed on this site, but you can also access scholarship information in the counseling office.
- All acceptance letters and scholarship award letters should be kept in the Green STVM folder to be submitted to the college counselors in April.

Final Thoughts

- Students will be given a summary of their senior meeting with their college counselor that documents their plans for the year.
- Check the electronic sign in the guidance hallway for reminders and information.
- This slide presentation will be posted to the guidance website for you and your parents or guardians.
- Questions???

Enjoy the Year!

We will help you each step of the way to help you achieve your dreams!

