



2023-2024



College Planning Handbook

FINDING THE COLLEGE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

**A Publication of CVCA's
Office of School and College Counseling**

**Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and He will establish your plans.**

Proverbs 16:3

Table of Contents

CVCA School and College Counseling Department	4
CVCA School and College Counseling Services.....	5
How this Guide Can Help You	6
Four-Year Overview of College Planning	6
9th Grade College Planning Checklist	7
10th Grade College Planning Checklist.....	7
11th Grade College Planning Checklist.....	8
12th Grade College Planning Checklist.....	9
11th Grade College Planning Timeline for 2023-2024.....	11
12th Grade College Planning Timeline for 2023-2024.....	12
Sample College Search Worksheet	14
Sample College Applications Worksheet	14
College Application Directions.....	15
ACT and SAT Test Dates for 2023-2024	16
ACT and SAT Frequently Asked Questions	16
ACT and SAT Test Prep Resources.....	17
Getting the Most out of Your College Visit.....	18
Top Ten Questions to Ask a College Rep	18
Continuing Your Faith in College	19
Guidance for Parents in the College Search Process	19
Scholarship Search Tips and Advice	20
How to Apply for Scholarships	21
College and Financial Aid Terms.....	22
CVCA Partnerships with Colleges and Universities.....	24
CVCA High School Academic Graduation Requirements.....	25
CVCA High School Curriculum Overview.....	26
CVCA High School Academic Schedule Planning Guide.....	27
Helpful Resources at a Glance	28
Notes	29

CVCA School and College Counseling Department

Our Vision:

The CVCA School and College Counseling Office partners with students and their families as they develop their God-given gifts, abilities, and talents, and prepare and plan toward their life-calling after CVCA.

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CVCA School and College Counseling Services

Scheduled Student Touchpoints:

- **Four Years of Web-Based Training** – Naviance and You-Science interest inventories are used to assist students in the early stages of the college search process
- **Class Presentations** – At each grade level, strategies for academic success, course selection, and college preparation are reviewed.
- **Academic Planning and Graduation Status** – Grade-level School Counselors meet individually with students in grades 9-12 each year to counsel them in their course scheduling.
- **Individual College Meetings** – A college counselor meets with each student in grades 11 and 12 and their family.
- **College Application Instruction** – Each fall, the Director of College Counseling instructs seniors on how to complete college applications, including the application, essay, and recommendations letters.

Ongoing Student Assistance:

- **Counselor Appointments** – Scheduled meetings and drop-in opportunities are available with our School and College Counselors throughout the year.
- **Course Selection** – Advice and assistance from a School or College Counselor is available at any time.
- **Writing Center** – English teachers are available at posted days/times for writing assistance.
- **Tutor Lists** – Lists of CVCA teachers and outside tutoring resources are available.
- **Monitor and Encourage** – Help for struggling students is always available.

Student Support (OASIS):

- **Accommodations for Students** – We work with students with diagnosed learning differences.
- **Referrals** – Families are offered referrals to qualified specialists when needed.
- **Testing Assistance** – If needed, students receive help requesting accommodations on AP/SAT/ACT tests.

College Presentation:

- **Summer Opportunities** – Student opportunities are highlighted through emails, in-school monitor announcements, and newsletters for students to learn about options for travel, internships, work, and study enrichment.
- **College Essay and Application Assistance** – College application assistance is available to every student at any time or on College Application Days.
- **College Scholarship and Financial Aid Information** – Financial aid workshops, announcements, and individual communication is provided throughout the year.
- **College Tours** – College trips led by CVCA counselors are offered throughout the year.
- **College Representatives** – College rep visits are scheduled during lunch periods through the year.

- **College Week** – Multiple college representative visits are offered on the CVCA campus.
- **Christian College Fair** – Over 40 Christian colleges are represented at the CVCA college fair every September.
- **Recommendation Letters** – Transcripts and recommendations letters are managed for each student.

Parent Presentations:

- **Parent/Student College Expo Night** – Sessions are offered for current freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior families that address specifics related to the college process.
- **FAFSA Information Night** – A college Financial Aid Advisor speaks to families about completing the FAFSA and scholarship applications.

Test Prep Services:

- **Test Prep Courses** – Three-session ACT Prep courses are offered at CVCA through PATHworks! throughout the year.
- **Test Prep Options** – A list of local tutors and on-line test prep courses is available.
- **Naviance Test Prep** – Free on-line test prep with practice exams and questions is available.

On-line Tools:

- **Naviance** – This on-line tool offers families interactive surveys, college search and comparison tools, college profiles with CVCA data, scattergrams of past applications from CVCA, local scholarships and aid opportunities, and more.
- **YouScience** – This platform administers a set of non-academic tests for middle and high school students to assess their unique problem-solving, working, and social tendencies exhibited in a learning community. The data collected from these non-academic tests feeds into a technological algorithm that aligns a student's natural bent towards certain kinds of work, working environments, and problem-solving contexts with careers likely to appeal to the student's interests and innate potential. YouScience also provides an engaging abstract of professional earnings, education requirements, and other unique features of dozens of career fields to which the student is suited (based on thorough analysis of data collected from the students' testing results).

NCAA & NAIA Athletic Recruitment Training:

- **Student Athlete Support** – Each student expressing a desire to play college sports is given individual college counseling through coaches and the Athletic Department.

How This Guide Can Help You

College might feel like it's a long way off, but with some advanced planning it doesn't have to be a source of stress for you or your family. The purpose of this guide is to help you think through the process by breaking down your first big life deci-

sion into manageable steps. Applying for college can actually be fun! When you pick the college or university that is the best fit for you, you will have a college experience that is rewarding and meaningful.

Four-Year Overview of College Planning

Freshman Year

- ▶ **Pick your curriculum.**
Good grades and challenging classes are important for the admission process. Consider testing into advanced classes if you are not already placed in them. Work with your counselor to plan a 4-year course schedule that shows academic ambition.
- ▶ **Extracurricular activities – Get involved!**
Colleges look for well-rounded students who take initiative and have varied interests. Join a club, get a part-time job, or volunteer to develop your interests.
- ▶ **Prepare for applications.**
Begin a running list of your accomplishments, awards, and other recognitions to include on college applications.
- ▶ **Listen and improve.**
Learn from your teachers' constructive criticism of your work and apply their suggestions. Repeat. You will be amazed at how fast the quality of your work improves.

Sophomore Year

- ▶ **Chart out your classes.**
Look ahead to classes you want to take during junior and senior year. Plan for any needed prerequisites. Remember that strength of schedule is part of your college application.
- ▶ **Type of school?**
Start considering if you want a small college or large university, public or Christian. This is a great way to narrow your focus. Begin a list of what you're looking for in a college experience and search on-line for schools that match your preferences. **Consider a few summer visit programs.**
- ▶ **Consider a new email address.**
Consider creating an email address specifically for your college search. `Firstname.lastname@emailserviceprovider.com` is a polished, professional approach to take, and keeps your college communication from getting lost elsewhere. Get in the habit of checking this account often.
- ▶ **Start practicing standardized tests.**
Talk with your School Counselor about which standardized test is the best fit for you. The ACT and SAT offer practice options to help you prepare for the test next year. Practice will calm your nerves and let you know what to expect.

Junior Year

- ▶ **Visit schools.**
Start visiting colleges on your interest list. Admissions offices offer personalized and group visits. Spring or summer break visits are good, but a visit while the campus is alive and busy is best. Try to visit on specialized major days.
- ▶ **Take the SAT and/or ACT.**
We recommend taking both tests at least once to determine which test you perform better on. Colleges will accept scores from either for admissions and scholarship purposes. Retake the test you performed better on to continue to raise your score. CVCA offers the ACT to all students in the spring of junior year.
- ▶ **Perform strong in your courses.**
Junior year is the last year of grades on your transcript that is sent to colleges.
- ▶ **Start to think about your major.**
Most high school students aren't sure what career they want to pursue. That's okay! Consider your results from Naviance or YouScience or ask your academic advisor if a career assessment might be helpful.
- ▶ **Identify scholarship opportunities.**
By your senior year, you should be deep into your scholarship search, so start looking now.

Senior Year

- ▶ **Submit college applications.**
Most college applications can be submitted between August 1 and November 1. Take your time when completing them: use proper spelling and grammar, and have an adult look over your work when you are done. Some applications require letters of recommendation and/or an essay.
- ▶ **Retake the SAT, ACT, or subject tests if needed.**
Both have registration deadlines approximately one month before each test.
- ▶ **Solidify your finances.**
Continue your search for scholarships and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by visiting studentaid.gov after October 1.
- ▶ **Revisit Colleges.**
Revisit one or two college campuses on a school day to get another opportunity to experience that school.
- ▶ **Compare your acceptance letters/packages.**
After you have received all of your college decision letters and financial aid packages, compare all of your opportunities to make a prayerful decision by May 1 (National Decision Day).

9th Grade College Planning Checklist

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3: 5-6

- Pray**
Pray for God's leading in what He has created you to do.
- Take the PSAT (Pre-SAT) in October**
Create an account at collegeboard.org to access your scores and practice tests. Use the results to spot strengths and weaknesses in writing, verbal, and math skills.
- Begin Looking at what Type of Colleges Interest You**
Attend college fairs in the fall.
- Talk to College Reps about their Schools**
Expand your knowledge about colleges by speaking to admissions representatives in the Learning Commons.
- Research CVCA's Schools of Distinction**
Explore the Schools of Distinction on the CVCA website.
- Work to Your Potential**
All of your grades become part of your GPA. Freshman year is just as important as any other year. See OASIS if you need help to maintain your personal best in your classes.
- Consider Your Strengths and Interests**
Review your *YouScience* account with your family and discuss possible college majors.
- Explore the Resources Available in Naviance**
Create a *Naviance* account in Bible class. Take the Learning Style Inventory and college and career assessments.
- Learn from Others**
Speak to your family, teachers, and family friends about their career and college journey. See if you can shadow someone in a career you might enjoy.
- Schedule Next Year's Classes**
Plan your sophomore courses with a school counselor in the spring. Remember, "strength of schedule" is important while considering your course load and activities.
- Consider AP Courses**
Ask your school counselor or teachers about AP classes to see if they are a good fit for you.
- Be Intentional in Your Activities**
Start building your college resume with extracurricular activities and service opportunities.
- Plan Your Summer**
Plan a solid summer with volunteering, a summer job, summer mission trips, job shadowing, and of course, fun!

10th Grade College Planning Checklist

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

- Pray**
Pray for God's leading in what He has created you to do.
- Take the PSAT in October**
Create an account at collegeboard.org to access your scores and practice tests. Use the results to spot strengths and weaknesses in writing, verbal, and math skills.
- Begin Looking at what Type of Colleges Interest You**
Attend college fairs in the fall.
- Talk to College Reps about their Schools**
Expand your knowledge about colleges by speaking to admissions representatives in the Learning Commons.
- Research CVCA's Schools of Distinction**
Consider applying for one of CVCA's Schools of Distinction.
- Work to Your Potential**
You are continuing to build your transcript. Colleges will see your grades from 9th to 11th grade. See OASIS if you need help to maintain your personal best in class.
- Consider Your Strengths and Interests**
Review your *YouScience* account with your family and discuss possible majors.
- Utilize the Resources Available in Naviance**
Use *Naviance* to capitalize on college planning resources and learn more about colleges and universities.
- Learn from Others**
Speak to your family, teachers, and family friends about their career and college journey. See if you can shadow someone in a career you might enjoy.
- Schedule Next Year's Classes**
Plan your junior course schedule with a school counselor in the spring. Remember, "strength of schedule" is important while considering your course load and activities.
- Consider if AP Classes are a Good Fit for You**
Talk to school counselors and teachers about AP courses.
- Visit College Campuses**
Visit schools in the spring to get a feel for the size/type of campus you prefer. Register on their admissions websites. Students may miss three days of school for college visits.
- Utilize Test Prep Services**
Consider test prep to strengthen your test scores. Take advantage of the free test prep on *Naviance*.
- Make your Summer Significant**
Consider a summer job, volunteer work, summer mission trips, collegiate summer programs, or other enrichment opportunities to build your resume.
- Pursue College Athletics**
If interested in competing in collegiate athletics, start contacting college coaches, complete recruiting questionnaires on college websites, and see the CVCA Athletic Department.

11th Grade College Planning Checklist

Where is God leading you? What is God calling you to? *“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which He has called you.” Ephesians 1:18*

Pray

Pray for guidance, direction, and wisdom as you prepare for your senior year and college search process. Pray for opportunities, conversations, and leading.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

College Planning Meeting with Student and Parents

Juniors and a parent meet with Mrs. Knapp during the year to discuss Biblical perspective and college readiness traits, researching colleges/majors (use of Naviance), timeline of the college process, test scores/GPA, applications, and Financial Aid/Scholarships. Watch for an email invitation to schedule your meeting.

Perform Strong During Junior Year

Junior year is the last year on your transcript that will be sent to colleges next fall. How you perform during junior year will affect the GPA that is sent to colleges. Improvement from previous years is also positive on college applications.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” Colossians 3:23

Senior Year Class Scheduling in February

Students schedule senior courses in February during Bible class. Course options/descriptions will be sent home in January. Schedule challenging senior year classes. Schedule strength is important for your college application. What classes are required for colleges you are looking at?

Take ACT and SAT during Junior Year

Students should take both the ACT and SAT during junior year to determine which test they will perform better on, and therefore, maximize opportunity for the highest score. The ACT is given at CVCA for juniors each spring.

While there is some commonality in material on the two tests, the SAT and ACT assess students differently for college readiness, and many students do better on one than the other. After taking both tests during junior year (or earlier), a student may then focus on improving their score on the test where they feel most comfortable by retaking it as many times as needed to reach his/her goal score. Increasing the score improves college acceptance and scholarship potential.

When registering for either test, list colleges of interest so that your scores will be sent directly to the schools. You may send scores later for an additional fee.

- sat.collegeboard.org
- actstudent.org

Consider taking an ACT and/or SAT Prep Class

Classes are offered at CVCA and other nearby locations. A full list of classes and tutors is available on page 15. Free on-line review for both the ACT and SAT is available at naviance.com.

Visit College Campuses/Attend College Fairs/Talk with Admissions Counselors

- Make an appointment with the college admissions office before you arrive for a tour or information session.
- Begin a spreadsheet of what you would like in a college: size, location, major, extra-curricular activities, spiritual life/ministries. Add notes to spreadsheet after visits. (See page 12 for a sample College Search Worksheet.)
- Continue your faith in college – research campus ministries while researching colleges. Create an account at campusministrylink.org to learn about campus ministries at any college.
- Develop a relationship with the College Admission Counselor of your colleges.
- Students may miss three school days for campus visits. See page 16 on questions to ask during a college visit.
- Attend College Fairs in the fall.

Naviance/College Research/Interest Inventories

Log in to Naviance at student.naviance.com/cvcaroyals:

- School postal code: 44224
- Email: student CVCA email address
- Password: Password that you chose

In Naviance you can list colleges you are interested in, take interest inventories, and research colleges and majors. Have a “short-list” (4-5) by fall of senior year. Know admission criteria for each of your schools.

Apply to Colleges in Fall of Senior Year

Plan to apply to 2 schools to which you are very likely to be admitted, 2 or 3 that you may be admitted, and perhaps a school that would be a reach by Early Action deadlines (usually November 1). Know the admission criteria for your top schools. Make a spreadsheet with deadlines.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

- Research scholarships.
- Use net price calculator on any college website to estimate cost of attendance.
- See pages 18, 19, 24 for scholarship information.

Summer/Co-curricular Activities

Continue to build your resume with jobs, mission trips, athletics, clubs, fine arts, volunteering. Depth in a few areas is better than many activities.

12th Grade College Planning Checklist

“The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Psalm 138:8

- Pray**
Pray for guidance, direction, and wisdom as you prepare for your senior year and your college search process. Pray for opportunities, conversations, and leading.
- Retake the ACT or SAT**
After taking both as a junior, retake the test you performed best on to maximize opportunity for the highest score. (Colleges do not prefer one over the other.) Focus on improving your score on the test you feel most comfortable. Retake it as many times as needed to reach your goal score. Increasing the score improves college acceptances and scholarship potential.
When registering for a test, list colleges of interest so your scores will be sent directly to those schools. You may send scores later for an additional fee.
- Re-Visit College Campuses/Attend College Fairs/Talk with Admissions Counselors**
After visiting colleges as a junior, revisit schools that interest you the most and possibly sit in on a class, meet with a professor, attend a sporting event, spend the night if you have a friend that attends there, and visit a church or campus ministry. (Create an account at campusministrylink.org to learn about campus ministries at any college.) Continue a relationship with the College Admission Counselor of your colleges.
Students may miss three school days for campus visits. See page 16 for questions to ask during a college visit.
- College Application Worksheet**
Create a [College Application Spreadsheet](#). (See page 12.) Make notes on the Worksheet as you complete applications.
- Individual College Meeting with Mrs. Fridline**
Meet with Mrs. Fridline to discuss college applications, recommendation letters, and test scores during study hall or PRT in August, September, or October. No appointment necessary. **This meeting is required to release transcripts to colleges.**
- Update Naviance Account**
List colleges under “Colleges I’m Applying To” and review results from career assessments and interest inventories at student.naviance.com/cvcaroyals (Bookmark this page.).
 - School postal code: 44224
 - Username/Email: CVCA email address
 - Password: Your choice; reset if forgotten
- Complete College Resume**
Complete your resume for Senior English class. Include:
 - Contact Information
 - Objective (intended major, words to describe yourself)
 - Education (type of coursework taken at CVCA)
 - Extracurricular Activities (school and others). Emphasize positions of leadership, service/volunteer work, skill sets
- Complete College Applications by November 1**
Use the Common App or application on college website. See page 13 for specific instructions.
 - **Common App** – commonapp.org – Apply to over 1,000 schools with one on-line application. Make sure your colleges accept the Common App.
 - **Application on college website** – Found on the college’s Admissions page – usually shorter than the Common App.
 - Watch deadlines! CVCA seniors should have all applications completed by November 1.

There are three types of applications:

 - *Early Decision* is binding. You are ethically bound to attend if accepted.
 - *Early Action* is non-binding. You will hear back early.
 - *Regular Decision*

Apply to two to five colleges – two schools to which you are very likely to be admitted, two or three that you may be admitted, and perhaps a school that would be a reach.
- Request Test Scores to be Sent from ACT/SAT**
Use your ACT and/or SAT account to have test scores sent to your colleges. If you listed colleges when you took the tests, you do not need to send them again. Test scores must be sent directly from the testing agencies.
Many colleges are test optional. Indicate on your application if you would like to apply test optional or not. How should you decide? If your test score matches or exceeds the college’s school profile test score, then include it with your application.
- Request Transcripts in Naviance**
After your College Meeting with Mrs. Fridline, you can request transcripts be sent to your colleges through Naviance.
- Request Letters of Recommendation from Teachers**
Not all colleges require letters of recommendation. Requesting a letter from a teacher, coach, or counselor is a 2-step process:
 1. Two to three weeks before your first deadline, ask the teacher in-person if they would be willing to write a letter of recommendation. Have a hard copy of your resume ready to hand them if they say yes. Send a handwritten thank you.
 2. Request the teacher in Naviance.
- Complete Common App Essay/Short Answer Essays**
Not all college applications require an essay. If you apply to a Common App school, you can find the choice of writing prompts at commonapp.org/blog/2023-2024-common-app-essay-prompts. When not applying to a Common App school, check the application for writing prompts/short answer essays. Help is available in the CVCA Writing Center.
Tips: Keep it simple, personal, straightforward, and real. Include reflection and insight; a story told by you; traits and characteristics about you, not your accomplishments. *Why* this matter to you is more important than *what* happened. Have someone proofread your essay.
- Match Naviance and Common App accounts in Naviance**
(Only for students using the Common App.) Sign the Common App FERPA waiver on Common App. Log into Naviance, under “Colleges I’m Applying To,” Click “Match Accounts.”
- Apply for Financial Aid and Scholarships**
 - Complete FAFSA (studentaid.gov) in October. Opens October 1.
 - Complete applications by Early Action deadlines to be considered for university scholarships.
 - Use net price calculator on any college website to estimate cost of attendance.
 - See pages 18, 19, 24 for scholarship information.
 - Local scholarship list provided by Mrs. Fridline in December.

11th Grade College Planning Timeline for 2023-2024

Your three goals for college planning during junior year:

1. Perform strong in your courses.
2. Take the ACT and SAT.
3. Go on college visits.

SUMMER 2023

► Pray Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

► College Visits

Summer is a great time to visit college campuses. Visit colleges that are nearby or while you are on your family vacation. Make an appointment with the college admissions office before arriving for a tour or information session. See page 16 for a list of questions to ask on your college visit.

► College Search Worksheet

Create a [college search spreadsheet](#). Include columns for size, location, major, extracurricular activities, cost, spiritual life/ministries, and any other criteria that is important to you. Make notes in your spreadsheet after each college visit.

► ACT and SAT

Prepare for the ACT, PSAT, and SAT at [naviance.com](#) test prep or see other [Test Prep Options](#).

Take the ACT and/or SAT. It is recommended that you take both at least once to determine which you perform better on. Colleges will accept scores from either test for admissions and scholarship purposes. Retake the test you performed better on to continue to raise your score. CVCA offers the ACT to all students in the spring of junior year.

► Naviance

Use [naviance.com](#) for college research, interest inventories, scholarship opportunities, and more.

► YouScience

Use [youscience.com](#) to better understand your unique problem-solving, working, and social tendencies and which majors and career fields may best suit them.

FALL 2023

► Pray Proverbs 19:21

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

► College Planning Informational Meeting for Parents

Fall 2023

► PSAT, ACT, and SAT

All juniors take the PSAT at CVCA in October. This test is preparation for the SAT while also being the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

2023 Fall Testing Dates:

PSAT: **October 12**

ACT: **September 9, October 28**

SAT: **August 26, October 7, November 4**

Continue to study for the ACT, PSAT, and SAT at [naviance.com](#) test prep or see other [Test Prep Options](#).

► College Planning Meeting with Mrs. Knapp

Juniors and a parent meet with Mrs. Knapp to discuss Biblical perspective and college readiness traits, researching colleges/majors (use of *Naviance*), timeline of the college process, test scores/GPA, applications and financial aid/scholarships. Watch for an email invitation from Mrs. Knapp (eknapp@cvcroyals.org) to schedule your meeting.

► Christian College Fair at CVCA

Plan to attend on **September 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** in the Royals Fieldhouse. More than 50 representatives will be there to share about their colleges and universities. Visit [myblueprintstory.com](#) for more information.

► Local College Fairs

- Summit County Private High School College Fair: **October 4, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** at St. Vincent–St. Mary High School
- Northeast Ohio Suburban College Fair: **October 12, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** at John Carroll University

► College Representative Visits at CVCA

College representatives visit CVCA’s campus during lunch and PRTs. Visit with these representatives to learn more about their colleges and the college decision process.

► College Visits

Fall is a great time to visit colleges. The weather is great and campuses are buzzing with activities. CVCA’s Fall Break (**October 13-16, 2023**) is an EXCELLENT time for juniors to visit colleges. Make an appointment early with the college admissions office before arriving – visit dates fill up fast! See page 16 for a list of questions to ask on a college visit. *Students may miss three days of school for college visits.*

► College Search Worksheet

Add to your spreadsheet of colleges. Include columns for size, location, major, extracurriculars, cost, spiritual life/ministries, and any other criteria that is important to you. Make notes in your spreadsheet after each of your college visits.

► Interest Inventories

A college counselor visits junior Bible classes four times a year to instruct students on using [naviance.com](#) and *You Science* to explore interest inventories and major/career options.

WINTER 2023-2024

- ▶ **Pray Proverbs 16:3**
“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”
- ▶ **ACT and SAT**
Take the ACT and/or the SAT at least once to determine which test you perform better on. Colleges accept scores from either test.

2023-2024 Winter Testing Dates:
ACT: December 9, February 10
SAT: December 2

Continue to study for the ACT and SAT at naviance.com test prep or see other [Test Prep Options](#).
- ▶ **College Planning Meeting with Mrs. Knapp**
Juniors and a parent meet with Mrs. Knapp to discuss Biblical perspective and college readiness traits, researching colleges/majors (use of Naviance), timeline of the college process, test scores/GPA, applications and financial aid/scholarships. If you have not yet met with Mrs. Knapp, please contact her at eknapp@cvcroyals.org.

- ▶ **Interest Inventories**
A college counselor visits junior Bible classes four times a year to instruct students on using naviance.com and *You Science* to explore interest inventories and major/career options.
- ▶ **Research Military Academy Deadlines if Applicable**
See Mrs. Knapp or Mrs. Fridline
- ▶ **Schedule Courses for Senior Year**
Juniors schedule their senior year courses in February with Mrs. Fridline.
- ▶ **College Visits**
Make an appointment with the college admissions office before arriving for a tour or information session. See page 16 for a list of questions to ask on a college visit. *Students may miss three days of school for college visits.*
- ▶ **College Search Worksheet**
Add to your college spreadsheet. Include columns for size, location, major, extracurricular activities, cost, spiritual life/ministries, and any other criteria that is important to you. Make notes in your spreadsheet after each college visit.

SPRING 2024

- ▶ **Pray Job 42:2**
“I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”
- ▶ **ACT and SAT**
Take the ACT and/or the SAT at least once to determine which test you perform better on. Colleges accept scores from either test.

2024 Spring Testing Dates:
ACT: March 12 (free at CVCA), April 13, June 8, July 13
SAT: March 9, May 4, June 1

Continue to study for the ACT and SAT at naviance.com test prep or see other [Test Prep Options](#).
- ▶ **Interest Inventories**
Use naviance.com and *You Science* to continue exploring your interest inventories and major/career options.

- ▶ **Confirm Courses for Senior Year**
After scheduling courses for senior year in February, juniors meet individually with Mrs. Fridline to confirm their choices.
- ▶ **College Visits**
Make an appointment with the college admissions office before arriving for a tour or information session. Spring Break is an excellent time to go on college visits! Plan ahead – these dates fill up fast for appointments. See page 16 for a list of questions to ask on a college visit. *Students may miss three days of school for college visits.*
- ▶ **College Search Worksheet**
Add to your spreadsheet of colleges. Include columns for size, location, major, extracurricular activities, cost, spiritual life/ministries, and any other criteria that is important to you. Make notes in your spreadsheet after each college visit.

12th Grade College Planning Timeline for 2023-2024

Your three goals for college planning during senior year:

1. Complete 2-5 college applications by November 1.
2. Retake the ACT and the SAT for scholarship purposes.
3. Complete FAFSA and scholarship applications after October 1.

SUMMER 2023

▶ Pray Ephesians 1:18

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which He has called you.”

▶ College Visits

Summer is a great time to visit college campuses. Visit colleges that are nearby or while you are on your family vacation. Make an appointment with the college admissions office before arriving for a tour or information session. See page 16 for a list of questions to ask on your college visit.

▶ College Search Worksheet

Continue to use your [college search spreadsheet](#). Include columns for size, location, major, extracurricular activities, cost, spiritual life/ministries, and other criteria important to you. Make notes in your spreadsheet after each college visit.

▶ ACT and SAT

Prepare for the ACT and SAT at [naviance.com](#) test prep or see other [Test Prep Options](#). Retake the test you performed better on to continue to raise your score for admissions and scholarships. Colleges accept scores from either test.

2023 Summer Testing Dates:

ACT: **September 9**

SAT: **August 26**

▶ Resume

Begin writing your resume for Senior English class.

▶ College Essay

Begin writing your college essay. If you are applying to a Common App school, you can find the choice of writing prompts at: [commonapp.org/blog/2023-2024-common-app-essay-prompts](#). If you are not applying to a Common App school, look at the application for writing prompts. *Note: Not all college applications require an essay.* Help is available in the CVCA Writing Center.

▶ Requesting Recommendation Letters

Begin praying about whom you would like to write your letters of recommendation. Give teachers 2-3 weeks advance notice before your first deadline. You need to speak to the teacher in person to request a letter of recommendation. *Note: Not all colleges require letters of recommendation.*

▶ College Applications

Begin filling out your college applications. If you are applying to a Common App school, create an account at [commonapp.org](#). If you are applying to a non-Common App school, find the application on their website. *Note: All college applications should be completed by November 1.*

FALL 2023

▶ Pray Jeremiah 29:11

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

▶ Individual College Meeting with Mrs. Fridline

Meet with Mrs. Fridline to discuss applications, recommendation letters, and test scores during study hall or PRT in August, September, or October. No appointment necessary. *This meeting is required to release transcripts to colleges.*

▶ College Applications – Deadline November 1

Begin filling out your college applications. If you are applying to a Common App school, create an account at [commonapp.org](#). If you are applying to a non-Common App school, find the application on their website. *Note: All college applications should be completed by November 1.* See page 13 for specific instructions.

▶ Transcripts

Request transcripts through Naviance after your individual college planning meeting with Mrs. Fridline.

▶ Test Scores

Order test scores to be sent to your colleges through [act.org](#) or [collegeboard.org](#). Request scores be sent well in advance

of the deadlines. If you sent your scores to colleges when you took the test, you do not need to send them again.

▶ Resume

Complete your resume for Senior English class.

▶ College Essay

Finish writing your college essay. If you are applying to a Common App school, you can find the choice of writing prompts at: [commonapp.org/blog/2023-2024-common-app-essay-prompts](#). If you are not applying to a Common App school, look at the application for writing prompts. Help is available in the CVCA Writing Center. *Note: Not all college applications require an essay.*

▶ Requesting Recommendation Letters

Requesting a letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or counselor is a two-step process:

1. Speak to the teacher in-person, and ask if they would write you a letter of recommendation. Have a hard copy of your resume ready to hand them if they say yes. Give teachers 2-3 weeks notice before your first deadline.
2. Request the teacher in Naviance.

NOTE: Not all college applications require letters of recommendation.

▶ **College Financial Aid Informational Meeting**

Attend this important meeting on **October 9, 2023, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**, in the CVCA Learning Commons. A college financial aid representative will present information about completing the FAFSA.

▶ **FAFSA**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (studentaid.gov) opens on **October 1**. Complete this form to be considered for need-based aid, grants, and scholarships. Parent and student information is needed.

▶ **College Application Worksheet**

Create a college application worksheet with columns for deadlines, type of application, test scores, cost of application, and any other criteria that is important to you. Make notes on your worksheet as you complete each application.

▶ **ACT and SAT**

Prepare for the ACT and SAT at naviance.com test prep or see other [Test Prep Options](#).

Retake the test you performed better on to continue to raise your score for admission and scholarship purposes. Colleges accept scores from either test.

2023 Fall Testing Dates:

ACT: September 9, October 28

SAT: October 7, November 4

▶ **Christian College Fair at CVCA**

Plan to attend on **September 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** in the Royals Fieldhouse. More than 50 representatives will be there to share about their colleges and universities. Visit myblue-printstory.com for more information.

▶ **Local College Fairs**

- Summit County Private High School College Fair: **October 4, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** at St. Vincent–St. Mary High School
- Northeast Ohio Suburban College Fair: **October 12, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** at John Carroll University

▶ **College Representative Visits at CVCA**

Meet with college reps who visit CVCA to learn more about their school and its decision process.

▶ **College Visits**

Fall (CVCA's Fall Break is **October 13-16**) is a great time to visit colleges. The weather is great and campuses are buzzing with activities. Make an appointment early with the college admissions office before arriving – visit dates fill up fast! See page 16 for a list of questions to ask on a college visit. *Students may miss three days of school for college visits.*

▶ **Fall Break – October 13-16**

Use this time to visit schools, finalize college and financial aid applications, and review your college spreadsheet.

WINTER 2023-2024

▶ **Pray Joshua 1:9**

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

▶ **College Applications Due**

Applications for most colleges are due by **November 1**. Check your deadlines.

▶ **Send Thank You Notes**

Write thank you notes to teacher(s) for letter(s) of recommendation.

▶ **Begin Outside Scholarship Search**

Check the [Local Scholarship List](#) and the Scholarship information on pages 18, 19, and 24.

▶ **College Decision Letters and Financial Award Letters**

Watch your mail for Decision and Financial Aid letters.

▶ **Pray Through Your College Decision**

▶ **College Application Worksheet**

Update your college application worksheet using columns for deadlines, type of application, test scores, cost of application, and any other criteria that is important to you. Make notes on your worksheet as you complete each application.

▶ **Revisit College Campuses**

Consider visiting the schools you are most interested in to help finalize your decision.

▶ **ACT and SAT**

Study for ACT and SAT at naviance.com test prep or see other [Test Prep Options](#). Retake the test you performed best on to raise your score for admission and scholarships. Colleges accept scores from either test.

2023-2024 Winter Testing Dates:

ACT: December 9, February 10

SAT: December 2

SPRING 2024

▶ **Pray Psalm 37:4**

“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

▶ **Meet with Mrs. Fridline to Discuss Final College Options**

▶ **Finalize College Decision**

Notify all colleges you applied to of your final decision.

▶ **Work on Outside Scholarship Applications**

Check the Local Scholarship List and the scholarship information on pages 18, 19, and 24.

▶ **National Decision Day – May 1**

Sample College Search Worksheet

Create this worksheet in Google Sheets or Excel. Add as many columns as you need to cover all of your college search criteria. As you visit campuses, complete the worksheet while the visit is still fresh in your mind. See pages 16-17 for more information on the college search process.

Name of College	Distance from Home	Cost	Public/Private/Christian	Size	Major Interested in	Campus Feel	Dorms	Campus Ministries	Other
Kent State University	27 miles	\$19,117	Public	Large 20,694 undergrads	Education	Sprawling Lots of green space	Mix of old and new	Good selection: FCA, Late Night, Navigators	A lot of commuter students
Grove City College	90 miles	\$31,090	Christian	Small 2,138 undergrads	Language Arts Teacher Education	Rural Nice Buildings	Mix of old and new	Big selection: FCA, FCE, Student Mission Fellowship, and more	Love the feel on campus
Miami University	250 miles	\$34,499	Public	Pretty big 16,522 undergrads	Integrated English Language Arts	Small Town Nice Old Campus	Mix of old and new	OK selection: CRU, InterVarsity,	Know people who go there

Sample College Applications Worksheet

Create this worksheet in Google Sheets or Excel. Update it frequently throughout your college application process.

Name of College	Early Action/Early Decision Deadline	Common App School?	ACT/SAT scores sent? (test date)	Essay Required?	Teacher Recs Required? How many?	Application Fee	Admissions Counselor	Counselor Email Address	Additional Criteria	Additional Criteria
Kent State University	Early action, as soon as possible	Either	9/21	No	Yes	\$50	Sherlynn Chapman	sheryll@kent-state.edu		
Bowling Green State University	Rolling	Either	9/21	No	Yes	\$60	Callie Inkrott	inkroce@bgsu.edu		
The Ohio State University	11/1	Yes	4/22	Yes	Yes 1	\$60	Kevin Lofton	lofton.5@osu.edu		

College Application Directions

Five Parts to a College Application

1. Application (either through Common App or on the college's website)
2. ACT and/or SAT scores
3. Transcript (includes GPA)
4. Letter(s) of Recommendation (if required)
5. Essay(s) (if required)

1. Applications – Use the Common App or Application on the College's Website.

- **Common App** – www.commonapp.org – this on-line application allows you to apply to over 1,000 schools with one application. Check if your colleges accept the Common App.
- **Application on college website** – The on-line application on the college's website can be found under Admissions. It is usually much shorter than the Common App.
- Watch deadlines! **CVCA seniors should have all applications completed by November 1.**
 - **Early Decision** – This is binding. You are ethically bound to attend if accepted.
 - **Early Action** – This is non-binding, but applying early means you will hear back early.
 - **Regular Decision**
- Apply to two to five colleges: two schools which you are very likely to be admitted to, two that you may be admitted to, and a school that would be a “reach” for you.

2. ACT/SAT Scores – Request to be Sent From ACT/SAT.

- Log into your ACT and/or SAT account to request that your test scores be sent to your college choices. If you listed your colleges when you took the tests, you do not need to send them again. Test scores must be sent directly from the testing agencies.
- **Test Optional** – Many colleges are test optional. You will indicate on your application if you would like to apply test optional or not. How do you decide? If your test score matches or exceeds the college's school profile test score, then you should include it with your application.

3. Transcripts – Request by listing colleges in Naviance .

- Click “Colleges” tab.
- Under “Apply to College,” click “Colleges I’m applying to.”
- Click the pink + sign on right hand side of page.
- Type the name of the college.
- List type of application. Choose one of the following: Early Action, Early Decision, or Regular Decision.
- Choose how you are applying. Choose from: Common App or Direct to Institution.
- Check box if you have submitted your application.
- Click “Add and Request Transcript.”

4. Letters of Recommendation – Request from teachers in Naviance.

- Give teachers 2-3 weeks advance notice before deadline.
- Before you request a teacher in Naviance, you must ask the teacher in person and give the teacher a hard copy of your resume.
- Click “Colleges” tab.
- Under “Apply to College,” click “Letters of Recommendation.”
- Click “Add Request.”
- Choose a teacher from the drop-down menu.
- Select “All current and future colleges” or just certain colleges for that teacher.
- Include a personal note to the teacher, including application deadline.
- Click “Submit Request.”
- Send the teacher a hand-written thank you note.

5. Common App Essay/Short Answer Essays

- If you are applying to a Common App school, there are seven prompts to choose from. If you are applying to a non-Common App school, see the college website for prompts or short answer essays.
- Keep these points in mind when writing:
 - Keep it simple and personal
 - Straightforward and real
 - Reflection and insight
 - A story told by you
 - Traits and characteristics about you, not your accomplishments
 - *Why* this matters to you is far more important than *what* happened.
- Have someone proofread your essay.
- Help is available in the CVCA Writing Center.

6. Match Naviance and Common App accounts in Naviance

This step is only for students applying to colleges using the Common App

- Create a Common App account on Common App On-line: commonapp.org
- Sign the Common App FERPA waiver on-line.
- Log into Naviance. Under “Colleges I’m Applying to,” click “Match Accounts.”

Individual College Meeting with Mrs. Fridline

Meet with Mrs. Fridline to discuss college applications, recommendation letters, and test scores during study hall or PRT in August, September, or October. No appointment necessary. *Note: This meeting is required to release transcripts to colleges.*

2023-24 ACT Test Dates

Register at actstudent.org

Sign up for [ACT Alerts and Tips](#)

2023-2024 Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
September 9, 2023	August 4	August 18
October 28, 2023	September 22	October 6
December 9, 2023	November 3	November 17
February 10, 2024	January 5	January 19
March 12, 2024	Free ACT for CVCA juniors. <i>No registration required.</i>	
April 13, 2024	March 8	March 22
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 17
July 13, 2024	June 7	June 21

2023-24 SAT Test Dates

Register at sat.collegeboard.org

2023-2024 Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
August 26, 2023	July 28	August 15
October 7, 2023	September 7	September 26
November 4, 2023	October 5	October 24
December 2, 2023	November 2	November 21
March 9, 2024 (Digital)	February 23	
May 4, 2024 (Digital)	April 19	
June 1, 2024 (Digital)	May 17	

ACT and SAT Frequently Asked Questions

When should I take the ACT or SAT?

- Begin taking the ACT and SAT during junior year or end of sophomore year.
- Students should take both the SAT and ACT during the first semester of their junior year. After taking both tests, a student may then focus on improving their score on the test which they feel most comfortable. Students can continue to take the ACT and SAT throughout junior year and the fall of senior year to improve their score.
- Suggested timeline for taking ACT/SAT:
 1. Take both your first ACT and SAT during fall of your junior year (or end of sophomore year).
 2. Decide which test you did better on or want to focus on.
 3. Take your second ACT/SAT in the spring of your junior year.
 4. Take your third ACT/SAT during summer/fall of your senior year. Watch college application/scholarship deadlines.
- When registering, list colleges of interest so that your scores will be sent directly to those schools. You may send scores later for an additional fee.

- Take the ACT and SAT in plenty of time for college application/scholarship deadlines. The most common Early Action deadline is November 1 and Regular Decision deadline is January 1 of your senior year.

Which test should I take?

- At CVCA, students are required to take the ACT at least once prior to graduation. Juniors have an opportunity to take the ACT on campus, free of charge, in March. Students are encouraged to take the ACT more than once to optimize their scores (and learning) through this testing opportunity.
- Students should consider taking the SAT as well, as some CVCA students have performed better (comparatively) on the SAT than the ACT. After taking both tests, a student is encouraged to retest on the test they performed better on, maximizing their opportunity to earn their highest score.
- All colleges accept scores from both tests and do not prefer one test over the other.
- Increasing your score improves college acceptances and scholarship potential.

ACT/SAT Test Prep Resources

Naviance Test Prep

[Naviance Test Prep](#) is a FREE interactive test preparation program for the ACT and SAT exams. After completing a full-length diagnostic test, Test Prep will create a personalized study guide to assist you in enhancing your ACT/SAT test scores. Naviance Test Prep allows you to:

- Plan a study schedule according to your test date
- Determine and strategize your test readiness to success
- Review necessary knowledge for each exam through lessons, flashcards, practice questions, and tests
- Enjoy the Game Center while boosting your test-taking strategies

Naviance Account Information:

- Go to naviance.com
- School postal code: 44224
- Email: student CVCA email address
- Password: Password that you chose
- Email Mrs. Fridline at sfridline@cvcaroyals.org if account has not been activated

ACT Prep Classes at CVCA

- \$325 for three-day course
- **Fall Session:** October 2, 4, 5 – 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Winter Session:** February 5, 7, 8 – 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Spring Session:** April 8, 10, 11 – 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- Register at [Pathworks! ACT Test Prep Registration Link](#)

Purchase ACT/SAT Prep materials or check out of Library

- [SAT Test Prep Resources](#)
- [ACT Test Prep Resources](#)

ACT/SAT Question of the Day App/Email

- [ACT Question of the Day](#)
- [SAT Question of the Day](#)

PATHWorks! in Akron

- ACT Prep – One-day workshops or intensive sessions
- pathworksohio.com or 330-861-4973

Personal Tutors:

- Mrs. Joyce Conway
 - Private ACT tutor
 - Contact at 330-633-0583

Jterm ACT Prep Class

- January 2-5, 2024
- Morning Class
- \$497

ACT and SAT Test Preparation:

- Experienced instructors review skills in all subject areas.
- Students practice new strategies and solve problems.
- Classes offered throughout the school year in multiple locations in NE Ohio.
- Register at ActTestPrep.info
- Contact Laura Icardi at 330-722-7235 or licardi@ActTestPrep.info for more information.

Mr. David L. Diccio – ACT and SAT SuperCourses

- Courses given in Stow/Hudson areas. Contact for courses in other locations.
- Contact at 800-937-6388 or supercourse@hotmail.com

The University of Akron

- ACT prep classes on Tuesday evenings
- aceweb.uakron.edu/wconnect/ace/CourseStatus.asp?p?&course=A16F91117E01

Estrela Consulting

- EstrelaConsulting.com

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center

- cvccworks.edu/CollegePrepCourses.aspx

Prep Classes at Local Libraries

Khan Academy for free on-line SAT Test Prep

- [Khan Academy SAT On-line Prep](#)
- Aligns studying with PSAT results (taken in October at CVCA) or past SAT results

ACT Academy

- FREE on-line ACT test prep
- [ACT On-line Academy](#)
- Aligns studying with past ACT results or other Official ACT practice tests

Sevenstar

- On-line ACT/SAT test prep with licensed teacher at
- sevenstar.org/direct/courses/

Kaplan Test Prep

- kaptest.com/college-prep

Method Test Prep

- Tutoring, On-line Classes, Practice Tests, Self-paced
- methodtestprep.com

Getting the Most out of Your College Visit

1. **Wander off the path and talk to students.** They will probably share their real feelings about the institution. Prepare one or two specific questions to ask about student life. This yields more interesting results than simply asking a current student how they like the school.
2. **Talk with staff and faculty.** You can learn a lot if you arrange to speak with a professor in a field of interest. They are often happy to answer questions and give a tour of their department. Make contact and schedule this well in advance.
3. **Take notes.** Don't count on simply remembering what you saw and heard at a school if you are visiting more than one. Take notes about what you liked or didn't like about each. Photos a useful tool during this time.
4. **Attend a class.** Arrange to sit in on a class in a subject that you hope to major in. This is another opportunity to ask students what they think about the school.
5. **Consider spending the night.** Many colleges allow accepted students to spend the night in a dorm with a student host if they are given enough advance notice.

Top Ten Questions to Ask a College Rep

When exploring colleges, it is important to ask representatives questions that will help you understand their school. **Ultimately, searching for a college is most about fit.** Is the school the best environment for your success – not only academically, but also spiritually and socially? These questions provide ideas on how to best use your few minutes during the initial visit with a representative. Add your own questions too!

1. **Help me understand the difference between a private and public college or university.** The differences between private colleges and public institutions impact the size of campus, classes, engagement of the faculty, price, and availability of scholarships and financial aid. Explore the advantages of private education in the rates of graduation, time of completion, and actual cost of education.
2. **What is distinct about your school? What are the unique programs?** Representatives should be able to share the special aspects of their school. Ask specifics about academics, spiritual formation, school and campus activities, and programs that are limited to their institution.
3. **What are your most popular majors? Why?** Ask about popular majors and understand what draws students to them. Do they have the best professors, the most unique programs? Even if the most popular majors are not your intended field of study, insight on the appeal of those programs can provide insight into the nuances of the school.
4. **How big are classes? How involved are the professors?** A school rep should know the average class size and teacher/student ratio. Small colleges often have more focused attention from the professors and most of the faculty are highly engaged with students.
5. **I have heard private colleges can be less expensive than public institutions, but your price is higher. Why?** Private schools often provide attractive financial aid packages based on need and merit (your grades, activities, etc.). You'll often be surprised that a private institution is more affordable than public based on available financial aid. Be sure to apply to multiple colleges to understand their true final costs.
6. **What type of financial aid might I qualify for?** You won't know about your financial aid package until you apply for and submit the FAFSA, and academic scholarships won't be awarded until official paperwork is received. However, ask the college rep which scholarships are available for a student with your credentials. Ask about their financial aid process (i.e. separate applications, deadlines, timelines, etc.) It is important to apply to all of the colleges you are considering, regardless of their "sticker price." Doing so will help you make the best decision possible.
7. **At what rate do your graduates get jobs in their fields? What kind and how?** Ask about "outcomes." What percentage of graduates are employed in their field of study? How are the school's alumni doing in their chosen careers? Do you have programs (advising, career office, alumni networking) to help new graduates get jobs in their field?
8. **What do your students like most about your school? What do they like least?** Get honest feedback about what current students think of the campus. Learn about what changes are coming to the campus over the next few years (i.e. new programs, new buildings, etc.).
9. **What do students do for fun?** A great deal of your time will be spent outside the classroom. Ask about campus life and the activities in which students are engaged. Learn about the surrounding community and its relationship with the school. What activities are available nearby?
10. **What is residence life like on your campus? What percentage of students live on campus vs. commuting?** Schools vary in their on-campus housing options and requirements for student residential living. Ask about the residence halls, the community feel of residence life, the interaction between residence halls, etc.

Continuing Your Faith in College

1. Research campus ministries and churches **while** researching/visiting colleges.
2. Create an account at campusministrylink.org to learn about campus ministries at any college.
3. As a college freshman:
 - Do your homework – learn about the campus fellowships and local churches before you arrive.
 - Resolve to get involved with a campus ministry and stick with it.
- Visit local churches in the fall semester, especially with students or staff who attend.
- Start a freshmen connection.
- Think missionally. Team up with some others to reach your friends.
- Start meeting weekly with an upperclassman or mentor.
- Work hard in class. Speak up in class.
- Consider your reputation and the reputation of Christ.
- Take advantage of your spring breaks and summers.

Guidance for Parents in the College Search Process

Five Easy Ways to make the Admissions Process Smoother for You and Your Student

1. **Be your student's biggest cheerleader, but from the sidelines.**
Give your opinion, then keep quiet – until asked again. Remember, parents, “we” are not applying for college. Most importantly, listen to what your student wants from a college experience rather than projecting your own aspirations. It is more important to find the “right” school for your student rather than the so-called “best” school.
2. **Be a well-informed guide.**
Open and honest conversations about college possibilities, financial limitations, and geographic restrictions are best had early in the process. Go to collegeboard.org for helpful (and free) information on the college planning process and college financing.
3. **Offer support through administrative tasks.**
The best way for parents to assist their student is through administrative tasks. Organize a schedule for college visits, interviews, and information sessions. Students will likely need to submit financial documents when applying to college for scholarships or financial aid. Make this a seamless process by having the information organized and prepared when the student is ready to submit his or her application.
4. **Don't write the essays or over-edit the application.**
Never attempt to write or add parental editing to your student's essays. It is the best window a college has into your student's personality, interests, and aspirations. Let their voice shine through! It is okay to read your student's essay, correct the grammar, check the spelling, and make suggestions. It is NOT okay to “tweak” your student's essay. It will be obvious to admissions counselors when a parent has used a heavy hand in “editing.”

5. **Don't let the process dominate your family life or conversation.**

Yes, the admission process can seem overwhelming, but don't let it become all-consuming. Have a place in the house where college conversations are off-limits. Some families find the dining room table is the perfect place *not* to allow talk of colleges or chances of getting accepted.

Going on a College Visit with Your Student

1. **Hang back and let your student take the lead.**
Let your student walk ahead of you into the college Admissions Office to introduce themselves and fill out the various forms. Let them ask their own questions to address the issues they care about.
2. **Keep a watchful eye.**
Be on the lookout for details that may not matter as much to your student, such as campus maintenance and clues about how the school is spending its money.
3. **Make college visits fun.**
Don't give your student the third degree after the tour, but walk around the college town or city and browse in the shops or have a relaxing lunch and maybe even take in a game or cultural event on the campus. Get to know the institution's culture and the surrounding area.

Does your student need to miss school for a campus visit?

Visiting college campuses while the schools are in session is the best way to get a good feel for a college campus. While CVCA's fall and spring breaks are great opportunities to visit schools, students are also allowed three excused absences for college visits. Call the CVCA attendance line to report absences for college visit days.

Scholarship Search Tips and Advice

Looking to piece together your paying-for-college plan? Consider free money, like scholarships. These scholarship search tips and resources will help you get started.

Start the Scholarship Search Early

It's important to start searching for scholarships early as some applications may have deadlines a year out from when the dollars are released. If you would like to earn these scholarships to cover college costs for freshman year, then fill out the application the summer before senior year of high school. Also, it takes time to research and find available scholarships.

Before Starting the Scholarship Search

A student can prepare for their scholarship search early in their high school years, or even in middle school.

Besides grades, scholarship organizations put a high emphasis on activities outside of the classroom. What are you passionate about? Use that to pursue volunteer opportunities to add to your scholarship applications and to point you to fields of study. What extracurricular academic clubs and/or sports are you part of? Do you work a part-time job? Not only do these activities show off your skills, but they also show that you can handle challenges and have good time management. Many organizations that you might volunteer for or may participate in athletically or academically may offer specialized grants.

How to Begin the Scholarship Search

It can be hard to know where to look for scholarships. First visit the [Federal Student Aid](#) website managed by the U.S. Department of Education. This is the agency for which you will fill out the Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine how much federal financial aid you will receive. The agency offers advice on scholarships, a free scholarship search tool from the U.S. Department of Labor, and other resources.

High School Counselors are an Asset in Your Search

CVCA's College Counselors is a good second stop. They have access to scholarship resources, [local scholarship lists](#), and tools to point you in the right direction. They can also offer guidance on scholarship essays and help you prepare for the scholarship interview process. If needed, they can also assist with deciding which teachers to ask for recommendation letters.

Free Scholarship Websites

After reviewing the scholarship resources from the CVCA Counseling Office, it's time to hit the web. There are many free on-line scholarship sites to do research, such as [Sallie Mae](#) and [FastWeb](#). Create a profile with your academic scores, community service and volunteering, and athletic and academic activities to be matched with eligible scholarship applications.

Sallie Mae offers the [Paying For College Resource](#), a website with free tools, videos, and checklists to keep you updated as you prepare for college. It even explains the steps to fill out the FAFSA and how to understand your financial aid letters.

[FinAid.org](#) has a list of the more unusual scholarships available. If you are still a few years away from college, note the names of scholarships that you might want to apply for later, or use the list functionality that some scholarship search sites offer.

Be sure to apply for scholarships with smaller monetary amounts. If you earn a few of them, the scholarship total will grow. There also tends to be fewer applicants for these rewards.

Remember: You should not have to pay to apply for a scholarship. If an organization asks for a fee or credit card number, do not share that information with them.

Apps

Mobile apps and mobile-friendly scholarship websites are a convenient way to search for scholarships. Having the ability to apply on-the-go and stay updated on scholarships is a great benefit. Most apps personalize your search options.

Scholarships Providers

Similar to search tools, scholarship providers range in organization, accessibility, convenience, and competition. The main scholarship providers are government, private, and school.

- **Government scholarships** are provided on a national, state, or local level. Usually national and state government scholarships are applied for through FAFSA. National scholarships contain a crowded competition, since qualifications tend to be more flexible.

State and local government scholarships have the restriction of where you live. Local scholarships become very specific, however, the qualifications are typically related to demographic restrictions rather than academic restrictions.

- **Private Scholarships** are provided by for-profits, like Coca-Cola and Dr. Pepper, or non-profits, like the LEAP Foundation. Both options have flexible qualifications as they are free to set their own scholarship rules.

For-profit scholarships have slightly more competition as they tend to be big name companies. Non-profit scholarships can vary greatly. Both options tend to attach a theme to the application, such as a college major, a hobby, your heritage, or a topic the organization may support.

- **School Scholarships** can come from a local high school or the college you will be attending. In both cases, schools may have scholarships funded by the government, a private agency, alumni, or the school's endowment. Some scholarships are eligible for all students, while others are based on specific qualities (e.g. leadership) or merits (GPA, sports). Some colleges may have departmental scholarships (students majoring in psychology). The narrower the eligibility requirements, the less competition you have, and the greater chance you have to win.

How to Apply for Scholarships

STEP 1: Search for Scholarships You're Eligible For

When you've found scholarships to apply for, split your search into need-based and merit-based scholarships.

Need-based scholarships depend on your or your family's ability to pay for college and are only awarded to candidates who need financial help. Merit-based scholarships are awarded based on achievements or abilities, such as academics, art, or athletics. There's also a large range of situation-based scholarships, such as for women, minorities, majors, or gamers. Both need- and merit-based scholarships may be offered by a college, private organizations, or individuals.

STEP 2: Pay Attention to the Requirements

It's important to research the requirements for the scholarship you're applying for since different applications require different documents or tasks. These are the most common documents and materials needed for a scholarship application:

- **Scholarship Application Form** – Fill out the application thoroughly and double-check your information.
- **Essay** – The essay portion of the application is your chance to shine. Even if you're not a strong writer, it gives you the opportunity to express your personality, ideas, and opinions. You only have a certain amount of space and scholarship sponsors want to see how you use it.
- **Letters of Recommendation** – Most scholarships require letters of recommendation from personal or professional references. When requesting a recommendation from teachers, guidance counselors, or personal sources, give that person at least 2-3 weeks notice. The last thing you want is a rushed recommendation or stressed-out recommender.
- **Copies of Transcripts and Diplomas** – Even if a scholarship isn't merit-based, it may require a copy of your most recent school transcripts and high school diploma. Occasionally, applications will also require your SAT or ACT scores.
- **Financial Aid Information** – Some scholarships, especially need-based, might require the FAFSA or your parents' tax and income information along with your application.
- **Resume** – Along with your essay, you should view your resume as one of the central pieces of your application where you can highlight your skills and accomplishments.
- **Portfolio** – Sending a portfolio can significantly strengthen an application, especially for art and design-related majors.

STEP 3: Create a Calendar

When applying for scholarships, timing is key. It's important to begin applying as soon as possible. From the start, make a list of the scholarships you'd like to apply for, their deadlines, and the required documents and essays.

Make sure to start your applications well in advance. Some may request that you create a media project, such as a video explaining why you should be awarded the scholarship. This can be time-consuming.

STEP 4: Rock the Essay

The essay can make or break an application, so it's important to give it the time and effort it deserves. Even if you lack confidence in your writing skills, following a few simple tips can help take your essay to the next level.

Essay Tip #1: Read the Instructions – One of the most important aspects of your scholarship application is following instructions! Carefully read the instructions for writing your essay. If the application requires a word count limit, stay within that limit. If you need to also submit a media piece, such as a video or photo, send it in!

Essay Tip #2: Give Yourself Time – Give yourself sufficient time to think through your ideas, write the essay, and then proof it. Plan your time beforehand to avoid errors.

Essay Tip #3: Find Your Own Voice – When you apply for a scholarship, you're responding to the same writing prompt as hundreds, or even thousands, of other applicants. How can you make your essay stand out? Set time aside to think through your strengths and ways to make your essay stand out.

Essay Tip #4: Create an Outline – An outline can help ensure that your essay is fluid and follows a logical sequence of events. Even a basic one can help organize your ideas.

Essay Tip #5: Liven It Up – Nobody wants to read a boring, lifeless essay...much less scholarship committees who read hundreds of applications! Showcase your personality in your writing and let your passion show.

Essay Tip #6: Proofread, Edit, Repeat – Proofreading your essay can make a huge difference. Proofread your own work, then ask a parent, teacher, or school counselor to check it.

STEP 5: Submit Your Materials

Some scholarships should be submitted by mail while others can be submitted on-line, so check the requirements. If you requested letters of recommendation, be sure the people providing recommendations know the deadline. Also, provide them with either the email address or a stamped envelope with the required address.

Step 6: Check the Status of Your Scholarships

After submitting your application, relax and be patient. Keep a positive attitude as you wait to hear. Most scholarships will let you know when you can expect to hear back. You can also check the scholarship status once you've submitted it to ensure you've included all information.

Keep an organized list of the scholarships you've applied for, so you can estimate how much money you've applied for, and update it whenever you receive your application results.

College and Financial Aid Terms

(Adapted from *Financial Aid Glossary: Learn the Lingo – BigFuture*)

Associate Degree

A two-year degree obtained from a community college, junior college, on-line university, or some four-year institutions. It falls between a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree.

Award Letter

The document you receive from a college that explains the terms of the financial aid being offered. It includes the types and amounts of financial aid offered, what is expected to keep the award, and a deadline for accepting the award.

Bachelor Degree

A four-year degree awarded upon completion of a course of study. The two most common are Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS).

Bursar

The college official responsible for handling billing and payments for tuition, fees, housing, and other related expenses.

College Credit

When a college grants credit for a course, passing that course counts toward a degree. Colleges may also grant degree credit for scores on exams.

Cost of Attendance

The total amount of college expenses before financial aid. Includes tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, and living expenses.

CSS Profile®

A College Board financial aid application used by more than 300 colleges, universities, and private scholarship programs to award financial aid funds.

Demonstrated Need

The difference between your expected family contribution and a college's total cost of attendance.

Enrollment Status

Based on the number of credit hours you're taking, such as full-time or half-time. Some loans/aid may be available only with a certain enrollment status, usually half-time or more.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

States/colleges use this measure of a family's financial strength to help determine their financial aid award. It is calculated using financial information supplied by the family.

Financial Aid

Money given or loaned to help pay for college. Financial aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges, and private/social organizations.

Financial Aid Office

A college office that serves as a resource for students who need help paying for college, and may offer programs to help manage your money.

Financial Aid Officer: College employees trained to help students with grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study employment. They can answer questions about ways to make college more affordable.

529 Savings Plans (Qualified Tuition Programs/QTP)

State-sponsored investment plans that help families save for college and can only be used for education expenses. The tax benefits help savings grow faster.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Required by most colleges, the free application form is used to apply for federal financial aid. It is required for students seeking federal student grants, work-study programs, and loans. It may also qualify you for state-sponsored aid.

Grant

A kind of "gift" financial aid that doesn't have to be paid back. Grants are usually awarded based on need.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Represents the average value of accumulated final grades earned over time. A weighted GPA offers advantages for Honors/AP grades or for more challenging learning experiences.

Loan: Money borrowed from the government, a bank, or other source. Loans need to be paid back, usually over an agreed period of time, and likely with interest.

Master's Degree

An academic degree awarded by universities/colleges upon completion of a course of study demonstrating mastery of a specific field of study. A master's degree normally requires previous study at the bachelor's level.

Merit Aid

Financial aid given to students based on personal achievements. Most scholarships are considered merit aid, as they are generally awarded for success in school, the arts, athletics, etc.

Need-Based Financial Aid

Financial aid given to students because they and their families are not able to pay the full cost of attending a certain college. This is the most common type of financial aid.

Need-Blind Admission

A policy of making college admission decisions without looking at applicants' financial circumstances. Colleges with this policy may not offer enough financial aid to meet a student's full need.

Net Price

This is the true amount a student will pay for a college. There are two definitions, so find out which is being used in any given situation. First, "net price" can mean the published price of tuition and fees for a college minus any gift aid and education tax benefits a student receives. Another definition is the full cost of attendance at a college (including room and board, supplies, and other expenses) minus gift aid and education tax benefits.

Net Price Calculator

An on-line tool that provides a personalized estimate of what it will cost to attend a specific college. Most colleges are required by law to post a net price calculator on their websites.

Outside Scholarship

These “private scholarships” are offered by private organizations, not the government or a college. Scholarships are offered by many groups, individuals, corporations, and non-profits.

Priority Date

The date your application (for admission, student housing, or financial aid) must be received to be given the strongest consideration. Meeting the priority date is important to be eligible to receive funds.

Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC)

A military program available at some colleges that offers scholarships to students who agree to serve in the military after they graduate. Some ROTC scholarships cover full tuition and fees. The program combines a military education with college study leading to a bachelor’s degree.

Residency Requirement

The time a student has to live in a state to be eligible for in-state tuition prices and state aid.

Scholarship

A type of “gift” financial aid that doesn’t have to be paid back. Scholarships may be awarded based on merit or partially on merit. They’re given to students with certain qualities, such as proven academic or athletic ability.

Student Aid Report (SAR)

The report sent to you after submitting the FAFSA that tells your expected family contribution.

Transcript

An official record of school or college course work.

A high school transcript is usually required for college applications and for some financial aid packages. A CVCA transcript includes high school courses taken and lists only semester grades (averaged from 1st and 2nd quarter grades and the semester exam.)Quarter grades are not on the transcript. After each semester, a new GPA is calculated. Transcripts are sent to colleges in the fall of senior year.

Types of Colleges

Christian/Catholic: private educational institutions dedicated to the integration of Christian faith and learning in traditional academic fields

Public: primarily funded by a state government, generally larger than private schools, and have larger class sizes

Private (non-religious): operate as educational nonprofit organizations and do not receive primary funding from a state government.

Undergraduate

A college student working toward an associate or bachelor’s degree.

Work Study

A program that allows students to take a part-time campus job as part of their financial aid package. To qualify for the Federal Work-Study Program, which is funded by the government, you must complete the FAFSA. Some colleges have their own work-study programs.

CVCA has Partnerships with the Following Colleges and University *(as of February 2024)*

Grace College

1 Lancer Way, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590 – www.grace.edu

Lancer Direct Admissions - CVCA students with a 3.0 GPA at the end of junior year are directly admitted to Grace College (no application) where they will be provided with an offer that includes a generous financial aid package and guaranteed merit scholarships

Grand Canyon University

3300 West Camelback Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85017 – www.gcu.edu

Canyon Christian School Consortium (CCSC) Scholarship – up to \$4,000/year for CVCA graduates

Gordon College

255 Grapevine Road, Wenham, Massachusetts 01984 – www.gordon.edu

- **Gordon College Consortium Scholarship** – \$1,000/year for CVCA graduates
 - **Dual Enrollment Courses** – CVCA students receive a discounted rate of \$400/4-credit course
 - **Gordon's Heritage Summer Program** – CVCA students accepted into the program receive a discount of \$200
 - **Gordon Summer Programs** (Heritage and La Vida) – CVCA students will receive priority consideration
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Messiah University

One University Avenue, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055 – www.messiah.edu

- **CVCA-Messiah Partnership Scholarship** – \$1,000/year for CVCA graduates
 - **CVCA Faculty and Staff** – 55% off graduate courses
-

Malone University

2600 Cleveland Avenue NW, Canton, Ohio 44709 – www.malone.edu

- **Financial Aid Match Grant** – Malone will match a CVCA graduate's financial aid offer (including tuition, fees, room, and board after Federal and State aid is applied) for any four-year public university or private Christian college
- **Dual Enrollment Courses (CL)** – CVCA students receive a discounted rate of \$42/credit hour if state funding is not awarded. Courses are taken at CVCA and taught by CVCA faculty.

CVCA High School Academic Graduation Requirements

	OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HONORS DIPLOMAS				
	CVCA DIPLOMA	Academic	STEM	Arts	Social Science & Civic Engagement
Bible ¹	4	4	4	4	4
English	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics ²	4	4	5 ¹⁵	4	4
Science ³	3	4 ¹⁵	5 ¹⁵	3	3
Social Studies ⁴	3	4 ¹⁵	3	3	5 ¹⁵
World Language ⁵	2	3 or 4 ¹⁵	3 or 4 ¹⁵	3 or 4 ¹⁵	3 or 4 ¹⁵
Fine Arts	1	1	1	4 ¹⁵	1
PE ⁶	0.5 or 0	0.5 or 0	0.5 or 0	0.5 or 0	0.5 or 0
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Speech & Debate	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Technology	0.5 or 0	0.5 or 0	0.5 or 0	0.5 or 0	0.5 or 0
Electives	Variable	Variable	Variable ^{8, 15}	Variable ^{8, 15}	Variable ^{8, 15}
TOTAL CREDITS⁸	24	24	24	24	24
Jterm/Mterm ⁹	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Ohio Graduation Requirement ¹⁰	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
GPA	—	3.50/4.00 ¹⁵	3.50/4.00 ¹⁵	3.50/4.00 ¹⁵	3.50/4.00 ¹⁵
ACT/SAT ¹¹	Required	Required 27 ACT/1280 SAT ¹⁵	Required 27 ACT/1280 SAT ¹⁵	Required 27 ACT/1280 SAT ¹⁵	Required 27 ACT/1280 SAT ¹⁵
Field Experience ¹²	—	—	Yes ¹⁵	Yes ¹⁵	Yes ¹⁵
Portfolio ¹³	—	—	Yes ¹⁵	Yes ¹⁵	Yes ¹⁵

Clarifying Footnotes for Academic Graduation Requirements

¹ One half credit in Bible per semester enrolled at CVCA is required. Regardless of how many Bible credits are required based on time of enrollment, a CVCA diploma requires a minimum of 24 credits.

² Must include Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry and one higher level course (Upper Level Math Elective) or equivalent.

³ At least two units of advanced science are required for both the Academic and STEM honors diplomas. Students must include Biology, Chemistry, and either Physical Science or Physics in grades 9-12.

⁴ Must include Global Studies (1 credit, fulfills ODE World History and Civilizations requirement), American History (1 credit), Government (½ credit), and Economics (½ credit meeting the ODE Financial Literacy requirement) or equivalent.

⁵ Two credits in the same language are required for a CVCA high school diploma. Three credits in one language OR two credits in each of two languages are required for all honors diplomas.

⁶ May be met with one full year (½ credit) of Physical Education or two PE waivers (no credit; earned by participating in two full seasons of interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, marching band, or show choir in high school).

⁷ For the STEM Honors Diploma, 2 additional elective credits must have a focus in STEM courses. For an Arts Honors Diploma, 2 additional elective credits must have a focus in fine arts course work. For a Social Science and Civic Engagement Honors Diploma, 3 additional elective credits must have a focus in social sciences and/or civics.

⁸ A CVCA diploma requires a minimum of 24 credits, and in order to meet ODE guidelines, at least 20 of the required credits must be in non-Bible and non-SOM courses.

⁹ A full Jterm/Mterm credit is required for each complete academic year of enrollment at CVCA.

¹⁰ Students must meet high school graduation testing requirements as defined by ODE.

¹¹ Students must take and send CVCA the official scores for both the ACT.

¹² Field Experience refers to experiential learning in either an internship or apprenticeship.

¹³ The Student Portfolio is a collection of experiential learning and competencies based on the student's field experiences. Students will engage with professionals or scholars in the field while developing their own portfolio or ePortfolio of original work that documents their technical, critical, and creative skills representative of their honor's focus. Students' work must be reviewed and evaluated by scholars or professionals within the field/area of study (not CVCA staff) in which the students' work is focused. Students must give a presentation to showcase the work and provide an analysis of it to the school and local community. If the student does not complete a field experience, the portfolio can be based on a collection of work related to the student's honors diploma area of focus.

¹⁴ ODE requires students to fulfill all but one of these requirements to earn each respective honors diploma.

High School Curriculum Overview

Please see Academic Handbook course descriptions for prerequisites.
Elective courses will be scheduled if minimum enrollments are met.

BIBLE Grade Level Credits

Old Testament Survey	9	CP	1
New Testament Survey	10	CP	1
Theology: Biblical & Applied	11	CP	1
Apologetics	12	CP	1
Apologetics Honors (CL 1st Sem.)	12	CL-H	1

Ministry School of Distinction

Koine Greek	11-12	CP	1
Minor Prophets	11-12	CP	0.5
Worship Leadership	11-12	CP	1
Found. of Christian Relationships	12	CP	0.5
Practical Christian Ministry	11	CP	1

ENGLISH Grade Level Credits

Speech & Debate	9-12	CP	0.5
English Literature & Composition 1	9	CP, E	1
English Literature & Composition 2	10	CP	1
English Literature & Composition 3	11	CP	1
English Lit. & Comp. Honors	10-11	H	1
Language and Literature for Life	12	CP	1
CL English Comp. & Lit. in Society	11-12	CL	1
AP English Lang. & Comp.	11-12	AP	1
AP English Lit. & Comp.	11-12	AP	1

Elective

CL Introduction to Creative Writing	11-12	CL	0.5
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FINE ARTS Grade Level Credits

Vocal Music

Concert Choir	9-12	CP	1
Gospel Choir	9-12	CP	1
Women's Chorale	9-12	CP	1
Chamber Singers	10-12	CP	1

Instrumental Music

Royals Band	9-12	CP	1
Handbells 1	9	CP	1
Handbells 2	9-12	CP	1
String Orchestra	9-12	CP	1

Music Theory

AP Music Theory	11-12	AP	1
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Visual Arts

Art 1: Foundations - 2D & 3D	9-12	CP	1
Art 2: 2D Drawing	9-12	CP	0.5
Art 2: 2D Painting	9-12	CP	0.5
Art 2: 3D Clay & Sculpture	9-12	CP	0.5
Art 2: 3D Fiber Arts & Textiles	9-12	CP	0.5
Art 3: 2D Advanced Art/Portfolio	10-12	H	1
Art 3: 3D Advanced Art/Portfolio	10-12	H	1
Art 4: 2D	11-12	H	1
Art 4: 3D	11-12	H	1
AP Drawing	11-12	AP	1
AP 2D Art and Design	11-12	AP	1
AP 3D Art and Design	11-12	AP	1

Design and Digital Media

Video Media 1 & 2	9-12	CP	1
Advanced Multimedia	10-12	CP	1
Graphic Design	9-12	CP	1
Photography	9-12	CP	1
Yearbook	10-12	CP	1

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES Grade Level Credits

AP Computer Science Principles	9-12	AP	1
AP Seminar	10-11	AP	1
AP Research	11-12	AP	1
Intro. to Computer Programming	9-12	CP	0.5
Programming 2	9-12	CP	0.5
Web Design 1	9-12	CP	0.5
Web Design 2	9-12	CP	0.5
Leadership	11-12	CP	0.25
Honors Humanities 1	9	CP	2
Honors Humanities 2	10	CP	2
Freshman Foundations	9	CP	0.25

Arts & Humanities School of Distinction

Creativity & Reason	11	CP	0.5
Capstone: Arts & Humanities	12	CP	0.25

MATHEMATICS Grade Level Credits

Algebra 1	9	CP	1
Algebra 2	9-10	CP, H	1
Geometry	9-11	CP, H	1
Adv. Algebra with Financial Apps	11-12	CP	1
Prob. & Intro. to Statistics (CL 2nd Sem.)	11-12	CP-CL	1
Precalculus	10-12	CP	1
CL Precalculus Honors	11-12	CL	1
AP Calculus AB	11-12	AP	1
AP Calculus BC	11-12	AP	1
AP Statistics	11-12	AP	1

PHYSED & HEALTH Grade Level Credits

Boys Health	9-12	CP	0.5
Girls Health	9-12	CP	0.5
PE Coed (2 semesters satisfy PE requirement)	9-12	CP	0.5
PE Waiver (2 waivers satisfy PE requirement)	9-12	-	0

SCIENCE Grade Level Credits

Physical Science	9-10	CP	1
Biology	9-10	CP, E	1
Chemistry	10-11	CP, H	1
Anatomy & Physiology	11-12	CP	1
Physics	11-12	CP	1
AP Biology	11-12	AP	1
AP Chemistry	11-12	AP	1
AP Physics 1	11-12	AP	1

Engineering School of Distinction

Eng. Method & Team Prob. Solving	11	CP	0.5
Project-Based Mech. & Civil Eng.	11	CP	0.5
Project-Based Elec. & Comp. Eng.	12	CP	0.5
Aero. Eng. & Senior Capstone	12	CP	0.5

Medical Professions School of Distinction

CL Human Anatomy & Physiology	11	CL	1
Medical Professions Seminar	12	CP	0.5
Medical Professions Modules	12	CP	0.5

SOCIAL STUDIES Grade Level Credits

Global Studies	9	CP	1
AP Human Geography	9	AP	1
Modern American History	10	CP	1
AP United States History	10	AP	1
Government	11-12	CP	0.5
AP U.S. Government & Politics	11-12	AP	0.5
Economics	11-12	CP	0.5
AP Macro & Microeconomics	11-12	AP	1
African American History	11-12	CP	0.5
Cold War & Beyond	10-12	CP	0.5
Psychology	11-12	CP	0.5
Sociology	11-12	CP	0.5
World Wars	10-12	CP	0.5
CL World History II	11-12	CL	0.5

Business & Entrepreneurship School of Distinction

Intro. to Accounting and Business	11	CP	0.5
Principles of Marketing	11	CP	0.5
Strategic Entrepreneurship	12	CP	0.5
Business Management	12	CP	0.5

WORLD LANGUAGE Grade Level Credits

Latin 1	9-12	CP	1
Latin 2	9-12	CP	1
Latin 3	10-12	H	1
Latin 4	11-12	H	1
AP Latin	11-12	AP	1
Spanish 1	9-12	CP	1
Spanish 2	9-12	CP, E	1
Spanish 3	10-12	CP, H	1
Spanish 4	11-12	H	1
AP Spanish Language and Culture	11-12	AP	1
Koine Greek 1	9-12	CP	1
Koine Greek 2	9-12	CP	1

AP = Advanced Placement

CL = College Level

CP = College Prep

E = Enriched

H = Honors

CVCA High School Academic Schedule Planning Guide

Academic Discipline		Grade 9 Courses		Grade 10 Courses	
		Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
1	Bible ^	Old Testament Survey		New Testament Survey	
2	English ^				
3	Math ^				
4	Science				
5	Social Studies				
6	World Language				
7	Elective	*	*	+	+
8	Elective				

^ Required every semester

* Fine Arts course suggested in Grade 9

+ Speech & Debate and Health suggested in Grade 10

Academic Discipline		Grade 11 Courses		Grade 12 Courses	
		Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
1	Bible ^	Theology: Biblical and Applied			
2	English ^				
3	Math ^				
4	Science				
5	Social Studies				
6	World Language				
7	SOD or Elective				
8	Elective				

^ Required every semester

Core Graduation Credits:

- 4 Bible (or 0.5 credits per semester enrolled)
- 4 English
- 4 Math
- 3 Science (including Biology and Chemistry)
- 3 Social Studies (including Global Studies, U.S. History, Government, and Economics)
- 2 World Language
- 1 Fine Art

Other Curricular Requirements:

- 2 semesters of PE (or 2 PE Waivers)
- 1 semester of Health
- 1 semester of Speech & Debate
- Physical Science or Physics in Grades 9-12
- 24 total credits earned (including at least 20 credits of non-Bible courses to meet State of Ohio requirements)

Other Requirements:

- ACT
- Jterm/Mterm
- Ohio Graduation Requirements

Helpful Resources at a Glance

ACT/SAT Testing

- College Board – bigfuture.collegeboard.org/
- ACT – act.org/path/parent/college/all.html
- U.S. Department of Education – Federal Student Aid – studentaid.gov

Career, Major, Personality, and Interest Inventories

- Naviance – naviance.com
- YouScience – youscience.com

The College Search

- College Board – collegeboard.org
- Naviance – naviance.com
- National Association for College Admission Counseling – nacacnet.org
- College Search Applications Worksheet (See page 12) – docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BNRuFWH7iOfglJCuPPbgYgpQUli6Z249cu1y4iLipNA/edit#gid=0

Scholarships and Financial Aid

- Navigating the financial aid process video – youtube.com/watch?v=C1CLUCLI-5U&t=10s
- Local Scholarship List – docs.google.com/document/d/1Ag2slOvqRiXOrlv_vKzRif0tym1niczE8sSYTZReJNs/edit?usp=sharing
- Check with the CVCA School and College Counseling Office
- Check with your local public library and local high school Counseling Office

Scholarship Search Websites, Apps, and Resources:

Create accounts to receive links to scholarships that fit your criteria.

- GoingMerry – goingmerry.com
GoingMerry Review of top 10 places to find scholarships – goingmerry.com/blog/best-scholarship-websites/
Going Merry Scholarships in Ohio – goingmerry.com/blog/scholarships-in-ohio-oh/
- Salliemae – salliemae.com/ohio
- Fastweb – fastweb.com
- The College Board – collegeboard.com
- Scholly – myscholly.com
- Scholarships.com – scholarships.com
- Finaid – finaid.org
- Student Scholarships – studentscholarships.org
- Scholarship America – scholarshipamerica.com
- Dollars for Scholars – dollarsforscholars.org
- Cappex – cappex.com
- Goodcall – accessandequity.org/goodcall-scholarship-search-website/
- Niche – niche.com/colleges/scholarships/
- Peterson's – petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx
- Unigo – unigo.com/scholarships
- Chegg – chegg.com/scholarships
- Resource Center and Counsel for Financial Aid:
College Now Greater Cleveland Organization – collegenowgc.org
Applications at collegenowgc.org/find-scholarships/ OR Call 216-241-5587
- Akron Community Foundation Scholarship Opportunities – akroncf.org/Students
- Pam Pustay – Director of Financial Aid, Malone University – Partners with CVCA families even if not applying to Malone
Call 330-471-8161 OR Email ppustay@malone.edu

Notes:

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