

Summit Christian Academy's Counselor's Corner

Fall Edition

2007-2008
School Code: 440292

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A C A D E M Y

ENRICHING MINDS, DEVELOPING CHARACTER, IMPACTING THE WORLD

The first semester is coming to an end, and we are half way through the year. For some students, this can be exciting. For others, it can be a time of overwhelming anxiety. The Christmas break is the perfect time to look over your high school checklist and make any necessary updates. Seniors, if you have not applied to college already, this is an opportune time to complete your applications. Several college deadlines are quickly approaching and it is important to complete and send your application before the first deadline.

If you are planning to apply for any financial aid (scholarships, grants, or loans), you will need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Many scholarships will require the applicant to have completed the FAFSA. For information, helpful tips, and the online FAFSA application visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. The FAFSA is a tedious and lengthy application that will need to be completed annually. For the most part, the required data necessary to complete this application is parental information. Both students and parents will need their own personal PIN (Personal Identification Number). If you have not applied for a PIN, I recommend doing so as soon as possible. The PIN allows the student and parent to sign the document electronically. To register for a PIN number visit www.pin.ed.gov. Seniors, submit your FAFSA application as early as possible, beginning January 1, 2008

Sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT in October will receive their score report and test booklet when school resumes in January. Helpful information will be included to aid parents and students in interpreting the scores.



Summit Christian Academy's Website



Please visit Summit Christian Academy's official school website (www.summiteagles.org). Click on the link **Advising** and you will find an abundance of helpful information in the following categories:

Preparing for College: Preparing for College offers helpful information regarding what to know when preparing for college. It is organized by grade (8-12) and includes helpful checklists. It is essential for each high school student to revisit these checklists frequently and update his or her records.

College Resources: This link offers a number of useful resources including additional websites, free e-newsletters, scholarship search engines, and additional literature resources.

Scholarship Information: The scholarships are divided into two different sections. *Texas College and University Scholarships* are scholarships offered specifically by the university for students who have already been accepted to the school. *General Scholarships* refer to scholarships that are sponsored by individual organizations, in which the awards may be applied to any university the applicant chooses to attend. I encourage students to explore the different scholarships available.

Important Dates: Listed are the ACT, SAT, and THEA test dates, registration deadlines, and the appropriate links to register for the tests. In addition, you will find Summit Christian Academy's school code (440-292). Please be aware of the test registration deadlines. Juniors should begin to think about taking the ACT and/or the SAT this upcoming spring semester. Universities require applicants take at least one of these tests to be considered a candidate for acceptance. It is essential that seniors who have not already registered to take the SAT or ACT thus far register as soon as possible for the next test date.

2007-2008 College Campus Days: College and Universities offer an "open house" or some type of planned college visit day open to perspective students. Our website includes several of the universities; however, it is not an exhaustive list. It is important that students begin visiting universities before their senior year to begin creating a list of college possibilities. As a senior, this is still an essential task. Seniors should visit as many colleges as possible before making their final decision.

I encourage all parents and students to visit Summit's website (www.summiteagles.org) over the Christmas break to review all available scholarships and upcoming events. This is a good time for students to make a plan of action for their spring semester.

From all of the Summit staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.