



Trinity Catholic High School Guidance News

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May the blessings of Christmas peace be yours now and in the coming year!

Standardized Testing Program

The results from the October testing are here and will be distributed to the freshmen and sophomores during the first part of December. We will also be mailing home a copy of the freshman and sophomore test results. The juniors who took the Practice ACT or the ASVAB have already received their scores along with an explanation. The juniors who took the PSAT will have to wait until their scores arrive, probably in the first part of December. Standardized testing scores are not an exact measure and are best used to measure academic progress along with grades, class performance, academic effort and cognitive skills. If you have any questions about the testing results, please call Ms. Brown or Ms. Deddens.

Notes for Parents of Seniors

Many seniors are being proactive in applying to colleges and making plans for after graduation. It is recommended that students send in their application for colleges during this first semester. **Be sure to watch for deadlines especially in applying for scholarships.** Remember this is only applying at this point. The time for finalizing decisions comes next semester. Student must be accepted at a college before their financial aid package will be processed. To apply, remind your senior to . . .

- Meet briefly with Ms. Deddens to discuss their plans
- Complete the application in full (many colleges prefer online applications)
- Bring the application, application fee, essay (if required), and other items requested along with a signed Trinity Transcript Release Form to Ms. Deddens. If the student applies online, they must notify Ms. Deddens of this and get the Transcript Release Form completed.

- An official transcript will be sent to all the colleges noted on the Transcript Release Form as soon as possible.

Just Around the Corner....It's Semester 2

In early January students will be taking semester exams and gearing up for the second part of the school year. Please remind your child that exams are 20% of the semester grade and they must be taken seriously. Nobody enjoys those few days of testing stress, but it is an important part in allowing the student to bring the work of a semester together and demonstrate what they have learned. Ultimately, those grades become part of a student's permanent record. Why would anyone choose not to study for their exams?

Early second semester is also a time to begin thinking about course selection for next year. The process will be outlined for you in a future publication. It is important that a student's course selection include not only the core curriculum requirements, but also thoughtful electives. A student should never choose a course because their friend is choosing it, or because they perceive it to be an "easy" class. Course selection needs to be aligned with future plans. It needs to be handled on an individual basis, and it needs to be challenging and rigorous. Research has shown that students who challenge themselves in high school by taking rigorous courses have a higher success rate in college. Reading, writing, and thinking skills must be developed during the high school years to insure greater success in life. So help your student make thoughtful decisions when it comes time to choose courses for next year.

Credit Recovery

If your student unfortunately fails a first semester course, or if your student needs to earn credit for courses failed in a past semester, they will need to attend summer school in your public school district or take a correspondence course. **Correspondence courses may be started at any point during the school year and should be ordered immediately to ensure completion before the 2010-2011 school year.** Teachers are available to help students with the courses, and the courses may be worked on during academic lab time. Call Ms. Deddens or Ms. Brown to arrange enrollment in a course as soon as possible after report cards are issued.