Notre Dame Academy
College Office Newsletter

<u>In This Issue</u>
*Testing News
*Financial Aid -FAFSA and CSS Profile
***College Spotlight:**
Wake Forest University

*News this month: Scholarships-Coca-Cola Scholars open for 2024
Deadline October 2

The Coca-Cola Scholars program is open for the 2023-2024 academic year from our website **August 1 through October 2, 2023**scholars@coca-cola.com | www.coca-colascholars.org

Click here to view program details and a listing of the 2023 Coke Scholars

*Private College Fair

WWKM
2023 COLLEGE FAIR
SAVE THE DATE

*Juniors and seniors are invited to engage from 1:30 to 3:00 PM with admission representatives from over 200 colleges and universities from around the world. This approach is designed to maximize direct conversations between admission representatives and students. Parents may not attend the student fair but there are sessions on Financial Aid held for parents in adjacent rooms.
Where: The Omni North Tower
When: Saturday,August 26

PSAT/SAT/ACT Dates Coming Up

Test Date	Type of Test	Deadline/late date	Scores 1st Available
August 26	**SAT**	July28/August 15	September 18
September 9	**ACT**	August 4/August 18	September 22
October 7	**SAT**	September 7/September 26	October 13
October 28	**ACT**	September 22/October 6	November 10
November 4	**SAT**	October 5/October 24	November 17
December 2	**SAT**	November 2/November 21	December 15
December 9	**ACT**	November 3/November 17	December 22

Juniors…Reminder: SAT/ACT Reinstated for Georgia Public Colleges

If you are thinking about attending a public college in Georgia, you must submit an SAT score. There is a minimum score below. If anyone does not meet the minimum, you must apply to Ga. Perimeter or Ga. Gwinnett that do not have those minimums. An explanation of the public system policies is below.
SAT/ACT- Minimum Requirements for 2024 Entry Students - some colleges like Columbus State, Ga. Southern, Kennesaw State and Valdosta State are test, which means after a senior applies they will let you know if your GPA is high enough that you do not need to submit test scores. If the minimum GPA is not met, traditional test score **minimum** requirements listed below are required. **Because UGA and Ga. Tech are very competitive most applicants must far exceed minimum scores to be accepted.**

SAT 480 Reading; 440 Math / **ACT** 17 English or Reading;17 Math

Please Contact Applerouth tutoring for prep help if your first SAT is lower than what you need to be accepted to your preferred college.
www.applerouth.com - **info@applerouth.com** - **866-789-PREP (7737)**
Other colleges that are requiring an SAT score with an application are
1. Private colleges: Georgetown University-DC, MIT
2. Public colleges: in Florida, Auburn* test flexible (3.6 and cannot take the test), Purdue class of 2024, U of Tenn., Georgia- Ga. Tech/ UGA-other colleges in Georgia will be test flexible (3.0-3.2 /above not required to submit scores) Students submit applications and the college will let you know if you need to submit scores after they have recalculated the GPA.

College Spotlight: Wake Forest University, NC.

Wake Forest College of Arts and Sciences, with its 29 academic departments and 16 interdisciplinary programs, is the heart of Wake Forest University. The College embraces the liberal arts tradition within the context of an internationally recognized research university. The College upholds the teacher-scholar ideal; expects exceptional teaching and outstanding research, scholarship and creativity; and promotes faculty interaction with students both in and out of the classroom that nurtures their intellectual and personal development. Wake Forest has approximately 5,400 students. They have strong majors in communications/journalism, accounting/business/finance/economics, theatre /drama, and biology. Greek life is a large part of the social experience with over 50% of the students joining a sorority or fraternity. Wake is somewhat rare in that it is both an intimate community and a research university. They boast an undergraduate research center that teams students with accomplished scholars across the arts and sciences, in our library and labs, on this campus, in the medical school downtown, in the local community, and across the world. They have semester-long programs at our Wake Washington [DC] Center and our own Study Away programs around the world, including a First-Year Study Away experience in Copenhagen. They have an exciting new engineering program at our Wake Downtown facility where our biomedical faculty teach and research alongside the Wake Forest medical school faculty. They are a residential college that believes deeply in educating the whole student. The mission of the **Office of Academic Advising** is to provide students with caring and timely individual guidance and help in problem-solving, developing relationships, and making intentional choices. The **Office of Diversity and Inclusion** generates rich faculty, staff, and student-led initiatives that cultivate plurality and intercultural competence. The thriving community engagement offerings help students reach out of their comfort zones and serve those both locally and globally.

Wake Forest University's Pre-College Online Program is the good way for students to explore their interests and passions while they're still in high school. The format is highly flexible, so fitting an online course into their busy schedule is a breeze. Courses feature video lessons that allow them to tune in anytime their schedule allows. Videos are highly engaging, with interactive lessons that maximize your learning experience. What else they can expect:**Renowned faculty:** Programs are designed by Wake Forest University faculty.

- **Mentorship:** Access to mentors who guide your learning experience.

- **Certificate of Completion:** Earn this recognition from Wake Forest University when you complete a course.

Tips for the FAFSA and Financial Aid forms.

Here are a few tips to successfully navigate the **FAFSA** and **CSS Profile**, College Board's application used by many schools, to apply for institutional need-based aid.

1. **Know your deadlines!** When are all these forms due? For some colleges financial aid applications are due the same day as admission applications for prospective students. Sooner is always better than later. <mark>This year the FAFSA is being changed a bit to make it more user friendly and consequently, it is not coming out until December not October</mark>.

2. **Make a list of what is required**. Not sure what we need? Some college requirements for a financial aid application consist of four main items:
   – the FAFSA (for US citizens and permanent residents)
   – the CSS Profile (mainly private colleges)
   – 2022 Federal Tax Return with schedules (for US citizens and permanent residents)
   – 2022 W2s (for US citizens and permanent residents)
   There may be a few additional items colleges need, and if this applies to you colleges will let you know through your application portal (where you check the status of your admission application).

3. **Create your FSA ID**. Before you can complete the FAFSA, you need to **create an FSA ID**. This is a username and password that will be used to file and sign your FAFSA, as well as complete federal paperwork for student loans. Both the student and at least one parent need to create an individual FSA ID tied to their personal information. Each FSA ID will be linked to your legal name, birth date, and social security number. You will also need a personal email address. **DO NOT use an** <mark>**email address linked to your high school!** You will use this username and email for the next four years (possibly longer if you attend graduate school), and if you lose access to your high school email address after graduation it is extremely difficult to reset your password should you need to do so.</mark>

4. **Use the correct legal name and social security number**. If your last name is hyphenated or appears a certain way on your social security card, it is important that you use your legal name exactly as it appears. If you do not, it will cause a big problem. If your parent(s) do not have a social security number, use all zeroes or use their tax payer ID. **Do not make up a number**. If you make a typo on your social security number, you will not be able to correct this information, you will need to fill out an entirely new application.

5. **Have your tax returns ready.** Ready to fill out the FAFSA and/or the CSS Profile? Having your tax return and W2s next to you while completing the forms is CRITICAL to success! On both

forms, when you click on a in field to type your answer, a helpful hint will appear on the side of your screen. This helpful hint will tell you the exact line to reference on your tax return. Copy the numbers and you're well on your way.

6. **Be consistent.** Some of the questions on the CSS and FAFSA will ask for the same information. If you report conflicting information, there will be a delay in processing your financial aid application. Be sure that you use the same figure for your assets, particularly the figures for cash/savings and investments. Investments can be a pesky question for families when you are not sure what to include. Use those helpful hints on the application to get clarification. On the FAFSA, you do not report the value of retirement accounts such as a 401k, nor do you report the value of your primary residence. On the CSS Profile, home value and retirement account value will be asked in specific questions. They won't be included in a large investment figure anywhere on the application.

7. **Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool**. On the FAFSA, there is a handy tool called the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, or DRT. This tool will allow you to auto-populate your FAFSA right from the information reported on your tax forms from the IRS. Not only will this make filling out the application much easier for you, it also helps the financial aid office to guarantee the accuracy of your application. Another perk? One-third of FAFSAs are selected for a process called Federal Verification. This means the school must collect a little more information from your family to verify that every data field on your FAFSA is correct. By using the DRT, you are less likely to be randomly selected for this process.

8. **Don't leave fields blank**. Leaving fields blank may cause an error or a delay in processing your application. If there is no amount to report, add a zero to ensure clarity and accuracy.

9. **Do not use commas or decimal points**. Round to the nearest whole number. If you try to use decimal points, both forms are going to add extra zeroes, significantly inflating your income and/or assets!

10. **Use prior prior year income information**. You read those instructions right. This allows families to complete the forms earlier and with finalized information, allowing institutions more time to get families accurate financial aid awards in the spring. For example, you will use 2022 tax information when completing financial aid forms for the 2024-2025 college academic year. If you feel 2022 is not an accurate reflection of your family's financial situation (ex. someone lost a job, your family income was impacted by COVID-19, or there was a one-time bonus or other income inflation in 2022), contact the Financial Aid Office. Offices of Financial Aid will ask for documentation of the change along with your 2023 tax return and W2s (when they are available) and your projected income to see if schools are able to make an adjustment.

11. **Whom to list on the FAFSA/CSS Profile.** Are your biological parents divorced, and you're not sure who should be listed on the FAFSA or CSS Profile? There's a great **youtube video provided by the Department of Education online** to help you figure out who you should include on the FAFSA. If you split time between two separate households, you will only include the parent and siblings who you live with most of the time. For the CSS Profile, you will include information for all parents and step-parents, regardless of who you live with the majority of the time. If you split time between two households, you will **fill out the CSS Profile with each parent**. Ask for help from a college financial aid office. They are experts and deal with questions every day.

For new families: What is Naviance?

Naviance is an online toolkit for students and parents **to help them make informed choices in planning for life beyond graduation**. This platform helps students learn about their interests, strengths, and needs so that they can receive individualized support to help them reach their goals.

- How does the College Office use it in 10th and 11th grades?
    - The Career Interest Profiler and Personality Inventory are assigned to help students start the journey towards self-awareness.
    - Majors are matched with interests and then colleges are selected to match majors.
    - Colleges are listed on "Colleges I am Interested in".
- Can a 9th or 10th grader look under the Colleges tab and explore colleges?
    - Yes. There is a comprehensive list of colleges that includes admissions data and general information and pictures of the college.
- What about senior year?
    - Naviance is matched with Common App(used to apply to most colleges) and all school documents (recommendations, school profile, transcripts and forms)are sent to colleges the senior applied to on Common App.
    - Once the senior submits the NDA folder with the submission page confirming their application has been successfully sent, Ms. Woods moves the college to "Colleges I am applying to"
- All grades: Service Projects are housed in Naviance under Resume/Volunteer Services. Go to the top right of the first page of your account, click the top light blue circle and the drop down shows the resume.

Going Merry Scholarship System:

Going Merry (www.goingmerry.com) is a new scholarship website - it makes scholarship applications as easy as college applications are when you use the Common App. Going Merry is completely different from the older scholarship search engines:

- Matching - Once you fill out your profile, you are automatically matched with scholarships you are most eligible for.
- Direct Applications - You can apply directly to multiple scholarships, you never need to leave the site.
- Auto-filled Applications - All of the information from your profile is auto-filled into each application, saving you time.
- Estimated Application Times - Every scholarship has estimated application time to help you prioritize them.
- Scholarships Grouped By Essay Topics - Scholarships are grouped by common essay topics so you can minimize the number of essays you have to write. Scholarships below are due this month. See website for full list.

1 Dermalogica "New Beginnings" Esthetics Scholarship - SummerProvider: PCA Skin / Beauty Changes Lives
Amount: $5,000
# of winners: 2

2 Visa Dispute Resolution Professional Certification ScholarshipProvider: Visa / Scholarship America
Amount: Varies
# of winners: 330

3 "Equal Opportunity" ScholarshipProvider: Calvin Rosser / Bold.org
Amount: $500
# of winners: 2

4 Your Path Scholarship (2023)Provider: Candice Lenoir
Amount: $500
# of winners: 1

5 SRJC - Doyle Scholarship ProgramProvider: Santa Rosa Junior College
Amount: $1,200
# of winners: Varies

6 Cameron Impact ScholarshipProvider: Bryan Cameron Education Foundation
Amount: Varies
# of winners: Varies

7 The Gates ScholarshipProvider: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Amount: Varies
# of winners: 300

8 Nicholas Braswell Strong Roots ScholarshipProvider: Richmond Defense Group
Amount: $500
# of winners: Varies

9 NC State University Chancellor's Leadership ScholarshipProvider: NC State University
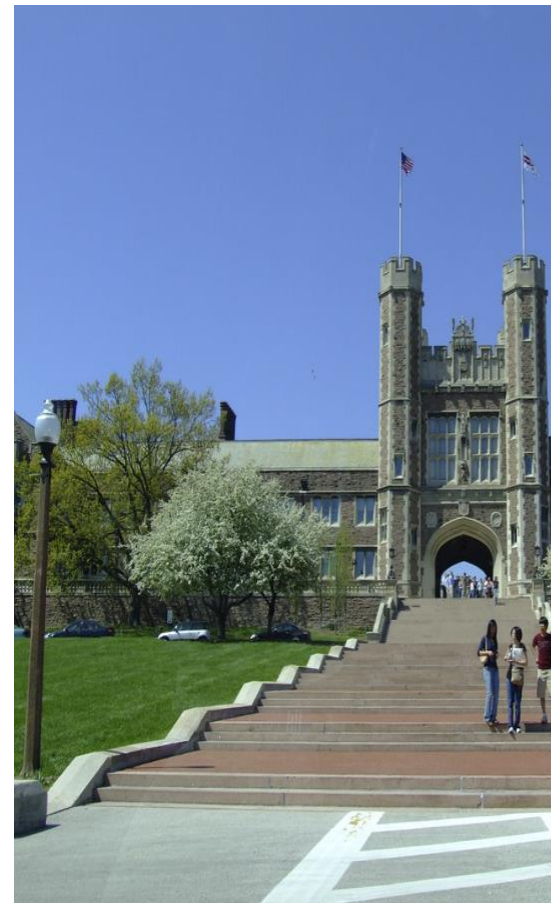Amount: Varies
# of winners: Varies

College Events in the Atlanta Area for students

Throughout the fall and sometimes in the spring, colleges will host these events for families with a consortium of colleges that travel together. They are at either a hotel or school in the area.

Cornell University, Emory University, Pomona College, Rice University and Washington University in St. Louis for a presentation open to students, and their families. Meet admission officers from each of the respective institutions and learn more about what unites them.

United States—Georgia

- Consortium Student Event: Alpharetta
Sunday, August 27 at 7:00 PM
Alpharetta, GA

Class Information from the College Office

Seniors Class of 2024

1. Make an appointment to see Ms. Woods to discuss Common App, Naviance, College Essay, Ga futures account, SAT/ACT scores and future test dates, College due dates.
2. All applications must be in the College Office in the NDA folder-complete a week before it is due to the college…One folder per college.
3. Parents must sign the folder if the senior is not 18.
4. If applying for financial aid, look at the information in the newsletter about the FAFSA and the CSS Profile, 2 documents needed by colleges to receive aid. They need to be received by colleges in January or February.
5. Senior grades are very important-start off strong and manage your time.
6. See if any college needs a resume. This can be created in Naviance and then pasted in Common App. Only do this if you do not have room to explain all of your accomplishments in Common App.
7. Sign up for the College Fair August 26 at the Omni North Tower, 1:30-3. Over 150 colleges will be there. Sign up with Ms. Woods to get a yellow wrist-band that is required for admission.

Juniors Class of 2025

1. Start off strong academically especially if you are in any IB classes…they have a somewhat new format, new demands.
2. Talk to teachers if you need assistance in writing or formulating essays. Writing and presenting is a part of IB grading.
3. Learn to manage your time.
4. Establish yourself in clubs, activities, community service and sports…find your "jam".
5. If you have a job, what qualities are you developing that you are excited about??Are you a marketing genius? An Organizer? A closer?
6. Do practice PSAT/SAT for the new digital test coming in October. Go to the Bluebook App or Kahn Academy to find tests.
7. Sign up for the College Fair August 26 at the Omni…1:30-3. 150 colleges will be there. Sign up with Ms. Woods to get a yellow wrist-band that is required for admission.
8. Make some college visits this semester if possible to get an idea of the size of college campuses and what is means to be on your own on a big campus.
9. Complete the **Career Interest Profiler** and the **Personality Inventory both on Naviance under "Self-Discovery".**
10. Then make an appointment with Ms. Woods to go over the results. We will then look at careers, majors and colleges that have those majors.

Sophomores Class of 2026 / Freshmen Class of 2027

1. Get to know your teachers and show them you are an active member of class.
2. Know that you are going to learn something new, and it may be difficult. Have determination and grit.
3. Ask for help. Use Irish Time to see teachers.
4. If you feel you have changed from last year and want a fresh start, demonstrate your new-found energy in class discussions. Listen in group dialogues to others and make your observations known. Volunteer to do extra research.
5. Lab work in Biology and Chemistry displays your ability to work with others and follow directions. Do not be a student who lets everyone else do the work.
6. Do practice PSAT/SAT for the new digital test coming in October. Go to the Bluebook App or Kahn Academy to find tests.
7. Go to the NDA Club Fair with the idea that you want to join some clubs that interest you. You can also submit a form to start a club if it does not exist. That shows leadership and the ability to initiate. Remember, you would be responsible for setting an agenda for every meeting and get a sponsor.
8. If you feel you are in the wrong level of class or you are struggling with a class, come by the College Office to get help. Study skills are not something everyone has perfected.

9. Start adding service projects to Naviance.