

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWS



St. Mary Catholic High School
Est. 1928

IMPORTANT DATES

DATE September 21, 2016

College Visits

Sept 22	– UW Oshkosh
Sept 26	– FVTC
Oct 11	– Marquette
Oct 20	– Ripon College
Nov 18	– Marian

September

UW System application is now available online

September 17-30

Registration for the Oct. 22nd ACT test with late fee

October 1

FAFSA available online

October 4

FVTC Open House 3-7pm

WI Education Fair at UW Fox Valley 6:30-8:30pm

October 5

NWTC Open House 4-7pm

October 14

Party at the PAC – Grade 10

October 19

PSAT Testing – Grade 11

November 1

Recommended deadline for college applications

November 4

Registration deadline for Dec. 10th ACT test

November 5

College Goal WI at UW Oshkosh

New Counselor, New Title

Please welcome Julie Castagna who brings expertise from both public and private settings. Her new title is “School” (as opposed to “Guidance”) Counselor, to remain current within the industry as Counselors now address the academic and developmental needs of all students, not just those who are having difficulties.

Sophomores

Party at the PAC – Date Change!

Sophomore parents/guardians are invited to attend a *free* and powerful performance of P.A.R.T.Y. at the PAC (Prevent Alcohol and Risk related Trauma in Youth). Parents may attend one of 4 sessions. Sophomores will be taking a bus from school to the performance on **Friday, Oct 14th at 8:45am**. See attached flyer for details.

Juniors

PSAT Testing – Save the Date!

Testing be held on **Wed., Oct. 19th from 9am – 12:30pm**. An email with details will be sent to parents prior to testing. **Beginning Oct 1st Kaplan Test Prep is offering a free program to help students prepare**, covering the most important content with practice problems in 8 livestreaming, one-hour lessons. For details and registration please visit: www.kaptest.com/psatpreplive.

Juniors & Seniors

ACT vs. SAT

Students in public schools take the ACT test in Spring of their junior year. While ACT & SAT tests are both universally accepted, UW System schools use ACT scores so it is easier to find a local testing site. Schools on the east coast, or those that are highly competitive, may prefer the SAT so check with each college or university to see which test they prefer.

Students register online for both tests. Our **school code is 501280**.

ACT: <http://www.act.org/>

SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

ACT Preparation Resources

- **Free practice booklets** are available in the School Counseling Office.
- Find **free help** at: <https://quizlet.com/subject/ACT-test-prep/>
- **ACT Test Prep Seminar at Xavier HS:** <http://acttestprepxavier.com/>
- **UW-Oshkosh** - Fall session begins Oct 15th. For more details go to: <http://oce.uwosh.edu/personal-and-professional-development-programs/youth-programs/act-test-prep-course/>



- **ACT Practice tests** can be found at:
http://www.wisconsinprivatecolleges.org/sites/default/files/public/downloads/free_act-sat_prep_sites.pdf
- **Purchase the ACT Online Prep™** program at www.actstudent.org/onlineprep

Technical College – Open Houses

Apply for admissions, learn about financial aid, and apply for **FREE!** No registration is required.

Fox Valley Technical College – Oct. 4th, 3-7 pm www.fvtc.edu/openhouse

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College – Oct 5th 4-7 pm <https://www.nwtc.edu/events/2016/october/fall-open-house>

Wisconsin Education Fair – UW Fox Valley

This year a Wisconsin Education Fair (WEF) will be held on the UW Fox campus on Tuesday, Oct. 4th, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Please register online BEFORE attending the fair at www.gotocollegefairs.com. Students will not be allowed to register on-site. After completing the online registration, print and bring the barcoded pass to the fair. College representatives scan the barcode to receive student data. As you take the barcode from booth to booth, you will have more time to discuss academic information, background, and future goals with the representatives.

Seniors

Scholarships

Applications that come through the School Counseling Office are emailed directly to seniors. Please see our website for details: <http://smcatholicschools.org/st-mary-catholic-high-school/guidance/scholarships/>

FAFSA – Oct 1st!!

Parents of seniors can file their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) starting on Oct. 1st at <https://fafsa.gov/>. **Please note this is much earlier** than the previous filing date of Jan. 1st. Get free help with the form at a College Goal Wisconsin event. For dates and a list of what to bring visit: www.collegegoalwi.org.

Senior Meetings

Mrs. Castagna met with all seniors to discuss the college application process, transcripts, Rotary luncheons, scholarships and taking responsibility for themselves as they transition into adulthood. Seniors must submit their Senior Information Sheet and Resume to Mrs. Castagna before their transcripts will be released to colleges.

Transcripts

Requests for hard copies of transcripts should be emailed directly to Mrs. Castagna or Mrs. Hall. Please allow 2 days for processing.

College Applications

Seniors are encouraged to complete their college applications by November 1st.

UW Help & YouTube

UW HELP has a YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/uwHelp. Users will find short videos that will assist them in completing the UW System online application for admission.

FVTC Skills Assessment

FVTC administers the ACCUPLACER Skills Assessment which measures academic skill level in the area of reading comprehension, sentence skills, arithmetic and elementary algebra. FVTC will also accept ACT test scores. For more information contact the ACCUPLACER Assessment Center at 920-993-5139 or email assessment@fvtc.edu.



2016 P.A.R.T.Y. at the PAC PARENT PROGRAM



See the same life-saving program as your sophomore!

We invite sophomore parents/guardians to attend a powerful performance of P.A.R.T.Y. at the PAC. In addition, the parent program will feature a special presentation of “**Parents are the Key**” presented by Winnebago County Health and Sheriff Departments. This is an evidence based program that offers parents proven steps and tools for reducing teen driving injuries and deaths. It includes a parent-teen driving agreement. Tips on speaking with your teen will also be discussed.

P.A.R.T.Y. at the P.A.C. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk related Trauma in Youth) is a reality education program for high school sophomore students. The half-day program aims to empower tenth-grade students from area schools to make safe choices by shedding light on the dangers of risk-taking behaviors, their often life-changing outcomes, and the importance of personal responsibility.

The P.A.R.T.Y. at the P.A.C. program is a collaborative effort between the Theda Clark Medical Center Foundation, the Trauma Center at Theda Clark Medical Center, local schools, fire and police departments, healthcare workers, physician groups, and survivors who volunteer to share their stories. These groups join together to provide a powerful message through student skits, presentations, videos, and an accident simulation. Our goal is to help save lives and prevent injury to the youth in our communities through a high-energy, high-impact, interactive program.

The program is FREE but PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Space is limited. Register Early!

To sign up for the Parent Program please visit www.thedacare.org - in the green “Quick Access” column on the right side of the page, click on “Classes.” Scroll down to 2016 PARTY Parent Program. You will need to provide your name, address, email, phone number and student’s school in order to register.

Who: Sophomore Parents/Guardians Only

What: 2016 P.A.R.T.Y. at the PAC

When: Thursday, October 13th - 8:30 a.m. (please arrive 10 minutes early)

Thursday, October 13th - 11:45 a.m. (please arrive 10 minutes early)

Friday, October 14th - 8:00 a.m. (please arrive 10 minutes early)

Friday, October 14th - 11:15 a.m. (please arrive 10 minutes early)

Where: Fox Cities Performing Arts Center (PAC), 400 W College Ave, Appleton, WI 54911

Parking information: <http://www.foxcitiespac.org/events/directions-and-parking> (\$2.00-\$5.00/day Green Ramp)

**You do not need to attend the same performance as your student.
Parents/Guardians will not have contact with students at the event.**

Questions: Please contact Teresa Paulus, RN with Winnebago County Health Dept. 920-232-3017