
School Counselor: Jennifer Whiting, MSE Phone: 920-722-7796 x 156 jwhiting@smcatholicschools.org
Guidance Assistant: Chris Hall Phone: 920-722-7796 x 155 chall@smcatholicschools.org

Grades 9-12

Guidance Offices are moving

Mrs. Whiting's office will be relocated to the IMC and Mrs. Hall will be moving into Mrs. Whiting's current office sometime in February.

2016-17 Course Registration

Registration for 2016-17 classes will be done online this year. Mrs. Whiting will meet with 9-11th grade students during the school day to explain the new process. The 2016-17 Course Selection Guide will be available online by the end of February.

Xavier College Fair

Xavier High School will be hosting the 18th annual College Fair. This fair is open to all high school students in the Fox Valley. This year's College Fair will be held on **Tuesday, March 8th from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.** The event brings together approximately 100 colleges to help students and their parents explore a variety of educational options.

Post High School Night

On Monday, **February 15, 2016 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** in the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Center, SMCHS will be hosting a night for parents and students to provide helpful information about post high school options. **Juniors and their parents are highly encouraged to attend**, but students & parents from grades 9-12 are also welcome. We will have a representative from each of the following: University of Wisconsin Colleges; Private Colleges; Fox Valley Technical College and a branch of the Military. Each presenter will speak for 15 minutes and will be available to answer your questions. You will leave with plenty of material and answers to help plan for your future. It's a night you won't want to miss!

Grade 10

Please talk to Mrs. Whiting if you want to request accommodations for either the PSAT in October or the ACT next year. Both tests require paperwork to be submitted in advance.

Grades 10-12

FVTC will now permit students who are 16 to enroll in their Nursing Assistant program. Upon successful completion, students will become Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and qualified to work in many nursing homes and other home care agencies. To register for this program go to www.fvtc.edu, Future Students, Apply Now (2 times), Apply for Nursing Assistant program. FVTC will contact you from there.

Grade 11

PSAT Scores

January 7 – Juniors should have been able to access their PSAT scores at www.studentscores.collegeboard.org. Unfortunately, some students were unable to do so. We contacted Collegeboard and were told each student who is having problems needs to call 866-433-7728 and issues will be resolved on an individual basis.

January 29 – Mrs. Whiting will receive students' paper score reports and results of the test will be discussed during Junior Conferences. An invitation to schedule your conference will be sent through Sign Up Genius in the next few weeks.

ACT Prep Course

Uw Oshkosh is offering a winter [ACT Prep Course](#) that meets from **9:00 a.m. – NOON January 23 – February 27**. Cost is \$200. They also have a session that meets **April 16 - May 21**. [Registration is available online](#). For more Information visit: uwosh.edu/go/actprep. You can also contact the Division of Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement at (920) 424-1129 or toll-free (800) 633-1442.

Junior/Senior Conferences

Instead of meeting with students the spring of their junior year and the fall of their senior year, Mrs. Whiting will be combining both of these meetings into one conference in the spring of a student's junior year. This change will ensure all seniors are ready to apply to colleges right away in the fall. Topics will include PSAT results, ACT/SAT, post high school plans, transcripts, graduation requirements and senior schedules. Next September Mrs. Whiting will visit the senior classrooms to discuss resumes, the college application process, scholarships, etc. Please know that combining the junior and senior conferences will not diminish the quality or quantity of information that is provided. Our hope is to make the process more efficient and require less time off for working parents.

FVTC Open House

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) will be holding a College Preview Night at the Appleton Campus on **Tuesday, Feb. 9th from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.**. No registration necessary. Use Entrance 10. For details go to www.fvtc.edu/collegepreview.

Grades 11-12

Financial Aid

The following link offers helpful information on financial aid including how to determine financial aid needs, how to file a FAFSA, a comparison of federal and private loans, and information about loan alternatives (grants, scholarships, fellowships) <http://www.onlinecolleges.net/for-students/financial-aid-guide/> *Please know that when we make you aware of helpful websites, it does not represent an endorsement by SMCS.*

2017-18 FAFSA Will Use Prior-Prior Year Data

For the 2017-18 academic year, the FAFSA will become available earlier, in October 2016, rather than January 2017. In addition, families will be asked to report income from two years prior ("prior-prior year"); that is, they will draw on their 2015 income information to complete the 2017-18 FAFSA. **The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® will also use prior-prior year income** as the basis for assessing a family's financial need for the 2017-18 academic year. The **CSS PROFILE** is required by many private colleges and universities to determine eligibility for non-government **financial aid**, such as the institution's own grants, loans and scholarships. With the availability of the FAFSA being moved up to October, both forms will be available to complete in tandem, providing families with more time to evaluate financial fit and other factors important to college enrollment decisions. For more information visit:

http://www.nasfaa.org/ppy_nasfaa_press_release

College Ranking Systems

According to *Link for Counselors* (Fall 2015), there are several different college ranking systems:

- **U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges** is based on objective data like retention rates, alumni giving rates, standardized test scores, and financial aid. It's great for students who want to compare schools but less helpful for students who are easily overwhelmed or want more specific information.
- **Forbes** focuses on the return on investment for students. They use measurements including alumni salaries, student debt, and graduation rates to determine how well students do after college. It's great for students who are focused on job placement or have financial concerns but less helpful for students who want information on the admissions process rather than post graduation data.
- **Princeton Review** concentrates on student experiences at 379 colleges. Choices for the "best" colleges are based entirely on student surveys. It's great for students who prioritize having a good campus experience or who want to go to a college far away but can't visit before applying.
- **College Prowler** rankings are put together by students for students. They rely heavily on student surveys and include things like transportation, athletics, campus dining, and safety. It's great for students who have very specific concerns but less helpful for students who want a comprehensive source.

Grade 12

Zephyr Scholarships

Applications were emailed to seniors on December 9th and must be returned to Mrs. Hall by **February 23, 2016**.

FAFSA – Free Help!

College Goal Wisconsin is a national event that provides free information and assistance to families completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA is required by the federal government for students applying for financial aid, grants and loans. College Goal Wisconsin will take place on **Saturday February 13, 20, 27, and Wednesday evening February 10, 17, 24, 2016** at locations throughout the state. Visit www.collegegoalwi.org to find the location nearest you. **There is a College Goal Wisconsin flyer following this newsletter.**

UW Scholarships

Students attending any UW System campus need to pay close attention to scholarship deadlines and processes. They have gathered all the information students need in one chart:

<http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/paying/scholarshipchart.pdf>

UW Admissions Request

“Please remind your students to include all of their senior year’s courses on their applications. More students than in other years are indicating just the courses from their first term. Admission offices need to see the complete picture in order to make an admission decision”.

COLLEGE GOAL WISCONSIN 2016

Receive FREE & professional on-site assistance completing the FAFSA!



Attend for a chance to win a scholarship*

Wednesday, Feb. 10th
6:00 P.M.

Milwaukee
MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-North
2730 W Fond du Lac Ave

MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-South
3333 S 27th St

New Richmond
WITC New Richmond
Campus
1019 S Knowles Ave

Wednesday, Feb. 17th
6:00 P.M.

Baraboo
UW-Baraboo/Sauk County
1006 Connie Rd

Kenosha
Gateway Technical College
The Center for Bioscience
3520 30th Ave

Milwaukee
MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-North
2730 W Fond du Lac Ave

MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-South
3333 S 27th St

Rice Lake
UW-Barron County
Ritzinger Hall
1800 College Dr

West Bend
West Bend High Schools
1305 E Decorah Rd
Use Auditorium Entrance
on River Rd
County Highway G

Wednesday, Feb. 24th
6:00 P.M.

Beloit
Beloit Public Library
805 Eclipse Blvd

Green Bay
Northeast Wisconsin
Technical College
2740 W Mason St

Lac du Flambeau
Lac du Flambeau
Education Center
562 Peace Pipe Rd

Manitowoc
UW-Manitowoc
705 Vlebahn St

Marinette
UW-Marquette
750 W Bay Shore St
Enter Main Building 5

Milwaukee
MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-North
2730 W Fond du Lac Ave

MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-South
3333 S 27th St

Racine
Gateway Technical College
1001 S Main St
Racine Conference Center
Entrance & parking behind
building

Wisconsin Rapids
Mid-State Technical College
500 32nd St North, Building A

Saturday, Feb. 13th
10:00 A.M.

Holmen
Holmen High School
1001 McHugh Rd

Milwaukee
Alverno College
3400 S 43rd St
Parking in 4 level structure
Handicap parking at main
entrance

MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-North
2730 W Fond du Lac Ave

Oak Creek
MATC
6665 S Howell Ave
Park in lot C and use
entrance #13

Saturday, Feb. 20th
10:00 A.M.

Appleton
Fox Valley Technical
College
1825 N Bluemound Dr
Entrance 1, Room A101

DeForest (Madison Area)
DeForest Area High
School
815 Jefferson St

Eau Claire
Chippewa Valley
Technical College
620 W Claremont Ave
Entrance by Parking Lot P1
at the front of the building

Fond du Lac
Marian University
Slayer Center
45 S National Ave

Janesville
Hadberg Public Library
316 S Main St

Kenosha
UW-Parkside
900 Wood Rd
Student Center

Milwaukee
MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-North
2730 W Fond du Lac Ave

MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-South
3333 S 27th St

Platteville
Platteville High School
710 E Madison St
Commons Area

Superior
Superior High School
2600 Catlin Ave
Library Computer Lab

Waukesha
UW-Waukesha
1500 N University Dr
Commons Building

Wausau
Northcentral Technical College
1000 W Campus Dr
Main Entrance, Rooms E101 &
E102

Saturday, Feb. 20th
2:00 P.M.

Oshkosh
UW-Oshkosh
800 Algoma Boulevard
Reeve Memorial Union

NOTE: Special time for
Oshkosh location only

DATE TO BE DETERMINED

Madison
Edgewood College
1000 Edgewood College Drive
Use main entrance

Saturday, Feb. 27th
10:00 A.M.

Elkhorn
Gateway Technical
College
400 County Rd H
North Building

Milwaukee
Mount Mary University
2900 N Menomonee River
Pkwy

MPS TEAM UP
College Access Center-
South
3333 S 27th St

Rhineland
Nicolet College
5364 College Drive
Enter LRC - park in the lot in
front

Shawano
NWTC Shawano
111 Thomas Ave