



GUERIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Guidance Department College Counseling Guide

2017-2018

COLLEGE COUNSELING GUIDE

We are pleased to share with you the College Counseling Guide for your Guerin Catholic High School experience. The school's mission statement states: "St. Theodore Guerin High School is a Roman Catholic, college-preparatory school serving students from diverse backgrounds and preparing them to be servant leaders through authentic faith formation, academic excellence, and student life opportunities." Therefore, the goal of the Guidance Department is to provide our students with the opportunities and information to help them reach their God-given potential. Our objective is to help students **discover, develop, discern**, and, finally **deliver** their God-given gifts to the world upon their graduation from Guerin Catholic High School.

This section will help you understand the opportunities provided by Guerin Catholic, the expectations of the student, and the plan for the parents to help our students accomplish this goal and objectives. Like any document, it is only a plan. The ultimate success of your experience will be determined by your effort and execution of the plan. If done right and well, we believe it will result in the student's admission and success at the college of his or her choice.

The high school education, to be completed successfully, must help lead students from their relative dependence on adults in their lives to a more independent level of existence. It is with this reality in mind we have planned a curriculum and experience to challenge our students to their fullest and invite them to reach beyond their usual comforts. In other words, we will intentionally and appropriately push students so they can learn the skills, habits, and advocacy to navigate to this desired level of independence. It will require us all working together to make this happen.

It is fitting our mascot symbolizes taking the fledgling, little Golden Eagle, from the comforts of its nest and allowing it out into the unknown where it will be forced to **discover, develop, discern**, and, finally **deliver** itself to the see the beauty of God's world.

We look forward to our work together.



Freshman Year: Discover

The freshmen year is one filled with new discoveries. It is important students keep an open mind and seek out opportunities to discover the many different options available for them in their college choices. Most importantly, it is a critical year to discover the importance of a solid high school experience as it relates to opportunities and options for college and beyond. This will be done largely through learning the difference between homework and studying.

Objectives:

- Have students develop proper study habits and skills to reach their full potential
- Help students discover their interests, values, and abilities and how God may be calling them into their career options
- Encourage students to be involved and engaged in school so they can develop as a person
- Educate students and parents about what colleges desire and require in admission decisions (Transcript Review)
- Prepare and inform students and parents about standardized testing (ISTEP+, Terra Nova with InView & Pre-ACT)
- Introduce the College Counseling Guide to help families be actively involved in process

Expectations of Student:

- ☐ Study at least **one hour** every night, five nights per week, and utilize Kairos appropriately
- ☐ Complete SOAR study skills App
- ☐ Use available resources:
 - Use Canvas to monitor assignments, progress, and grades (<https://guerincatholic.instructure.com/login>)
 - Use Naviance for Guidance activities and homework
 - Use Learn More Indiana Resource Center website (www.learnmoreindiana.org)
- ☐ Take standardized tests including the respective ISTEP+, Terra Nova with InView and Pre-ACT and attend interpretation presentation when returned
- ☐ Complete homework assigned by guidance department (culminating career activity)
- ☐ Meet individually with school counselor to discuss and update **Graduation Plan** and follow through on goals
- ☐ Listen to announcements and read mailings regarding important information and meetings

Plan for Parent(s):

- ☐ Monitor and ensure student's proper study habits and grades
- ☐ Review SOAR Study Skills App with student
- ☐ Use Resources to monitor and assist student:
 - Review Canvas to monitor student's assignments, progress, and activities (<https://guerincatholic.instructure.com/login>)
 - Use Learn More Indiana Resource Center website (www.learnmoreindiana.org)
- ☐ Be aware of student's standardized test scores (ISTEP+, Terra Nova & Pre-ACT)
- ☐ Assist with and review guidance department homework (culminating career activity)
- ☐ Look for summer opportunities to enhance student's interests or abilities
- ☐ Read **Guidance Updates** regarding important information and attend important meetings including **9th Grade College Information Night**

Sophomore Year: Develop

The sophomore year is an important one for the students to really push themselves to develop their full God-given potential. Also, it is an important year to develop a comprehensive understanding of your post-secondary options. This is the year to really begin developing and broadening your understanding of college options and choices.

Objectives:

- Require more independent and efficient study habits
- Stress success in a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum
- Provide information about the different college characteristics and choices
- Teach how to effectively and meaningfully research college options
- Explain proper test-taking strategies for college entrance tests
- Foster involvement in extracurricular area, especially one of passion

Expectations for Student:

- ☐ Study at least **one and a half hours** every night, five nights per week, and utilize Kairos appropriately
- ☐ Continue using Canvas, Naviance, and Learn More Indiana websites
- ☐ Do your best on the Terra Nova w/ InView test (September)
- ☐ Take the PSAT (pre SAT) and attend interpretation presentation when returned (October/December)
- ☐ Take and Pass the spring ISTEP+ assessment to meet State graduation requirements
- ☐ Listen to College Representative Presentations to develop understanding of different college characteristics (College Characteristics Program/September)
- ☐ Meet individually with school counselor to discuss and update **Graduation Plan** and follow through on goals
- ☐ Look for summer opportunities to enhance preparedness for college
- ☐ Consider and prepare for the IB Diploma course offerings for next year

Plan for Parent:

- ☐ Monitor and ensure student's proper study habits and grades
- ☐ Continue using Canvas, Naviance, and Learn More Indiana websites
- ☐ Be aware of student's standardized test scores (ISTEP+, Terra Nova & PSAT)
- ☐ Assist student in finding summer activity to enhance preparedness for college
- ☐ Read **Guidance Updates** regarding important information and attend important meetings including **10th Grade College Information Night**

Junior Year: Discern

During the junior year it is important for the student to be deeply involved in the discernment process for what they will do with their future. Students should be discerning which colleges will be a “good fit” for them by actively seeking out information on schools and developing a list of schools for which they plan to apply. Also, they should know their academic standing and how it relates to their college admission chances.

Objectives:

- Have students develop proper study habits and skills to reach their full potential
- Encourage commitment in a rigorous and appropriate college-preparatory curriculum
- Provide resources, information, and recommendations on college choices
- Have student complete a list of at least 10 “good fit” schools
- Give individual explanation and recommendation for college entrance exams
- Explain importance and value of campus visits and provide information about scheduling and planning meaningful visits

Expectations for Student:

- ☐ Study at least **two hours** every night, five nights per week, and utilize Kairos appropriately
- ☐ Continue using Canvas, Naviance, and Learn More Indiana websites to monitor progress as it relates to goals
- ☐ Attend 11th Grade College Information Night
- ☐ Complete Junior College Search Survey on Naviance website
- ☐ Develop a list of 10-15 colleges in Naviance
- ☐ Take the PSAT (pre SAT) in October and attend interpretation presentation when returned (this is the year students can qualify for National Merit competition)
- ☐ Take SAT and ACT w/Writing (winter) and at least one more test by end of junior year
- ☐ Consider appropriate SAT Subject Tests
- ☐ Listen to College Representative Visits, attend Greater Indianapolis Northside College Fair in spring, and visit college campuses to help discern “fit”
- ☐ Meet individually with school counselor to discuss and update **Graduation Plan** and follow through on goals
- ☐ Look for summer opportunities to enhance preparedness for college

Plan for Parent:

- ☐ Monitor student’s study habits, grades, and encourage continued effort
- ☐ Continue using Canvas, Naviance, and Learn More Indiana websites
- ☐ Be aware of student’s PSAT scores and see that they are prepared for and take SAT and ACT at appropriate times (consider test prep options)
- ☐ Assist student in finding summer activity to enhance preparedness for college
- ☐ Read **Guidance Updates** regarding important information and attend important meetings including **11th Grade College Information Night**

Senior Year: Deliver

The senior year is where the student gets to deliver all they have discovered, developed and discerned over the past three years. It is important to have a good sense of what your options are and where you can best achieve your goals. The time, effort and quality of your delivery will have a significant impact on your successes. Enjoy and trust in God to guide you to your next step in your journey.

Objectives:

- Help students complete their commitment to rigorous and appropriate college preparatory curriculum
- Assist students in completing and delivering their best application possible
- Guide and support students in final requirements and decisions
- Assist students and parents in finding and getting best scholarships and financial aid package possible
- Leave students with all the skills, knowledge and faith to go and serve the Lord

Expectations for Student:

- ☐ Study at least **two hours** every night five nights per week and utilize Kairos appropriately
- ☐ Continue using Canvas, Naviance, Learn More Indiana websites to complete your college and scholarship applications
- ☐ Attend college and financial aid night programs to help complete the process
- ☐ Complete on time at least 3-5 applications to “good fit” schools (1-2 safety, 2 realistic, and 1-2 stretch schools)
- ☐ Complete Senior Survey on Naviance
- ☐ Take appropriate SAT Subject Tests and IB Exams
- ☐ Take additional SAT Reasoning tests and ACT if needed (recommended)
- ☐ Visit any remaining schools to help make college choice
- ☐ Fully investigate and complete forms for all opportunities for scholarship and financial aid
- ☐ Make College Choice with confidence in God’s plan for you

Plan for Parent:

- ☐ Monitor student’s study habits and grades and encourage continued effort
- ☐ Continue to use Canvas, Naviance and Learn More Indiana websites to help student complete college and scholarship applications
- ☐ Be aware of SAT and ACT test scores and determine if higher score can or needs to be achieved (consider test prep options if necessary)
- ☐ Assist student in finding all opportunities for scholarships and financial aid including filing of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- ☐ Help make college decision with confidence in God’s plan for your child
- ☐ Read **Guidance Updates** regarding important information and attend important meetings including **12th Grade College and Financial Aid Night**