



FROM THE  
GUIDANCE  
OFFICE OF  
PLUMSTEAD  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

## SAT

December 5 (late reg  
Nov 24)

March 13 (reg by Apr 6)

May 8 (reg by April 8)

June 5 (reg by May 6)

## ACT

Feb 6 (reg by Jan 8)

April 17 (reg by Mar 12)

June 12 (reg by May 7)

July 17 (reg by June 18)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadlines are soon!.  
Go to Naviance > Col-  
leges > Scholarships &  
Money > Scholarship  
List to see details.

# PCS College Connection

FALL 2020

## The College Application Essay Do's and Don'ts

- ◆ **DO reveal yourself and DON'T use the personal statement essay to repeat your resume.**  
*Instead, write about something that reveals who you are.*  
If you're a top athlete, don't write about the state championships but what you learned about yourself from the competition. If your study of AP biology conflicts with your religious views, write about that and how you reconciled the two.
- ◆ **DO start early and DON'T wait for the deadline.**  
*Summer is a great time to start some drafts.*  
Look at the essay questions for colleges you may be interested in write some rough drafts. Many drafts can be re-used with a little tweaking for different colleges.
- ◆ **DO stay organized and DON'T scrap your drafts.**  
*Every draft might not be good but there is good in every one.*  
By saving all your drafts as separate documents you can easily refer back to a part that may work for a future essay. But don't copy and paste ... the risk of saying the wrong college name is great!
- ◆ **DO tie the college to you but DON'T make it all about the school.**  
*Talk about your observations of the school or major.*  
Your desire for the college should come across without saying "I love you" and you want the college to know you've really studied them and your interest is real!
- ◆ **DO get feedback and DON'T rely on spellcheck.**  
*Have many people read your essays.*  
Your parents, guidance counselor, other students, mentors, and pastor will all see your strengths differently and notice mistakes that others may not see.

Find scholarship details in  
 NAVIANCE

## ACTION ITEMS!



*Not everyone can be at the top of the class and that's ok. Continual improvement is very important. Colleges loves to see upward trends! Start today to do something a little bit better than yesterday.*



*Update your Senior Biography starting in 9th grade. Add to it every time you undertake another activity or get an award or serve!*

## Surviving Junior Year *Tips to staying sane!*

Just for juniors ... check out The Coolidge Scholarship in Naviance today! Deadline is soon!

- ◆ **Focus on course selections and grades.**  
Most college admissions say to take the most challenging course load that you can and still do well.
- ◆ **Learn Naviance.**  
Use the tools available to match yourself to colleges and scholarships.
- ◆ **Review standardized testing.**  
Take the PSAT. Decide on and see when the SAT and ACT dates are schedule for the next year so you can see conflicts with other parts of your life. Don't wait till senior year to take the first one.
- ◆ **Visit campuses.**  
Start out with virtual and online tours until you've narrowed down your main college choices. Be sure to have a meal in the cafeteria as it's a great way to get a feel for the student population.
- ◆ **Participate in extra-curriculars and get a job.**  
Doing sports or drama or service and getting a job really shows that you are well-rounded and organized.
- ◆ **Start test preparation.**  
You'll eventually take the SAT/ACT so start doing small study sessions. Even 15 minutes a day with free online prep such as Khan Academy will help increase your scores. Cramming overnight will not work for these tests.
- ◆ **Manage stress and sleep.**  
Use your work sessions to your advantage and you'll have less to do at home and more time for sleep. Don't wait to talk to your teachers if you're struggling. It's much easier to catch up if you haven't really fallen behind yet!
- ◆ **Take assessment reviews.**  
A number of free online assessment test can be helpful in narrowing your interests and abilities down. While it's not necessary to know exactly what career you're headed for, it is helpful to have a few areas to focus on in the beginning.