College Admissions Tests:

On Saturday, December 8, Bishop will offer a Mock ACT Exam for interested 11th graders. Students must RSVP to Ms. Gonzalez no later than Friday, November 30th. The test is free. The sign-up sheet is outside Ms. Gonzalez’ office. Interested 10th graders may inquire if there is a spot available, but priority is reserved for Juniors.

SENIOR COLLEGE APPLICATION DROP IN SESSIONS – FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- Wednesday, November 28 – study hall and after school (9:40am-10:05am and 3:00pm-5:00pm)
- Thursday, November 29 – study hall (9:40am-10:05am and 1:45pm-5:00pm)

Remember that the UC and CSU Application deadline is November 30.

If you need a letter of recommendation for a college or scholarship application, please make note of the deadlines below.

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<tr>
<th>College/Scholarship App Deadline</th>
<th>Deadline to Request a Letter of Recommendation</th>
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<td>December 15</td>
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<td>January 1</td>
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Excerpt from College Admission from Application to Acceptance, Step by Step by Former Dean of Admission at Stanford, Swarthmore and Sarah Lawrence (Robin Mamlet) and Journalist & Parent (Christine Vandevelde)

“9 Things Admission Officers Look for in an Application.

1. Good objective scores. You won’t be surprised to hear that at many of the more selective schools, the quantitative data—your SAT or ACT scores, your GPA and class standing, the number of AP courses you took and how you did, and perhaps your SAT
Subject tests—loom large. That’s because these scores provide a quick and dirty way of establishing levels of students. And, though virtually no school will tell you what the cutoff score is for admission to their school (if even there is one), they do provide a range of scores that last year’s class had, the so-called 25 to 75 percent band. Why would they do that if scores weren’t very important?

2. **Students who challenge themselves.** Whether it’s taking a rigorous course load, being the main agent of an activity, creating a new club or pushing oneself in a tough sport, admissions officers respond to students who reach beyond the bounds of what’s easy. It can be out-of-class or out-of-state, but finding ways to engage that go beyond the ordinary can distinguish an application. One thing to think about is the depth of your commitment and the ways you effectuate it. Some students might take especially challenging courses at their high school or even on the web or at a local college. Some students might seek out summer internships or work opportunities to develop a skill, interest, or passion. Some students might undertake very extensive community service and develop high-impact programs over a number of years. Whatever you do that goes beyond the norm can signal to colleges that you will also be motivated to go beyond the norm when you’re accepted to their college.”

I’ll provide more tips in next weeks’ newsletter, but please keep in mind that the suggestions above are for students looking to create as many options as possible for themselves, including schools that may be more selective. The majority of colleges in the United States accept over 60% of students who apply. Many are not particularly selective. For example, there are several California State Universities (CSUs) that are not impacted. This means that if a Bishop student passes the required coursework, earns a 3.0 GPA in those classes and takes the SAT or ACT exam, they will be **automatically admissible** to those CSUs. And, while the SAT or ACT exam is required for admission consideration at those CSUs, there isn’t a minimum test score required for students over a 2.99 GPA.

**Junior parents,** if you have not already made an appointment to meet with me in spring semester, please reach out to Ms. Gonzalez to set up a day and time for us to get together.

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