
PAUL VI GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

Editor
V. Orzechowski

Contributing
J. Robinson

October 2007

IS EARLY DECISION THE BEST CHOICE FOR YOU?

The number of seniors applying to college under the Early Decision plan has increased dramatically over the last five years. While the idea of having college admission completely settled by mid-December can be very appealing, this plan is not right for everyone.

In addition to the traditional Regular or Rolling Admission plans, many colleges offer Early Decision and some offer Early Action. The difference is vitally important when deciding on how to deal with application deadlines. Early Decision plans allow students to apply early, usually by November 15, and receive an answer from the college by mid-December. However, Early Decision plans are “binding.” That means if an offer of admission is made by the college, the student is bound to accept it and agrees to withdraw all applications to other schools. You may only apply to one school Early Decision.

Early Action requires the student to apply very early in senior year, usually by November 1. The decision from the college is then made usually by January 1. The difference is that the student is not required to accept the offer. The student still has until May 1 to make a final decision and reply to all of the colleges under consideration. A student can apply to more than one college under Early Action.

To make the best decision, a student must carefully consider all the pros and cons offered by Early Decision, Early Action and Regular Decision. Students who are completely sure of their number one college choice, are ready to finish the application by November, do not need to worry a great deal about financial aid, have very strong grades/SAT scores and want the admissions process over with as soon as possible, should consider applying under the Early Decision.

If you want/need to consider and compare the financial aid packages from each of the colleges, if your grades from senior year can help your application or if you are not ready to commit to one college so early, then Regular Decision or Early Action is the right way to go.

Regular Admission applicants have later deadlines and answers are sent out on a specific date. Rolling Admission combines the best of all worlds. Under this plan, applications are considered and admission decisions made as the applications are received, but a commitment is not required until May 1. Therefore, seniors willing to get the applications completed early, get an answer early without being “bound” to the college.

COLLEGE FAIRS

- The National College Fair will be held at two sites – Tuesday, October 30 at the Atlantic City Convention Center from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm and on Sunday, November 4 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center from 11:00 am– 4:00 pm. Representatives from over 170 colleges and universities are scheduled to be available. All students and parents are invited to attend.
- Haddonfield Memorial High School will be hosting their 63rd Annual College Night on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 in their high school B-Gym at 7:00 pm. In an effort to give students and their parents the opportunity to receive information from a variety of schools, the format of this year’s program will again be in a combination of convention and classroom sessions. Parents and students are invited to attend. Approximately 100 colleges will be participating. For a list of these schools see Mrs. Robinson in the guidance office.

PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) will be given at Paul VI to all sophomores and juniors on Wednesday, October 17. This is the practice test for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The test itself consists of five sections: two 25-minute verbal sections, two 25-minute math sections and one 30-minute writing skills section. The total test time is 2 hours and 10 minutes. Students receive separate scores for the three areas. Each test taker receives his/her results in the PSAT Score Report Plus document. In the score report, Educational Testing provides more than just scores. Based on the answers you give on the PSAT, specific areas needing attention are noted along with suggestions for improving those scores.

Scores from the PSAT taken in junior year only are also used as the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship. Many national corporations and colleges participate in this program and use the PSAT as its preliminary screening device.

Taking the PSAT is an excellent way to prepare for college. By taking this test students can:

- Receive feedback about their scholastic performance in comparison to juniors from across the country
- Practice for the SAT
- Compete for National Merit Scholarships
- Receive mail from interested colleges

COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTING

It is the responsibility of each college-bound student to find out what standardized tests are required by the colleges to which he/she is applying. This information is readily available in the catalogs and online. Registration materials for the SAT and the ACT are available in the Guidance Office or online.

Paul VI's CEEB number for these tests is 310-473. Listing this number in the appropriate space of the registration form allows Paul VI to get a copy of the scores to be included on the transcript. In many cases colleges are willing to accept the scores from the transcript. Other colleges insist that the scores come directly from the testing agency. Check the individual college catalogs for this information. The test dates and registration deadlines are available at www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org.

TEST PREP GUIDE

It's not unusual for students taking standardized tests to be anxious. Fast Web offers the following tips for reducing test taking stress and maximizing your performance.

KNOW YOUR TEST. Know the format and scoring standards. Take the sample test to become familiar with the pacing and the levels of difficulty.

GIVE YOUR BODY WHAT IT NEEDS. If you miss the test date, it may throw off your schedule for submitting college applications. Also, know exactly what you need to bring (i.e. admissions ticket, I.D. card, calculator, etc).

DOUBLE CHECK THE WHERE AND WHEN OF THE TEST. Get plenty of sleep the night before and make time for a well-balanced breakfast.

ARRIVE EARLY. Get comfortable, calm down and make yourself at home.

REVIEW YOUR WORK ON THE TEST. Make sure you've marked your answers clearly and completely and that your responses on the answer sheet match the correct questions.

BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES. Bring extra pencils, calculator batteries and erasers.

PACE YOURSELF. Pay attention to how many sections you must complete and allot a reasonable amount of time for each section. If you get stuck, move on. You can always return to the more difficult questions once you've answered the easy ones. The SAT will penalize you for random guessing, the ACT will not.

GUIDELINES

-- The counselors have begun scheduling senior interviews. At this important meeting your counselor will discuss graduation requirements and credits as well as post-graduation plans. Senior parents may also attend these meetings if the senior makes the appointment for them to do so.

-- **Attention seniors-** be sure to fill in your name and other required personal data before you give your counselor a college application form to complete.

Reminder: If you took the SAT, check with your counselor to make sure your scores are recorded on your transcript. If not, you must provide a copy of your scores to your counselor ASAP.

-- Remind your parents that Paul VI's Financial Aid Night is scheduled for December 11. This program will address the completion and filing of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). More details will be published in the November issue of the *Guide*.

-- Fast Web is a service on the Internet that offers a free scholarship search, college search, and recruitment options. Go to www.fastweb.com for help with college plans and scholarship opportunities.



FINANCIAL AID FLASHES

Mrs. Robinson is Paul VI's Scholarship Chairperson. If you are interested in any scholarship opportunities listed below, visit the Guidance section of the Paul VI website and click on "Scholarships 2" for further details or see Mrs. Robinson. Information about scholarships sponsored by specific colleges can also be found at the website for that college.

Name: KeyBank \$2,500 Scholarship
Deadline: September 1, 2007 – August 31, 2008
Apply: www.key.com/win

Name: Meyerhoff Scholarship Program at the University of Maryland
Deadline: October 15, 2007
Type: Nomination
Apply: www.umbc.edu/meyerhoff

Name: Automotive Training Center Scholarship Competition
Deadline: Scholarship Competition to be held on:
October 18, 2007 at ATC's Exton, PA Campus
October 25, 2007 at ATC's Warminster, PA Campus
Apply: www.autotraining.edu

Name: Saint Vincent College Wimmer Scholarship
Deadline: November 2, 2007
Apply: Visit www.stvincent.edu/financial_aid4 and if you think that you meet the criteria and would like to be considered, see Mrs. Robinson.

Name: Fireside Catholic Publishing Essay Scholarship 2008
Deadline: November 16, 2007
Apply: Visit www.firesidecatholic.com/essay.html and if you think that you meet the criteria and would like to be considered, see Mrs. Robinson.

Name: Toyota Community Scholars program
Deadline: December 1, 2007
Type: Nomination
Apply: www.toyota.com/about/community/education/scholars_index.html and if you think that you meet the criteria see Mrs. Robinson.

Name: Gates Millennium Scholars Program
Deadline: Paper applications: December 31, 2007
Online applications: January 11, 2008
Type: Nomination
Apply: For eligibility requirements, visit www.gmsp.org and see Mrs. Robinson.

Name: Unity College's High School Environmental Leader Award
Deadline: January 15, 2008
Type: Nomination
Apply: For eligibility requirements, visit www.unity.edu/WELead and see Mrs. Robinson.

Name: American Red Cross Scholarship
Deadline: February 11, 2008
Apply: www.pleasegiveblood.org

Name: Burger King Scholars Program
Deadline: February 15, 2008
Apply: Applications are available online October 15, 2007 – February 15, 2008 at www.bk.com/scholars

Name: SUNY Oswego's Merit Scholarships
Deadline: Simply complete an application for admission by March 1 to be considered. No scholarship forms are required.
Apply: For scholarship qualifications visit, www.oswego.edu/admissions/costs/financial/scholarships/merit.html

Name: Jersey State Golf Association, New Caddie Scholarship Foundation
Deadline: May 1, 2008
Apply: www.njsga.org

Name: Christian College Scholarship Drawing
Apply: www.christianconnector.com for details

Name: Saint Francis University's Franciscan Award
Apply: www.francis.edu for details

Name: Washington College: Academic Honor Society Scholarships
Deadline: To qualify, students must be NHS members prior to March 1 their senior year.
Apply: <http://fa.washcoll.edu/scholarships.php>

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

The Rutgers College Honors program (RCHP) is designed to provide an intellectually rigorous course of study for qualifying students. Participants may design their own honors experience by participating in honors courses, interdisciplinary seminars, shared residential community, mentoring, personalized advising, research experiences, lecture and cultural/social activities.

Students who wish to be considered for RCHP must apply to Rutgers by the December 1 priority consideration deadline. Once a qualifying student is accepted to Rutgers College, he/she is automatically contacted by the honors program with an offer of admission. Admission is based on two criteria only: the SAT score and percentile. For more information, check the program website at <http://rchonors.rutgers.edu>.

STOCKTON ON-SITE ADMISION PROGRAM

Stockton College has announced its "Instant Decision Days" on October 26, November 9, 16, 30 and December 7, 2007. These "Instant Decision Days" offer students an opportunity to speak with various administrators and current students and learn first hand about majors, social life, and the campus itself.

Participants in this special program must meet predetermined criteria, make an appointment, and take the required materials to the meeting. At the end of the interview and records review, the students will be given an admissions answer on the spot.

Potential participants must score at least 1100 on the SAT, have a minimum GPA of 3.2 or be in the top 25% of the class. Call 609-652-4261 to schedule an appointment. Required materials for the meeting include completed application, transcript (official unopened), SAT scores, copy of social security card, essay, letters of recommendation, and a \$50 application fee.

YOU'RE INVITED

Meet John Iacovelli, Dean of Admissions and Enrollment at Stockton College, on October 16, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the Cherry Hill Public Library on Kings Highway. Mr. Iacovelli will be discussing a special scholarship program offered by Stockton College for those students who rank in the top 20% of their class with SAT scores of 1140 and above.

Many colleges and schools invite prospective students and their parents to Open House programs. Listed below are some of these opportunities. In some cases, it is necessary to pre-register for the meeting. See the bulletin board in Guidance for details on these and other programs.

- ☑ **Tufts University**
Location: Philadelphia Marriott West
111 Crawford Avenue, West Conshohocken, PA
Date: Sunday, October 21, 2007
Time: 2:00 pm
RSVP: TuftsonTourRSVP@ase.tufts.edu
Subject line: Location (Philadelphia) Body of email: Student's name and total number of guests attending
- ☑ **St. John's University (Queens Campus)**
Date: Saturday, Oct. 20 or Sunday Nov. 11
Time: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
RSVP: www.stjohns.edu/admission/open_house/undergraduate
- ☑ **Southern New Hampshire**
University Fall 2007 Culinary Open House
Date: Oct. 19, Nov. 9, Dec. 7
Time: 8:30 am – 11:30 am
RSVP: 800-642-4968
- ☑ **Roanoke College**
Date: Saturday, Oct. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 10
Time: 10:30 am – 2:00 pm
RSVP: www.roanoke.edu or 540-375-2270
- ☑ **College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Syracuse University**
Date: Saturday, October 27
RSVP: www.esf.edu/admissions/visit.htm or 1-800-777-7373
- ☑ **William Paterson University**
Date: Oct. 28 and Nov. 11
Time: 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
RSVP: www.wpunj.edu or 973-720-2125

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Attention all students! Check the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office and monthly Guidance Newsletter for job opportunities in the area.

TreFamiglia at 403 N. Haddon Avenue in Haddonfield is looking for part time bus positions at the restaurant. If interested call Angela or Cindy at 429- 1447.