



## Trinity Catholic High School Guidance News

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### **Standardized Testing Program**

The results from the October testing are here and are being discussed with the freshmen and sophomores in small group settings. We will also be mailing home a copy of the freshmen EXPLORE test results. If you do not receive it, please call and let us know. The juniors who took the Practice ACT will receive their scores along with an explanation during academic lab periods. The juniors who took the PSAT will have to wait until their scores arrive, probably in the mid-December. Standardized testing scores are not an exact measure and are best used to measure academic progress along with grades, class performance, academic effort and cognitive skills. If you have any questions about testing, please call Ms. Deddens (A – J) or Mrs. Guerra (K – Z).

### **Notes for Parents of Seniors**

Many seniors are being proactive in applying to colleges and making plans for after graduation. Some need more encouragement. It is recommended that students send in their application for colleges during this first semester. **Be sure to watch for deadlines, especially in applying for scholarships.** Remember this is only applying at this point. The time for finalizing decisions comes next semester. Students must be accepted at the college before the college will process financial aid. To apply, remind your senior to:

- Meet briefly with their counselor to discuss their plans
- Complete the application in full (many colleges prefer online applications)
- Bring the application, application fee, essay (if required), and other items requested along with a signed Trinity Transcript Release Form to Guidance. If the student applies online, they must notify their counselor of this and get the Transcript Release Form completed.
- An official transcript will be sent to all the colleges noted on the Transcript Release Form as soon as possible.

## Just Around the Corner....It's Semester 2

In December, students will be taking final exams and gearing up for the second part of the school year. Please remind your child that exams can greatly influence their semester grade. Exams must be taken seriously. Nobody enjoys those few days of testing stress, but it plays an important part in allowing students to bring the work of a semester together and demonstrate what they have learned. Ultimately, those grades become part of a student's permanent record. Why would anyone choose not to study for exams? If a student has done poor or borderline work during quarters 1 and 2, it is crucial for them to pass the final exam!

Early second semester is also a time to begin thinking about course selection for next year. It is important that a student's course selection include not only the core curriculum requirements, but also thoughtful electives. A student should never choose a course because their friend is choosing it, or because they perceive it to be an "easy" class. Course selection needs to be aligned with future plans. It needs to be handled on an individual basis, and it needs to be challenging and rigorous. ***Research has shown that students who challenge themselves in high school by taking rigorous courses have a higher success rate in college. Reading, writing, and thinking skills must be developed during the high school years to insure greater success in life. So help your student make thoughtful decisions when it comes time to choose courses for next year.***

### Credit Recovery

If your student unfortunately fails a first semester course, or if your student needs to earn credit for courses failed in a past semester, they will need to attend summer school in your public school district or take a correspondence course. **Correspondence courses may be started at any point during the school year and should be ordered immediately to ensure completion before the 2011-2012 school year.** Teachers are available to help students with the courses, and the courses may be worked on during academic lab time. Call Ms. Deddens or Mrs. Guerra to arrange enrollment in a course as soon as possible after report cards are issued.