

As a college preparatory school, Holy Family Catholic High School takes great pride in our highly successful, personalized approach to guiding students and families through the college process. Our team works 1:1 with students and families to ensure that the journey is a comfortable one and that students learn as much about themselves as they do about potential colleges. 99% of our students attend college and feedback from alumni is that they were well prepared for not only the academic rigor, but also for the transition to college life. More detailed information about our guidance services is available at <http://myschool.hfchs.org/guidance.php>



## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Year

### Interest Inventory & College Discovery

- HFCHS 9<sup>th</sup> students start on their path to college early in the year in partnership with the counseling department. 1:1 sessions are scheduled with each 9<sup>th</sup> grade student to start developing a four-year plan.
- MCIS (MN Career Information System), a key portal for their college prep and application activities, is introduced. Within MCIS, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students complete a career cluster inventory and interest profile assessments.
- All 9<sup>th</sup> grade students take the PSAT 8/9 test, providing projected scores and outlining areas of focus for improved future PSAT testing. The PSAT, which is taken during the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, is important for identifying AP testing potential and qualifying for National Merit Scholar status and scholarship application.
- A meeting for parents of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students is held mid-year to help prepare for upcoming college milestones.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Year

### Portfolio & Resume Building

- 10<sup>th</sup> graders continue work within the MCIS system to connect profile attributes and interests with potential future college decisions through the “School Sorts” tools.
- Individual guidance shifts to clarifying dreams, ideas and actions. This includes recommendations for courses and outside experiences students may need to achieve their goals.
- Aspects of ACT preparation are woven into the curriculum of specific classes.
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade (and 11<sup>th</sup> grade) English courses include opportunities to practice college application-style writing prompts.
- 10<sup>th</sup> graders take the Pre-ACT test on All-School Testing Day. This provides growth data for individualized instruction based upon areas of strength and need, as well as ACT practice.
- 10<sup>th</sup> graders have the option to take the PSAT in the fall instead of the Pre-Act on All-School Testing Day.
- A parent and student college planning meeting is held mid-year to update families on the MCIS system, registration elements, and next steps in the college application process.



## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Year

### Interest Engagement & College Discovery

- 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and families work closely with our counselors to narrow potential college choices and to ensure HFCHS course selections meet the specific and sometimes unique demands of these colleges. A student/parent/counselor meeting for every 11<sup>th</sup> grade students is offered in the spring.
- A student and parent meeting is held in October to continue working directly with families on the college process.
- Continued ACT prep is taught in the classroom and through test prep classes offered by Achieve Academics.
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade students take PSAT test during All School Testing Day.
- All aspects of the upcoming college application process are communicated with students and families. HFCHS strives to provide a clear and well-informed path for families to follow in this process. Students receive the Holy Family Catholic High School College Planning Guide.
- The English department meets with 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in the spring to provide training and guidance on writing a college essay. Counselors recommend completion of the essay before summer break.
- All 11<sup>th</sup> graders are encourage to take their first ACT by the middle of the year. (By December, 99-100% of HFCHS 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the ACT and most 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will have at least one ACT completed.)



## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Year

### College Selection & Scholarship Application

- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are prepared for the process of college application and selection after building solid portfolios and resumes customized to the schools they have prioritized. HFCHS guidance counselors diligently work with 100% of senior students to meet deadlines for the college application process and post-secondary plans.
- In August, small group application workshops with counselors are offered to complete college application walk-through and work on actual applications.
- In the fall, counselors hold a parent information night dedicated to FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), scholarship application opportunities, and college application details. This meeting is to help families with the final stages of the college process and to ensure financial aid and grant processes are understood and underway. (Individual work with students and families is ongoing.)
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students use Parchment<sup>®</sup>, a digital credential and transcript service, for transcript delivery to schools.



## Post-Holy Family Years

### Mentorship and Advice

- During the college and professional years, alumni may request a mentor match through the Holy Family Alumni Mentorship Program. A list of mentorship opportunities can be found at <http://www.hfchs.org/mentorship-program>.
- Many alumni continue to seek advice from Holy Family teachers regarding college courses, and, often, to say “thank you” for the preparation they received.

## FOLLOW OUR GRADUATES

Our graduates attend the finest undergraduate and graduate institutions in the United States.  
See a complete list on our website at <http://www.hfchs.org/follow-graduates>