

SENIOR GUIDANCE BULLETIN

September 2009

God, I want your guidance and direction in all I do.
Let your wisdom counsel me, your hand lead me,
and your arms support me.
I put myself into your hands. - Ashton Oxenden

*“My soul finds rest in God alone, my salvation comes from Him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I will never be shaken”. Psalm 62: 1-2*

FINDING YOUR FIT/DETERMINING YOUR STYLE

Compare your **plans** for next year to finding your **favorite** pair of jeans...

1. What looks good on your **friend**, may not look good on you! God's gifts are unique to you. Your plan for how to use them should fit you uniquely too!
2. How many **styles** of jeans are there? There are exponentially more types of vocations in which to use your gifts.
3. How **comfortable** are you in your jeans? You can find a fit for using your talents that is just as comfortable as your favorite pair of jeans—a vocation in which it is natural to use your gifts **joyfully**.
4. Have a **new** favorite pair of jeans this year? Your vocation may change just like your favorite jeans change over time. In fact, most people change careers several times.
5. What features do you just **not compromise** on? You can narrow down your plans for the future simply by knowing what your first requirements are for a good fit.

How do you find a good fit?

1. Determine the characteristics that are most important to you
 - a. People
 - b. Place
 - c. Programs
 - d. Philosophy
2. Research institutions that best meet your qualifying characteristics
3. Visit, visit, visit. This is how you “try on” the college.
4. Apply to 3-5 colleges

Characteristics: The 4 P's

PEOPLE

1. student body make-up
 - a. how big?
 - b. In-state/out of state
 - c. Male/Female
 - d. Christian school/public school
 - e. Ethnic diversity
 - f. Retention rate

2. faculty make-up
 - a. percentage PhD/terminal degree
 - b. faith requirement
 - c. world view
 - d. accessibility

PLACE

1. urban/suburban
2. commuter/on campus
3. distance from home
4. relationship with surrounding community
5. residence hall feel

PROGRAMS

1. academic reputation
2. graduation rate
3. job placement rate
4. major/minors
5. off campus study
6. internships

PHILOSOPHY

1. predominant worldview

What about the 5th P: **PRICE TAG?**

1. apply for financial aid in January of Senior year
2. get ISAR in March
3. won't know true price until shortly before May 1 decision date

Shopping for jeans?

1. hold it up
2. try it on
3. determine discounts
4. look at the price tag

If the "jeans" don't fit, it's not you – it's the jeans!!!

What's Your Career Path?

work

You may be one of the millions of high school graduates who elect not to pursue a 4-year college degree. If so, the key to job satisfaction and financial stability is attaining marketable job skills. In order to achieve competency in an activity needed in the work world, you often need additional training after high school. Two options are:

On-The-Job Training: Training which one acquires by participating on a daily basis on a specific career. The person is paid for this participation and receives experience in the career. **Examples:** bank teller, farm worker, receptionist, wait staff, or factory worker

Apprenticeship: A form of vocational-technical training in which an individual who wishes to learn a trade participates as a worker under the supervision of a skilled worker in that trade. This is a good way to get training and earn a regular wage at the same time. In most programs a minimum of 144 hours per year is spent in classes. In Grand Rapids, these classes are often taken at GRCC, meeting one night per week. The length of an apprenticeship is based on how many years it takes to master a trade, usually 3-4 years.

Examples:

Construction Trades

Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
Electrician

Carpentry

Industrial Trades

Machinist
Tool & Die Maker

Machine Repair

armed forces

The military offers jobs, education, training, travel, good pay, job security, fringe benefits, and early retirement. Life in the military may include strict discipline, constant moving, and personal danger in the event of war. About 3 of 4 military jobs relate to a similar job in civilian life. The 4th is specifically combat related. You can contact a local recruiting center for more information and/or pick up brochures in ECO.

further education

vocational and technical school: a one or two-year institution which offers terminal occupational programs intended to prepare students for immediate employment in certain fields.

training examples: auto mechanics, cosmetology, medical assistant, dental assistant, electronic technician

examples of schools: Excel Academy of Cosmetology, ITT Technical Institute, GRCC Technology Programs, Ferris State University Tech programs

2 year colleges (community college): a two-year institution of higher learning which provides vocational-technical training and academic curricula (terminal and transfer)

terminal course: academic program is complete in itself—may be a 1 or 2 year course of study

transfer course: academic program is designed to lead into a 4-year course at another college or university

training examples: see list on following page

examples of schools: Grand Rapids Community College

4 year colleges (college or university): an institution that offers educational instruction beyond high school level in a 4-year program. Some 2 year programs may also be available, but not often

examples of schools Calvin College, Hope College, Grand Valley State University, Davenport University, Cornerstone University

How do you find your fit?

senior interviews

All seniors are scheduled for an individual meeting with a counselor to discuss plans for after graduation. We have divided your names alphabetically (Mrs. Muller A-F, Mrs. Turner G-K, Mrs. VerMerris L-Z) and will contact you about your appointment.

job shadows

Juniors and seniors may explore careers of interest through job shadows that are set up by Mrs. Sue Pluger who is in the ECO office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 7:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Job shadows provide you with an opportunity to “shadow” someone who is employed in a job in which you have expressed an interest. Juniors and seniors are allowed 2 excused days from school, though they are counted as absences.

If you are interested in a job shadow, you should come to the ECO office and fill out a request. Mrs. Pluger has contacts with a number of cooperative businesses, schools, etc. that have been kind enough to offer job shadows. Some students set up their own job shadows. If you find someone who is willing to let you visit the job site and supervise you visit, drop by the ECO office and let us know. There is some information that needs to be gathered before you are given permission for the visit.

college exploration

- **online resources**

The Guidance page of the SCHS web has information on careers, schools, military, volunteer opportunities, and more.

You’ve already checked out Career Cruising (www.careercruising.com) and taken the Matchmaker Interest Inventory. Career Cruising also has a College Search (School Selector) and a Scholarship search. You may want to retake the Matchmaker and explore careers and schools on the website.

For those students interested in exploring Christian colleges, www.christiancollegementor.com and www.christianconnector.com are great tools!

- **meet with college representatives**

Throughout the school year, but especially in the fall, representatives from colleges, trade and technical schools, and the armed services visit South to meet with interested students. They talk about their schools and answer your questions. You must follow this procedure to attend a session:

1. **listen for announcements** of school representative visits in the 3rd hour announcements and check the senior hall bulletin board.
2. **sign up in the main office** and they will issue a pass to excuse you from class.
3. **on the day before** the representative visits, show your pass to the teacher whose class you will miss.
4. **come only to the sessions which interest you**
5. **let the counselors know** if there is a school you are interested in that is not scheduled (last year representative from 57 different colleges and all branches of the military visited.)

College Representative Visits

(also check large calendar posted in the senior hall on the bulletin board.)

Monday, Sept. 21	Palm Beach Atlantic (Florida)	1 st hour
	Gordon College (Massachusetts)	4 th hour
Tuesday, Sept. 22	Grace College (Indiana)	1 st hour
	Taylor University (Indiana)	2 nd hour
	Cedarville University (Ohio)	3 rd hour
	Colorado Christian University	7 th hour
Wednesday, Sept. 23	Seattle Pacific University (Wash.)	1 st hour
	Valpariaso University (Indiana)	3 rd hour
	University of Michigan	7 th hour
Friday, Sept. 25	Lake Superior State University	7 th hour
Monday, Sept. 28	Ferris State University	6 th hour
Wednesday, Sept. 30	Northern Michigan University	1 st hour
	Liberty University (Virginia)	2 nd hour
	Huntington University (Indiana)	7 th hour
Thursday, Oct. 1	Dordt College (Iowa)	2 nd hour
	Hope College	6 th hour
Tuesday, Oct. 6	Central Michigan University	4 th hour
Wednesday, Oct. 7	Trinity Chr. College (Illinois)	2 nd hour
Monday, Oct. 12	Western State College of Colorado	4 th hour
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Grand Rapids Community College	3 rd hour
Thursday, Oct. 15	Cornerstone University	2 nd hour
Friday, Oct. 16	Northwood Univ (Business Univ.)	2 nd hour
Tuesday, Oct. 20	Grand Valley State University	2 nd hour
Thursday, Oct. 29	Alma College	2 nd hour
	Kuyper College	5 th hour

- **attend college fairs**

College fairs allow you and your parents to talk with college representatives one-on-one, to pick up written materials about colleges, and to attend specialized seminars (on college athletics or financial aid, for example).

College Night: Wed. September 30, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Catholic Central High School Athletic Complex (2770 Knapp N.E., west of the East Beltline).

Christian College Fair: Mon. Sept. 21, 12:30-2:30 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Cornerstone University on the E. Beltline near Leonard.

www.nccf.us

- **visit, visit, visit**

There is no better way to “try on” a college than by visiting when school is in session. If you are considering living on the college’s campus, you should include in your visit an **overnight stay**.

Juniors and seniors are allowed **two excused absences for college visits each year** at the discretion of the counselor. These days are counted as excused absences. Colleges often have special visitation days or will make arrangements for your visit through their admissions office.

Make your college visit count! Plan ahead for what questions you’d like to ask. How would this college “fit” you? Use the tools at the end of this handbook to help you plan your visit beforehand and process your visit after it is over.

Several days before your scheduled visit:

1. Pick up a green College Visit Permission Slip from Guidance or use the one in here or on the SCHS website.
2. Sign the College Visit Notebook in Guidance and fill in information on the permission slip
3. Take slip home for parent signature
4. Get signatures from teachers whose classes you will miss
5. Get signature from your counselor
6. Turn in you slip to the main office at lease **2 days before your scheduled visit**

*******You will not be able to go on your visit unless the main office has received your completed permission slip at least two school days prior to your visit!*******

Standardized Testing

MME

Just by taking the test, you qualify for the \$4,000 Michigan Promise Scholarship if you attend a Michigan Post-Secondary School (we hope).

If you received all 1's & 2's you will receive the money in installment payments. If you have 3's or 4's in any subject area, you will get the money after you complete 2 years of education.

There are no MME retakes, but if you retake the ACT and receive a 21 or higher you qualify for installment payments.

You can register for a Career Readiness Certificate free if you scored a 3 or higher on each of the 3 WorkKeys tests. Register at www.myworkkeys.com You will get a certificate number to use on resumes. This may apply more to students seeking a job right after high school.

ACT www.actstudent.org

Standardized test results are often required by colleges for admission. You may choose to have your test results sent to colleges when you register for the tests. Your scores will also be on the official transcript we send. Schools often consider these "official" enough for admission. Registration for both tests is available in the Guidance Office—with instructions for online registration as well.

Your high school code for registration is: 231-745

ACT Test dates

Test dates	Regular registration	Late registration
October 24, 2009	September 18, 2009	Sept. 19-Oct. 2, 2009
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009	November 7-20, 2009
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010	January 6-15, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	Mar. 6- 19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 8-21, 2010

Important! December 12 is the last test date to obtain qualifying scores for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship money. If your four subtest scores add up to a 90 (a 23 composite was last year's required score) or better on the ACT, you may get scholarship money for Michigan **public** colleges and university if you have financial

need. Another Michigan Scholarship, **The Tuition Grant**, is for private schools and requires financial need but not a specific ACT score, but you must take the ACT. Financial need will be determined after your parents fill out a financial aid form (FAFSA) in the winter. We will have a meeting in January to explain that form to your parents and answer questions about financial aid.

If you are unsure about whether you should take the ACT over, talk to a counselor. Your ACT scores are used to determine admission to college and in many cases scholarship awards, so they are important, along with your grades, class rank, school activities, and volunteer services. If you do worse on the ACT retake, do not worry. Your best score will be used by the colleges. **It is wise to take the ACT at least twice.** If you are satisfied with your writing test score from the Spring ACT, you don't have to take the writing part again. Cost is \$32 for the ACT, \$47 for ACT plus writing.

SAT www.collegeboard.com

The SAT is a college admissions test similar to the ACT and is required by some schools (mostly in the eastern part of the US). Michigan colleges do not require the SAT for admission. Students should take the ACT first, but have the option of taking the SAT as well. While the ACT has four subtests (English, math reading, and science) and an optional writing test, the SAT has English, math, and writing. You may want to take the SAT if you scored high on the PSAT in your junior year. Cost is \$45 which includes the writing test.

SAT Test dates

Test dates	Regular registration	Late registration
October 10, 2009	September 9, 2009	September 23, 2009
November 7, 2009	October 1, 2009	October 15, 2009
December 5, 2009	October 30, 2009	November 12, 2009
January 23, 2010	December 15, 2009	December 30, 2009
March 13, 2010	February 4, 2010	February 18, 2010
May 1, 2010	March 25, 2010	April 8, 2010
June 5, 2010	April 29, 2010	May 13, 2010

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Types of Financial Aid

- Scholarships - gift, usually not need-based
- Grants - gift, often need-based, based on merit
- Loans - must be repaid
- Work Study - guaranteed work on campus for wages

Sources of Financial Aid - largest to smallest

- Federal Government
- College Resources
- Tax Relief
- State Government
- Employer-Paid Tuition
- Private Sources
- Veteran's Administration

SCHOLARSHIPS

Finding scholarships takes hard work and time. Although some are awarded automatically when colleges look at students' applications, many require separate application and searching.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA - College and private scholarship committees are often looking for students with particular qualifications such as:

- extraordinary talent (art, music, writing, sports, science, etc.)
- a certain nationality or race
- good grades
- high ACT or SAT scores
- extra curricular activities participation
- leadership
- character
- volunteer community service and activity in community organizations
- career plans
- parents who are veterans or belong to certain organizations, unions, clubs, etc., or are employed by certain companies

MICHIGAN SCHOLARSHIPS

- Michigan Merit Exam (MME) -Michigan Promise Scholarship
\$4,000 available for Michigan schools based on the MME
- Michigan Competitive Scholarship - \$1,300 maximum award
This award, based on BOTH financial need and merit is available for use at Michigan public and private post secondary schools. Priority consideration will be given to students who obtain a qualifying ACT score of 23 by December of their senior year. Requires filling out a financial aid form (FAFSA)by February 15.
- Michigan Tuition Grant - \$2,100 maximum award

This award is based on financial need for use at private colleges and universities in Michigan. Requires filling out a FAFSA.

4 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO LOOK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

- Do a free scholarship search on the internet. You put in information about yourself and you are matched with a list of potential scholarships.
Suggested sites: www.scholarshipexperts.com
www.TuitionFundingSources.com
www.collegeboard.com
- Check websites of individual colleges, financial aid brochures, or college catalogs to see their Freshmen Scholarships. On the college website, look for Prospective or Future Students OR Financial Aid or Scholarships. Check www.meritaid.com to match yourself with merit scholarship opportunities from colleges across the country.
- Check the **Guidance Office bi-monthly scholarship lists** and look at the list of scholarships for SCHS students only (on SCHS website or pick up in Guidance Office). Applications are either in the Scholarship Drawer or may be on a website.
- Fill out the **FAFSA** by February of the senior year for qualification for need-based money for college.
You can obtain a PIN and apply for financial aid free at www.fafsa.ed.gov

ADDITIONAL ADVICE

- Check with employers and organizations or clubs to which you belong (student & parents).
- Visit colleges and talk to financial aid people. Call or email them anytime you want information.
- Take the ACT (as many times as you wish).
- Submit a financial aid form (FAFSA) February of senior year at www.fafsa.ed.gov and fill out a separate financial aid application if colleges require them.
- Reapply for financial aid and scholarships each year you are in college.
- Apply to more than 1 college so you can compare financial aid packages.
- Pay attention to deadlines for scholarship consideration.
- Attend SCHS financial aid night in January.

WORDS TO THE WISE

- Several for-profit companies offer scholarship search services and charge a fee (ranging from \$30-\$700). You should thoroughly investigate any search service before submitting a fee. You should not have to pay for information about financial aid.
- Be wary of any “scholarship” which requires an application fee. Legitimate scholarship sponsors do not require an application fee.

nitty gritty details

NCAA requirements for sports

If you want to participate in Division I or II sports in college, you should be aware of specific requirements, including required high school courses and possible registration. Please see your counselor who will help you with this process.

college applications

All colleges are now accepting applications for the next school year. Many of these application are available in the Guidance Office as well as on-line.

- **recommendations**

Give any recommendation sections or requests for letters of recommendation to the appropriate people and include a stamped and addressed envelope so they can mail their recommendation easily to the college or tell them they may give the recommendation to your counselor. It is common courtesy to write a thank you note to people who have taken time to write a letter or to fill out a lengthy form.

- **paper applications**

Give your completed application and a check made out for the college application fee to your counselor so that we can fill out the high school section. Fill out your application neatly and accurately, using a blue or black ink pen. We will mail the application with your transcript to the college.

- **Transcript requests for online applications**

Colleges prefer on-line applications. If you apply on-line, give your counselor the transcript request form that you print. If there isn't one, ask your counselor to send your transcript.

- **following up**

If you do not hear from the school(s) to which you have applied within 4 weeks, check with the admissions office. You may call them anytime and ask about the status of your application.

- **timeline**

We recommend that applications to colleges are made by December 1 in most cases, and even earlier for competitive schools such as the University of Michigan (October 15) and Michigan State University. Although Grand Rapids Community College takes applications into the spring and summer, it must be applied to by March 15 if you want to

be eligible for a scholarship. Grand Valley State University has a December 31 financial aid deadline so you must apply by mid-December. Also, many one, two, and three year programs at GRCC fill quickly and have waiting lists, so apply as soon as possible. Early application to any college is usually an advantage. Check with your guidance counselor if you have questions about deadlines for particular colleges.

Check the Senior College Calendar and Checklist in the back of this handbook for a comprehensive list of what you should be doing to apply for college.

- **free applications**
Many schools have free applications until a certain date and GRCC applying is now always free.
- **how many?**
You may apply to as many colleges/technical schools as you would like, however, 3-5 is the most manageable amount.
- **final decisions?**
You do not need to make a final decision on the college you will attend until May 1st.

special needs

If you have any type of diagnosis such as a writing or reading disability or ADD, you should look on the website of the colleges you are considering for information on the type of support services that are offered. The requirements for services beyond the support for the general student population are defined on the website, and applications can be downloaded. Health and physical issues are also addressed (i.e. diabetes, asthma, cerebral palsy)

support groups

The Guidance Office offers the opportunity each year for students to participate in support groups ranging in topic from “Coping with Grief and Loss” to “Dealing with Divorce.” These groups form early in the fall and are announced in 3rd hour announcements.

CARE leaders

These trained students are here to listen any time. Just stop in the Guidance Office or main office for an immediate contact.

senioritis

Senioritis is a condition that causes a decline in grades and level of achievement. Often you think, “I’ve already gotten into the school of my choice, so now I can take a break and have fun!” However, colleges grant admission and scholarships based upon the condition that your level of achievement be **maintained** throughout the senior year.

In June, the college you plan to attend requests that SCHS send a copy of your transcript to them and a college can change your admission status or scholarship after reviewing your final grades.

Enjoy the last months of high school, but don’t allow you college plans to be jeopardized in any way. Also remember that your high school G.P.A. and transcript will remain on file at South forever and may be requested by future employers who can check grades as well as attendance.

last words from your counselors

Throughout this bulletin you repeatedly find the words, “see a counselor,” “ask your counselor,” or “talk to a counselor.” That is because we are in the building to be of help to you in whatever way we can. We know that your senior year can be confusing as you make many decisions about your future, but there is no need for you to be confused, misinformed, or to feel like you have no one to help you. We are happy to talk to you or give you information on personal or school programs; decisions about schedule, careers, and colleges; and any other aspect of current and post-high school life. To visit the Guidance Office, please do your best to get written permission from a counselor before your study hall. If you have no study hall or have another scheduling conflict, please leave one of us a note or find one of us when it’s more convenient for you. If you come in at any time and we are not available, please leave a note in our wire baskets by Mrs. Pluger’s desk and we will get back to you. Someone is available every day. Get to know us—we are here to help you!

Mrs. Muller (T/W/F)	cmuller@schs.org
Mrs. Turner (M/Th)	nturner@schs.org
Mrs. VerMerris (M-F)	jvermerris@schs.org

GLOSSARY

Application fee - A non-refundable fee usually charged for making application to a particular college.

Associate of Arts Degree - Two years of college study in a community/junior college may lead to an Associate of Arts Degree.

Bachelor of Arts - Usually signifies concentration of studies in the humanities - languages, literature, social studies, etc. - a four-year program.

Bachelor of Science - Concentration in mathematics and science; foreign language not required - a four-year program.

Class Rank - A student's standing based on his/her academic record as compared to other members of the class. In a class of 100, the student with the best g.p.a. would be number 1; the poorest g.p.a. would be number 100.

Early action (EA) - This is a nonbinding plan that requires you to submit your application in early fall (usually by November 1 or 15).

Early decision (ED) - This requires you to submit your application in early fall and is considered "binding," so it's essential that you be certain about wanting to enroll at that college.

F.A.F.S.A. - A financial aid form parents fill out by **February 15** of the senior year.

Grant - A form of financial aid which does not have to be paid back.

Humanities - These refer to the cultural world. The humanities are usually classified as art, the classics, dramatic art, English, general and comparative literature, journalism, music, philosophy, religion and language. Many colleges divide their offerings into three divisions: humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

Liberal Arts - A broad course of instruction comprising the arts, natural sciences, social sciences, languages, literature, philosophy, religion, and the classics. The Latin origin of the term, artes liberales, literally means "the arts that free" (the mind and the spirit.)

Loan - Type of financial aid from either the school or a banking institution. Money must be paid back at a fixed rate of interest in installments, sometimes not until your schooling is completed.

Major - Subject in which a student takes the greatest concentration of courses - mostly in the last 2 years of college.

Master's Degree - Degree conferred for completion of a program after you've completed a 4-year college degree - usually lasts for one or two years.

Minor - Subject in which a student takes the second greatest concentration of courses.

Placement Tests - A battery of tests designed to assess a student's aptitude and level of achievement in various academic areas so that he can select courses most appropriate for him in college or be exempt from taking certain courses.

Prerequisite - A requirement which must be met before a certain course can be taken.

Private College - A college which is not supported by public taxes. May be independent or church related.

Community/Junior College - A college offering one and two-year program rather than a four-year program. A community college usually offers vocational programs as well as the first two years of a four-year college program. The student in the vocational program usually goes directly into a vocation after graduation, while the student in the academic program transfers to a four-year college.

Core Curriculum/Liberal Arts Core/General Education Requirements - A group of courses, in varied areas of the arts and sciences, designated by a college as one of the requirements for a degree. These courses are usually taken in the first two years of a four year degree.

Course Load - The number of hours the student is permitted to schedule in a given semester. This is usually 15-18 hours on a semester system, which is considered a "full load"..

Credit - Colleges assign a given number of credits to a particular college course based on a standard of one credit for every hour per week that the course is held. For example, a course that meets for three hours each week is generally awarded three credits.

Elective - A course which you **select** to fulfill credit hours for graduation.

Graduate Student - A student who has earned a Bachelor's Degree and is continuing college to earn a graduate degree (Master's Degree, Doctorate).

Honors Program - A plan designed to encourage superior students to engage in a more challenging program in their area of concentration than is required. Students who succeed in meeting the stringent requirements of an honors program are usually granted "honor" degrees.

Remedial Courses - A non-credit course taken to help the student with a weak background in a particular area, taken to prepare the student for a credit course in that area.

Transcript - The official record of a student's academic performance from the time of his entrance to a given institution to the end of the latest semester.

Work Study - A type of financial aid which includes working on or off campus to pay off tuition.

COLLEGE VISITS

1. Each junior and senior is allowed two college visits per year.

2. **AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE SCHEDULED VISIT:**

Pick up a College Visit Permission slip from Guidance.

Write your visit date in the College Visit Book in ECO and fill out the permission slip.
Obtain parent’s signature.

Obtain signatures from teachers whose classes you will miss.

Obtain signature from your counselor.

3. **AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE SCHEDULED VISIT:**

College visit Permission slip must be turned in to the **MAIN OFFICE** when you have all signatures needed.

IMPORTANT!!!

You will NOT be able to go on your visit unless the MAIN OFFICE has your permission slip two school days prior to your visit.

COLLEGE VISIT PERMISSION SLIP

_____ (*Senior/Junior*) (circle correct choice) has my
Student’s name

permission to go on a college visit to _____
College

on _____, _____ from _____ to _____.
Day Date

Teacher’s signatures are needed at least two school days before the day of your college visit.
Classes to be missed are indicated. **Students are responsible for all work missed.**

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____

Parent’s Signature

Counselor’s Signature

Senior College Calendar and Checklist

Month	Check	What To Do
September		Meet individually with your counselor to talk about your post-secondary (after high school) plans in September, October, November or December.
		Visit school campuses now or make plans to do so before spring.
		Meet with College Representatives as they visit South Christian (most in Sept. - Dec.
		Don't rule out any college based on price/cost until you've seen the financial aid you may qualify for (in March).
		Attend College Night and/or The Christian College Fair
October		Retake the ACT if desired in October. Register by September 18
		Fill out college applications on-line or on paper. Ask your counselor to send your transcript.
December		Go online to FAFSA (Financial Aid Form) on the Web Worksheet at www.fafsa.ed.gov
		Complete and send in college applications, if you have not already done so.
		Retake the ACT if desired in December. Register by November 6
January		Work on FAFSA (financial aid form) with your parents (www.fafsa.ed.gov) Attend the Financial Aid Workshop at SCHS.
		Check to see if colleges you are applying to require additional financial aid applications.
		Check housing and enrollment deposit deadlines for schools. Send in. These are sometimes refundable if you decide not to attend, but the refund dates and percentages vary for each college.
		Ask counselors to send 1 st semester senior grades to colleges if they help your chances for admission or scholarships.
February		Mail FAFSA for maximum scholarship consideration.
March/ April/May		Attend the National College Fair in downtown Grand Rapids.
		Check financial aid information received from schools. Make decisions. Finalize plans.
		Notify schools you have decided not to attend.
		Talk to your counselor if you want help making a decision.
General		Check with your counselor when you have questions about anything.
		Visit colleges.
		Take a career interest inventory and/or explore career options in ECO.
		Check the Internet for private scholarships, college, and career information. Do a college search, career search and/or scholarship search.