

JUNIOR GUIDANCE BULLETIN

South Christian High School

Class of 2023



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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What's Your Career Path?

Work

You may be one of the millions of high school graduates who choose not to pursue a 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:

1. **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
2. **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.
3. **Examples of training:**

Construction	Industrial Trades	
Bricklaying	Die Designer	Millwright
Plumbing	Machine Builder	Die Maker-Mold
Carpenter	Model Maker-Metal	Machine Repair
Sheet Metal	Die Maker-Stamping	Tool Hardener
Electrician	Model Maker-Wood	Machinist
HVAC	Die Welder	Pattern Maker
Pipe fitting	Tool Maker	Pipe fitter

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 the Guidance office.

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.

1. **training examples:** auto mechanics, cosmetology, medical assistant, dental assistant, electronic technician
2. **examples of schools:** Excel Academy of Cosmetology, GRCC Technology Programs, Ferris State University Tech programs, Dordt College, Davenport University, Baker College

2 year colleges (community college)

1. **terminal course:** academic program is complete in itself—may be a 1 or 2 year course of study
2. **transfer course:** academic program is designed to lead into a 4-year course at another college or university
3. **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 University, Hope College, Grand Valley State University, Davenport University, Cornerstone University, Baker College, Ferris State University

College Exploration

Online resources

- www.careercruising.com - you've done Matchmaker Interest Inventory. You can retake Matchmaker, check out their college search, or look at their Scholarship search. Username:southchristian, password: kentwood
- www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- www.myblueprintstory.com
- www.petersons.com

Attend College fairs - Some are virtual this year

- www.nacacfairs.org/virtual/
- www.gotocollegefairs.com/

In Person College fairs:

- **Christian College Fair - Cornerstone University - October 4 6:30-8:30pm**

College visits

- There is no better way to “try on” a college than by visiting when school is in session.
- College visits are counted as excused absences. Colleges often have special visitation days or will make arrangements for your visit through their admissions office. You can set up a college visit with a phone call to the Admissions Office or on the college website. It is recommended that a parent go with you. If you are considering living on the college’s campus, you should include an overnight stay.
- At least **several days** before your scheduled visit:
 1. Pick up a College Visit form from Guidance Office
 2. You will need to get signatures from your parents, teachers and a counselor
 3. Turn in you slip to the main office at least 2 days before your scheduled visit

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 Christian to meet with interested students. They talk about their schools and answer questions. **Meetings might be virtual or in person this year** during lunch or common time. You must follow this procedure to attend a session:

1. **pay attention to announcements** of school representative visits in the weekly announcements.
2. **sign up in the Guidance office** for a pass by the day before the representative visits, show your pass to the teacher whose class you will miss.

College applications

Most applications to colleges take place in the fall of the senior year. The exception is Military Academies, which require earlier than normal application. Ask your counselor for more information.

NCAA/NAIA requirements for sports

- If you want to participate in sports in college, you should be aware of specific requirements, including required high school courses and possible registration.
- You can visit www.eligibilitycenter.org or playnaia.org for more information. Please see your counselor who will help you with this process.

Volunteer opportunities for future healthcare related careers -

Students planning to go into health related careers, including veterinary, need to get work or volunteer experience.

Medical

- Spectrum Health: www.spectrumhealth.org
- St. Mary's Healthcare: www.mercyhealth.com
- Metro Health: metrohealth.net/careers/volunteers
- Mary Free Bed: maryfreebed.com
- Holland Home: hollandhome.org
- Faith Hospice at Trillium Woods: www.faithhospicecare.org

Veterinary

- Kent County Animal Shelter: www.accesskent.com
616-632-7300
- Kent County Humane Society: hswestmi.org
- Vicky's Pet Connection: vickypetconnection.com

Job Shadows

- GREAT way to explore careers that interest you
- Mrs. DeWeerd can help you set up own job shadow
- Other options: Kent ISD – Talk & Tour, Groundhog Shadow Day, Career Chat

Junior Interviews

Every junior will come into the Guidance Office this year to check into career and/or post secondary school ideas. We will put a pass on your locker to notify you of your appointment. The Junior Interview Information Sheet will help us to know what you are interested in checking out.

Standardized Testing

Standardized test scores are sometimes required for admission to college or for scholarships. You may choose to have your test scores sent to colleges when you register for the test. Your scores will also be on the official transcript we send to colleges. Some important details:

- **The registration code for South Christian High School is 231-745.**
- It is wise to take the ACT or SAT at least twice. If you do worse on a re-take, don't worry. Your best score is used by the colleges.

- ACT & SAT scores are used to determine admission to college and, in many cases, scholarships. These scores, along with grades, class rank, school activities and volunteer experiences are very important.
- The ACT test offers a writing portion of the test. The writing portion is not required by all colleges and universities. Most students take the writing portion only once.
- Khan Academy is an excellent test prep resource.
- Test prep books for both ACT & SAT are available in the counseling office.
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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

Scholarships

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

Additional Advice

- Visit colleges and talk to financial aid people.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT (as many times as you wish).
- Submit a financial aid form (FAFSA) October of senior year at www.fafsa.ed.gov and fill out a separate financial aid application if colleges require them.
- Apply to more than 1 college so you can compare financial aid packages.

Earning College Credit while in high school

Advanced Placement (AP)

- AP classes are classes taught by SC teachers.
- 9 classes - Stats, Calc, US History, World History, Psychology, Spanish, Government, English Lit, Physics
- Take the AP exam in spring. If you get a good score you can earn college credit.

Dual Enrollment

- Dual enrollment is an opportunity for high school students to take college courses and earn college credits while still in high school.
- Most SC students who dual enroll take an online class. Most colleges offer this. (They put a study hall in their schedule and use that time to complete the online class.)
- The cost for the college class is paid for by the state of Michigan!
- Talk to your counselor to learn more about this opportunity.

KCTC

- Some programs at KCTC allow students to earn college credit (e.g. Health Careers, Criminal Justice)

Junior Interview Information Sheet

Name: _____ Graduation year: _____

1. After high school graduation, what are your plans? Please check one of the following:

____ more school

____ work full time

____ military

____ don't know yet

2. Name career/jobs you think you might enjoy:

3. What areas would you like to explore at the Junior Interview with a Guidance Counselor volunteer? Please check at least one area of interest.

- a. ____ Career assessment (discover how your interests & abilities match different careers).
- b. ____ College/vocational school searches (narrow down choices based on what you are looking for)
- c. ____ College websites
- d. ____ Scholarship opportunities (where to find scholarships)
- e. ____ Career information (explore different careers: education needed, career description, money earned, etc.)

How would you like us to contact you?

____ Note on locker

____ School email