THE COLLEGE CORNER
February/March 2020
(Where Gilmour Gathers for College News)

SENIOR CORNER

Semester Grades Delivered: The College Office sent semester grades to every college where a student applied. (The only exception to this is if we know a student was denied by a college.) Schools want to see consistency or improvement in the senior year, so semester grades can have a strong impact on admissions decisions. Please note it can take a couple weeks for colleges to track and acknowledge receipts of semester grades, so please be patient. Thank you!

Update Your College Counselor: Please continue to update your college counselor on any and all college decisions. If you were deferred and are still interested in a college, let us know that too! We can give you suggestions on next steps for communicating with that college.

Don’t Ignore Those Emails from decraned@gilmour.org. That’s right! Every Friday Mr. DeCrane emails students a list of scholarships known to us. Some are school specific but many are local. Please make sure you consult the email for scholarships that might be applicable to your talents and interests.

Mind Your Ps and Qs: Now that you are into colleges remember that how you behave and the grades you produce still matter. If you are suspended, Gilmour and you are still required to report that behavior. Additionally, watch your social media presence. Colleges can and still do monitor your activity. Finally, colleges will want to see your final grades. If there are any blemishes in the remaining months of your senior year, colleges can rescind an offer of admission. Sadly, it has been done before. Please keep this in mind.

JUNIORS CORNER

What Are We Missing? You! Yes, several juniors have not yet turned in their Jr. Questionnaire and College Preference Form in order to schedule their first college meeting. We ask that everyone complete this assignment by spring break, which isn’t too far away. All forms can be found on the portal or were emailed to students. If you are still having problems finding the paperwork, please see your college counselor.

Got Spring Break Plans? Hopefully your family is considering using spring break to visit some college campuses. Before you head out, know the College Office has you covered. The college counselors will be visiting all junior religion classes in mid-February to give tips and pointers for making the most of your college visits. We will also discuss how to secure teacher letters of recommendation, prepare for interviews and discuss items for you to think about as you head out for summer break. (Yes, summer will be here soon!)

Don’t Wait to Test: We know junior year can be hectic, but please make sure to start your standardized testing this spring. Students should meet with their college counselor to determine the best strategy for testing, which can consist of the SAT, SAT Subject tests (www.collegeboard.com) or ACT (www.act.org). Chances are great you will need to try your hand at multiple test, and should a sick day or sporting event eliminate a testing day, you might need to wait another 2 months to retest! Better to plan in advance than be sorry. Please make sure to register using the websites above and check out what testing centers are available to you the day of the test. All testing should be completed by the very beginning of October your senior year!

Reporting Test Scores: We suggest, if at all possible, to wait until testing is completed before you send your scores to colleges. While this may cost you a bit of money in the long run, it ensures you get to control who sees your scores and exactly what scores are sent.
**ACT Test Prep Class:** Offered by Seeley Test Pros, these sessions will run on various dates during Mod 2 & 3 of community block starting Feb. 18 in preparation for the April 4th ACT. Please see the attached flyer for more details and registration instructions.

**CCIS College Fair and Case Study Presentations:** On **Sunday, April 19** the college counselors of the Cleveland Council of Independent Schools will host an afternoon of college information at Hawken’s Upper School Campus. From 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. come to a case studies presentation where college admissions officers will run a mock admissions committee and let you decide who should be admitted to a college campus. This exercise gives you a great peek into how colleges make admissions decisions! Then from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. meet with over 100+ colleges and universities at our annual college fair. This is a great event to learn more about what different campuses across the country have to offer.

**COLLEGE CORNER**

Mrs. Stockard spent a few days this January participating in the Miami Counselor Conference, where she learned about the ins and outs of the **University of Miami** (U of M), located in beautiful Coral Gables, Florida. With a total student population of just over 17,000 students, Miami is one of those cozy, mid-sized universities that doesn’t feel too large but certainly has a lot to offer! With over 130 undergraduate majors to choose from, students gravitate towards the renowned Frost School of Music, Miami Herbert Business School, and Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences with a campus in Key Biscayne. For those science, nursing and pre-med, majors the University of Miami can meet your needs too. As a private research university, Miami offers plenty of opportunities to be involved in serious study at the undergraduate level. The surrounding areas provides a wide array of health care facilities for students to volunteer or secure their clinical requirements. With an admit rate of under 30%, students attending Miami are certainly top scholars in their fields.

If you attend the University of Miami, be prepared to have a healthy extra-curricular life too. With Division I athletics, school spirit is rampant. It’s hard not to cheer for a football team that has secured five national titles in the past three decades. U of M also offers a robust Greek life where students can choose from thirty-one sororities or fraternities. If journalism is an interest, consider writing for the **Miami Hurricane**, which is published twice a week. For those who want to live Florida life to the fullest, there are plenty of restaurants and high end shopping in close proximity. The world famous South Beach, is only a quick drive away for some fun in the sun.

If this environment sounds like a place where you can spend your undergraduate career, consider visiting this South Florida campus. Direct flights to and from Cleveland are an added bonus!

**Due to the 2 week spring break in March, we are combining the February and March edition of the College Corner. See you back in April!**
Increase your ACT scores with strategies proven to succeed!

Students who receive higher scores on ACTs:
---Create greater college admissions opportunities
---Qualify for and can maximize scholarship offerings

Prepare to Test Your Best at Gilmour Academy!

Learn valuable test techniques and tips to navigate the tests quickly and accurately. Review the essential content necessary to perform at your best. Increase confidence and reduce test anxiety.

ACT Mastery Class @ Gilmour Academy
Practice test: Monday, March 2 (9:00am-12:00pm in the Middle School Assembly Room)
Classes: February 18, 19, 25, 28, March 3, 4, 6, 10, 31, April 1
Room: Classroom Building
Time: All classes are from 11:40am-12:40pm (mods 2 & 3 community block)
Cost: $399.00
*This class will prepare students for the April 4 ACT test date.

- Space is limited. Register early to ensure a spot in the class.
- Students will be provided with instructional materials and official practice tests.
- Additional one-on-one tutoring services are available and can be scheduled during free periods at school, across Greater Cleveland and Akron, or via FaceTime or Zoom online.
- Call 216-965-5162 or email amy@seeleytestpros.com for more details.

Register online at www.seeleytestpros.com

SEELEY TEST PROS provides a full-range of instructional services for standardized exams, including SAT, PSAT, ACT, HSPT, ISEE, GRE, GMAT and LSAT.