

# Class of 2009

*Santa Margarita Catholic High School*

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## PSAT NIGHT JANUARY 14, 2008

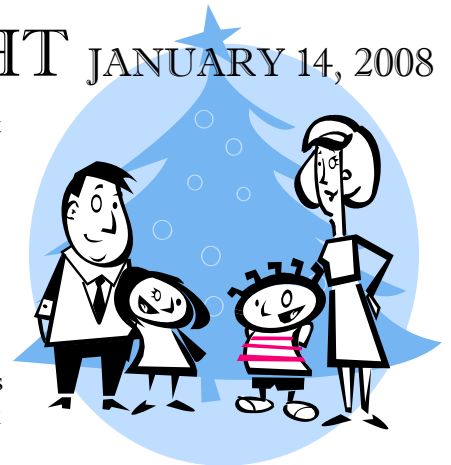
Don't miss the PSAT Interpretation Night on **January 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the gym!** In addition to receiving your PSAT results, the dynamic and entertaining testing guru Paul Kanarek from the Princeton Review will discuss the myths and facts related to preparing for the SAT Reasoning Test. Check

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for available testing dates.

Many parents and students ask if this night is worth attending. The answer is YES! This is your only opportunity

to have a testing expert answer your questions FREE of charge.

This event will help you decide when you should begin taking standardized tests and provide insight to areas you might need to seek help on to score well.



### PSAT Night ... Bring the whole family!

It is recommended that you begin taking the SAT and/or the ACT in the Spring of your Junior year. It is not a good idea to wait until the Senior year. Taking it at least once this year will allow you the opportunity to seek extra help and take a preparation course

during the summer and test again early Fall 2008. Pay close attention to the testing calendar and college application due dates. Your goal should be to have your testing completed by October 2009.

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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Counselors are in the process of meeting with all Juniors to review their graduation requirements. All appointments will occur before the end of the first semester. In this meeting students will review progress toward fulfilling SMCHS graduation requirements. An unofficial transcript and letter outlining the requirements remaining for each student will be mailed home for parents to review.

**Things to be thinking about:** Have you completed courses off campus during the summer? If so please make sure a transcript has been received and your SMCHS transcript has been updated.

Have you fulfilled your physical education requirement? If not see your counselor to determine your options.

All grades of "F" must be remediated in order to graduate. Grades of D should be remediated for college purposes. Speak with your counselor if you have any questions.

# Santa Margarita Catholic High School

As Juniors, the college experience is not too far away which also means real life is just around the corner. So, it is probably safe to say that you have wondered about what direction your life will take. Do you really want to become a doctor? What about a teacher? Or maybe business is the right track for you. If these thoughts seem familiar to you then you should take advantage of all that [www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart) has to offer you. Each SMCHS student has an access code included inside their PSAT/NMSQT Score Report.

Once you receive your Score Report at the PSAT Interpretation night on January 14th, you can take advantage of **My College QuickStart**— [Collegeboard.com](http://Collegeboard.com)'s college and career planning Web site. You will be able to access:

**My Online Score Report** – An enhanced score report that allows you to review each test question, your answer, and the correct answer with answer explanations.

**My SAT Study Plan**- A customized SAT study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice.

**My College Matches** – A starter list of colleges based on the your home state and indicated choice of major.

**My Major & Career Matches** – Personalized lists of majors and careers plus access to a personality assessment that suggests other compatible possibilities.

This program is **FREE** to all SMCHS students who took the PSAT/NMSQT in October. We encourage you to try it out!!

[www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart)

## Official transcripts through “Naviance”

Transcript requests, secondary school reports, mid-year reports. These are all things that you, the class of 2009, will get to know very well in the fall of your senior year as you begin to apply to colleges. In years past, these items are requested using a paper form that is submitted to the Counseling Office. However, now these requests will be done online!

We are excited to be using “Naviance.” It is an online program that you and your parents can access with a user name and password. In this program you can keep track of the schools you apply to, what documents you need from the Counselors and when everything is due! Once a request is made by the student and the fee has been paid, we can access it in the Counseling Office and process the documents. You can even see when your requests are fulfilled.

This may not make a lot of sense at this point in your high school career, but as we get closer to the end of this school year, you will learn more about this program and its benefits.



Guidance Office

22062 Antonio Parkway

RSM, CA 92688

Phone: 949-766-6010

Fax: 949-766-7454

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January 2008

- PSAT Interpretation Night for Sophomores & Juniors -January 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the gym.

### February 2008

- College Planning Workshop for Juniors - February 11th at 7:30 p.m. In the gym. Attendance is mandatory

### March 2008

- Practice ACT/SAT/PRA March 15th at 8:00 a.m.

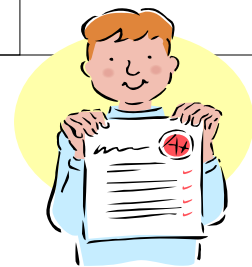
### April 2008

- Practice ACT/SAT/PRA Results night April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in the gym.



Enjoy the holidays with family and friends! Have a safe and healthy holiday season!

# ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



Your academic performance this year will be a significant factor for admission committees next year. This is especially true for students seeking admission to University of California or California State University campuses.

When determining admissibility these institutions depend primarily upon 10th and 11th grade GPA. However, this should not be misinterpreted as not caring about progress in the 9th and 12th grades. They will review enrollment across all 4 years.

If you are concerned about grades you are currently earning make sure that you work closely with your teachers. Get the extra help you need to maintain good progress.

Extra help is always available. National Honor Society students provide free peer tutoring. Talk to your counselor for more information.

“Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go” J.S. Eliot

## COLLEGE & CAREER RESOURCES

There are many great resources out there to help students discover the right college and career path for them. The following are some of the resources the Counseling Department recommends.

### Books

- What Can I Do with a Major in...? How to Choose Your College Major By: Lawrence R. Malnig
- Guide to 150 Popular College Majors By: College Board
- The College Board Index of Majors and Graduate Degrees By: College Board

- Survival Guide for College Students with ADD or LD By: Kathleen G. Nadaeu
- College Majors & Careers, 4th Edition By: Paul Phifer
- Great Jobs for Math Majors or Great Jobs for History Majors By: Stephen Lambert

### On the Net

- The Occupational Outlook Handbook [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco). A great source to research occupations by title or category. Offers statistical data regarding careers at each level such as degrees necessary, salary, related fields, and organizations representing the occupa-

tions.

- Military Careers [www.militarycareers.com](http://www.militarycareers.com). A guide that provides resources for those considering the military as a career path.
- America's Career Infonet [www.acinet.org](http://www.acinet.org). Provides information on career exploration, labor market information, and job seeking resources.

Did you know that the SMCHS library has an entire section devoted to college and career planning? Did you know that your counselors are trained in the college and career selection process? Remember to use the resources around you to find your path!

## IT'S NOT WHERE YOU START, IT'S WHERE YOU FINISH! CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Not all students are ready for the four-year university life right out of high school. Students who are not ready to leave the nest should consider attending a community college for two years and transferring to a four year university. It is actually less competitive to transfer to many colleges than it is to be admitted out of high school.

The Community Colleges have specific agreements with all CSU and UC campuses that will guarantee admission if students complete specific courses with a "C" or better. The Community Colleges also have specific agreements with private universities. Most private universities will take a transfer student after only one year at a Community College.

The quality of instruction is just as good at a community college as it is

at a 4-year institution. Many university professors also teach at local community colleges.

There are many great opportunities worth investigating at the 109 community college campuses in California. You can still have a real college experience:

**Athletic Teams - Student Government - Clubs - Study Abroad**

**Financial aid - Much, Much, More**

We will host a Community College Day in early Spring. Listen for announcements.

# IT IS TIME TO PLAN.....

It is time to get in gear for the college application process and start planning. Though you will not apply to colleges for admission until the beginning of your Senior year, don't procrastinate. Spend this time wisely. Many students make the start of the Senior year more stressful than it should be by procrastinating. Take advantage of your counseling office now.

- Begin thinking about what is important to your college experience.
- Speak with your counselor about how to begin researching colleges.
- Meet with college admission representatives who visit during lunch.
- Learn the difference between the CSU and UC system schools.
- Schedule campus tours during vacations.



## SCHEDULING FOR SENIOR YEAR

Counselors will visit all social studies classrooms beginning early February 2008. Students will be given a sample scheduling worksheet as well as an elective brochure.

Later in the month of February 2008, all students will meet with their counselor to select courses for their Senior year.

It is extremely important that students make wise decisions about electives and the rigor of their curriculum next year. Continue to challenge yourself. Admissions committees expect that students continue selecting courses at the same level and not reduce the quality of courses selected.

This means (if qualified):

- Take a 4th year of a world language.
- Take a 4th year of science.
- Take a 4th year of math.

Continue in 12th grade the activities you have been involved with throughout high school. Remember ...

**NO SENIOR SLACKING!!**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Remember, you are not only encouraged to be a good student, you are also encouraged to develop interests outside of the classroom and make a contribution to those around you. Students involved in school and community activities often find greater success in the classroom.

Get involved and give back through Community Service! Find an organization whose cause you believe in - with volunteering you can find enjoyment and opportunity for growth. This is a wonderful way to broaden your knowledge, develop leadership skills, meet new friends, and become a supporter of your community.

In addition to the personal benefits received from community service activities, you will make a great impression on your applications to college.

Colleges are not only in search of academically strong students; they want students with diverse interests, talents, points of view, and experiences.

Through your extracurricular involvement, colleges & employers are able to gain insight about your:

**Leadership Potential - Character - Commitment**

**Motivation - Independence - Social Responsibility**



Contact Ms. Hanley in Christian Services for questions or ideas for volunteer opportunities.

“A person's true wealth is the good he or she does in the world.” - Mohammed