



# **GCM College Night** ***2024-2025***

**GCM Student Services**

***September 3 at 6:00PM***





# Agenda

## **WELCOME**

**Elizabeth Wahl, *Director of Student Services***

## **GCM COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER**

**Gardner Humphreys, *CCS***

## **TIMELINE & RESOURCES BEFORE APPLYING**

**Joe George, *School Counselor***

## **NOVA INFORMATION (also 7PM session)**

**Sam Ottenheimer, *Admissions Outreach Coordinator***

## **WORKING WITH YOUR COUNSELOR**

***School Counselor***

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

**Mario Cruz, *Assistant Director of Admissions*  
Virginia Tech University**

**7:00ish PM – Seniors to COUNSELOR BREAKOUT ROOMS**

# **GCM College & Career Center**

## ***Gardner Humphreys***

*Info for Students & Parents: Schoology “Marshall Student Services” Course*

- ✓ **College Research & App Help:** [gkhumphreys@fcps.edu](mailto:gkhumphreys@fcps.edu)
- ✓ **Financial Aid, Reducing Cost & Scholarships**
- ✓ **Jobs** for students after school, summer, graduation
- ✓ **Volunteering, Internships, Summer Programs**
- ✓ **Test Prep** - free online prep and guides, GCM Library website

**School Website:** **Google** ***“GCM College Career”*** **or:**

<https://marshallhs.fcps.edu/student-services/college-career-center>

**Naviance:** <https://www.fcps.edu/naviance> **Schoology:** GCM Homepage

# College News for 2024-25

- ✓ **Virginia admissions trends from GCM Class 2024**
- ✓ **Test scores and admissions and test optional status**
- ✓ **FAFSA Opens Wide 12/1/24**
- ✓ **Virginia Tech** - Early Action deadline is for most people - 11/15, UVA brings back deferral options for EA/ED
- ✓ **SAT vs. ACT** - ACT changes in Spring 2025 for online version
- ✓ **AI and applications, essays** – colleges check for plagiarism but AI can be used some ways. Example: <https://sites.gatech.edu/admission-blog/>

# MORE COLLEGE & CAREER EVENTS

2024-2025

- ✓ **PSAT & Senior SAT** – Oct. 9 in school. PSAT for 10-11th no registration needed. SAT for seniors only, free, must submit **Intent Form** from 8/16 email
- ✓ **Senior College Essay Help** – Form on Schoology Class 2025, online or in person
- ✓ **Testing Info & Rising 10-12 College Info Night** - early spring Zoom TBD
- ✓ **Junior Focus College & Career Day** – April in school, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, students only
- ✓ **ASVAB Military Vocational Assessment** – regional by FCPS, fall & spring
- ✓ **Financial Aid for College Night** - date TBD





## **GCM College & Career Center, cont. *Gardner Humphreys***

### **SOME FAVORITE SITES**

#### ***College Research and Advice***

- ✓ <https://www.fcps.edu/naviance> GCM admissions history, scholarships
- ✓ <https://collegesearch.collegeboard.org/home> also your PSAT/SAT account
- ✓ <https://www.nacacnet.org/student/> Association for College Admissions
- ✓ <http://uvaapplication.blogspot.com/> UVA admissions blog

#### ***Financial Aid & Scholarships***

- ✓ <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> graduation rate/debt & aid info
- ✓ <https://finaid.org/> financial aid advice and scholarship search
- ✓ <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price> – **Net Price Calculators** - Dept. of Education, specific to each college, can be anonymous, takes 5-10 mins, try it!

***Career Exploring:*** <https://www.careeronestop.org/> and [Naviance](#)

# Timeline for Grades 9 to 11

## *What should I be thinking about in 9th grade?*

### **ALLOW YOURSELF TO EXPLORE and BUILD YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

- What is a class you've always wanted to try?
- Is there a class you did well in that you might consider taking in HN this year?
- Talk to your School Counselor about your goals - it's okay if you don't have a long term goal yet, but what can be a short term goal?
- Get involved! Try new things! Work hard academically and figure out what you like!
- Check your email daily!

# ***What should I be thinking about in 10th grade?***

## **EXPLORE YOUR PERSONALITY & INTERESTS AND GET INVOLVED!**

- Career Cluster on Naviance
- Stay strong with your grades
- Maintain a balance
- Continue building connections with your teachers, counselors, and classmates.
- Join a team, club, or other extracurricular activities, including volunteering!



# ***What should I be thinking about in 11th grade?***

## **CULMINATION OF 3 YEARS OF EFFORT AND GROWTH**

- How can you demonstrate your interests and skills?
- How are you showing your commitment and depth in your activities?
- Have you thought about taking the SAT or ACT and how to prepare?
- Are you talking with your School Counselor about crafting a well-balanced schedule?

## **Start coming up with the questions and answers that will shape your search**

- Visit your colleges, take virtual tours!
  - What are you looking for in a college? Big or small size? Private or public? Urban, suburban or rural?
  - Make sure to visit some of our college speakers in the College & Career Center.
  - Talk to your family about your budget and applying for financial aid - everyone needs to do the FAFSA!
  - Use Naviance as a resource - admission requirements or trends

# Working with your Counselor Senior Year

*Brooke Kirtner*

- Presentation tailored to 4-year college applications
  - See us for other opportunities

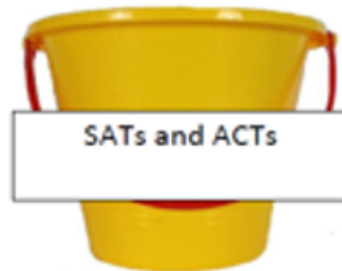
## Applying to College

The Four Buckets



# Testing Bucket

- In a traditional cycle, this often comes first
- Timeline
- Test-optional policies this year
- SAT at Marshall – **10/9/24** in school
- The sending of scores



# Letters of Recommendation & Transcript Bucket

- Another bucket you can get rid of quickly!
- Senior Information Packet
- Counselor vs. Teacher Letter(s) of Recommendation
- Transcript Request Form
  - Front: Signatures, Waive Right
  - Back: Deadlines, Type of Decision, Portal Used



# Application Bucket

- Type of Decision
  - Early Decision, Early Action, Regular & Rolling
- Spreadsheet of Important Dates
- Work on Essays
- Get materials sent



# Scholarship/Financial Aid Bucket

- We will have an evening to cover this topic
- FAFSA can be started in December, date TBD
- Do it to be considered for merit-based aid as well as other financial aid opportunities such as grants, work study & loans.



# Naviance Scattergrams


James Madison University 

Communicate 

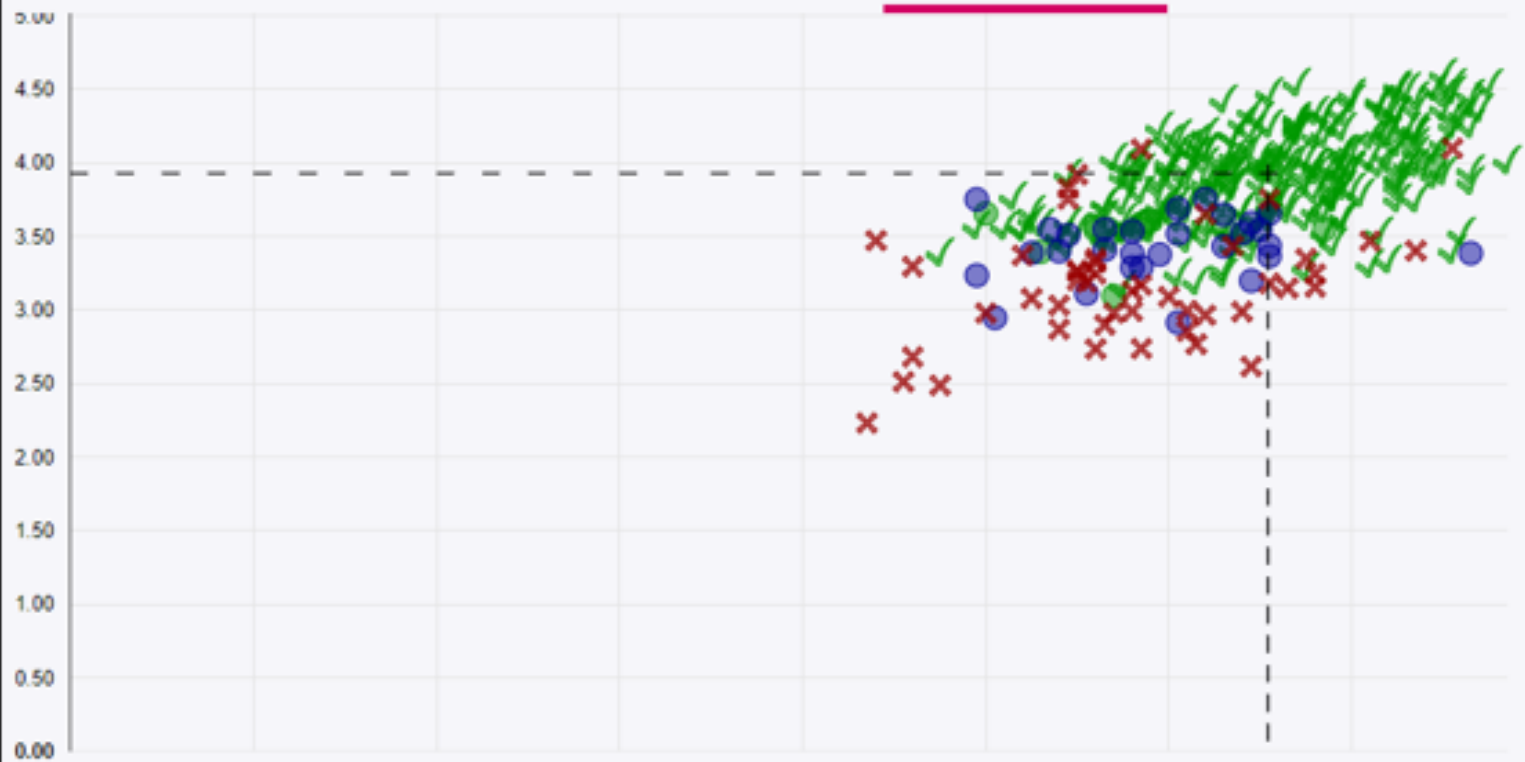
Overview

Studies

Student Life

Admissions 

Costs



## Senior Year GCM Support Team

- Counselors
  - Assist in finalizing a list of schools
  - Submission of counselor recommendation, transcript, and Secondary School Report
  - SAT/ACT/NACAC Fee Waivers for qualified students.
- College & Career Center Specialist
  - College and career search
  - Career/Major Interest Inventory
  - Essay and application support
  - Scholarships and financial aid

**LOOK OUT FOR THE SENIOR SERIES EMAILS 😊**



# Counselor Breakouts / Q & A



## *Name*

**DIAN-HAR + LAN-MUD** Mr. Sawitzky & Mr. Tsoi  
**ROOM 301 (Orchestra, a right out aud. door)**

**HAS-LAM + MUE-RED** Ms. Terry & Ms. Kirtner  
**ROOM A-102 (near cafeteria)**

**STOO-Z + A-BEK** Ms. Mollura & Mr. George  
**ROOM A110 (near cafeteria)**

**REE-STON + BEL-DIAM** Mr. Burton & Ms. Wess  
**F103 (near cafeteria)**

**NOVA & 4-Year College Questions in Spanish (En Espanol) - A112**  
**College & Career Center (Main lobby by Door 1)**