

College Newsletter

News and tips for high school students and parents

Advisor's Note

This past year, it has been a pleasure to serve ACA families by laying a foundation for the future. The College Advising web page launched just before Christmas and provides helpful resources for students and parents. ACA became a member of NACAC this year, and many students attended the organization's annual college fair downtown. Our school profile was published just before Spring Break, and it's been lauded as a fine tool by those in the college readiness and admissions community. 9th and 10th graders have had productive conversations with me this spring. All in all, the school is well-positioned to host college admissions officers on campus next year and educate colleges about the stellar candidates who will be applying to their institutions very soon. It is an exciting time to be a Cavalier! In the midst of all this excitement, I am sad to announce that I will not be returning to ACA next year. However, I have been working closely with the new Dean of Students, Mr. Jamaal Greer, and the new Head of College Advising, Mrs. Sarah Dollacker, for a smooth transition.

Mr. Jamaal Greer served as the Director of College Persistence and University Partnerships with Kipp Through College for Kipp Charter Schools in the Metro Atlanta Area. In his role prior to KIPP, he was a Senior Trainer for the Posse Foundation here in Atlanta where his role was to recruit scholars and support them once they got to college.

Mrs. Sarah Dollacker is a graduate of Duke University and has conducted alumni interviews for high school applicants to her alma mater. She is a former International Baccalaureate (IB) English teacher and book critic for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and other publications and is thrilled to be at ACA.

Have a wonderful summer — next year promises to be a good one.

— Ms. Marcellino



Have a conversation with your child about any geographical or financial considerations.

Help them investigate summer opportunities to enhance their skills and CV.

Our school CEEB code is 110304.

Direct any and all college-related queries to Mrs. Dollacker.

Did You Know? Americans often speak fondly of their “alma mater” and quickly claim their status as an “alumnus” or “alumna” of a particular institution. But do they know of what they speak? You should. “Alma mater” comes from the Latin, meaning “nurturing mother” and “alumnus” translates as “foster son.” These words indicate that the college-student relationship is a close, even familial, one and that the proper role of the college is to nourish hungry minds and souls.

Information and Announcements

- **We are pleased to announce that ACA will host its first College Week during the first week of September!** Prior to that week, we will host a Parent College Night on Wednesday, August 23, to include a talk by a local college admissions representative on how colleges view students as part of a cohort and what role AP credits, extracurricular activities, and personal essays play in admissions decisions. On Thursday, September 7, ACA will host its inaugural college fair on campus with a select group of colleges. Finally, juniors will join other nearby high schools at North Atlanta High School on Friday, September 8, for a college fair with numerous colleges and universities attending.
- PSAT scores are in! If you have yet to access student scores online, please go to collegeboard.org and sign into your student account. At the top of the home page, you can click on “My PSAT Scores” to find the PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 9/10 scores. *You should not need an individual access code to complete this process.*
- If you would like an “inside look” into the college admissions process, check out the [Georgia Tech Admission Blog](#). The admissions team writes candidly about many issues, from how admissions teams make decisions to how to ease into the transition from home to college.
- While AP courses and tests are all the rage, SAT Subject Tests continue to be required or recommended by selective universities and accepted as a reliable measure of knowledge by all. A good rule of thumb is to take a look at the tests offered, decide which ones will showcase particular affinities best, and plan ahead to take those tests soon after you complete the applicable high school course. See [here](#) for updated test dates and registration information.
- This summer, Mr. Schepps and Mr. Andrew will offer courses on Dante’s *Inferno* and the AP English Language and Composition test. The schedule is as follows: *Inferno* Part 1, June 19-23; AP course and *Inferno* Part 2, July 24-28. Please reach out to them with interest in either opportunity this summer.
- If you would like to volunteer this summer, take a look at TeenLife.com. This website can connect you to opportunities with Trees Atlanta, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, and the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library.

What Should I Do This Summer?

Regardless of your year in high school, you should see summer break as an opportunity to use leisure time well. Consider finding summer employment, volunteering, or participating in academic programs, internships, summer workshops, or camps with a special focus. Hone the skills you have and target a few areas for improvement. Whatever you choose to do, your summers should be productive — in particular, the summers after your sophomore and junior years.

Here, then, are a few — dare I say it? — *summer homework assignments*:

Rising 9th graders

- First and foremost, enjoy your last summer before high school!
- Spend time becoming better at the things you enjoy and improving in areas, especially academic, that will make your transition to high school easier.

Rising 10th graders

- Have conversations with those who know you best — people you respect — about your interests and passions.
- Start a CV by listing all of the impressive and interesting things you have done in your free time, always remembering to jot down the title of the organization/position, a description of the work you did, and the dates of the activity.

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

President Theodore Roosevelt

Rising 11th graders

- Do deeper research into colleges and programs that interest you by looking at department faculty and major requirements, asking schools for more information, and setting up visits for the future.
- Work, volunteer, learn, and perform — this must be an active summer. Plan now for how you will build on these activities next summer as well.
- Cut out any activities that you participate in simply to “check a box” — the way you spend your time should reflect your true interests and passions and a willingness to challenge yourself.

For help with these assignments, please take a look regularly at the College Advising web page and the [Investigating Summer Opportunities one-pager](#). Have a refreshing and productive summer!

WHAT WE WILL BE DOING THIS SUMMER...

In the last college newsletter, we announced plans to purchase a new system – Naviance – for college advising purposes. Now and during the summer, we will be finalizing our training with this program and publishing information about student and parent training. Naviance will enable close communication between the registrar, college advisor, and student, as well as provide resources for the scholarships and colleges search. A Resume Builder and personality assessments will be available to students, as well as a way to keep up with college applications and pending submissions. We are excited to introduce this new tool to you at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year!