

Stay Connected—College Preparation!



Dear family,

The highly anticipated senior year of high school arrives very quickly for many of our students. Questions looming in the minds of students and parents may include “When do I start my college applications?” or “What if I miss something?” To help organize your thoughts and answer some of your questions, our counseling team has prepared a short list.

Fall

- ❑ Start on college applications in the fall. Some colleges and universities have application deadlines as early as October and November, so it is wise to find out when the deadlines are for the programs you are interested in.
- ❑ Get started on your college application essays early. Make it a priority to have others review the essays before you submit them as part of your application.
- ❑ Request recommendation letters from your teachers, allowing 4–6 weeks to complete those letters before you need to turn them in. Some colleges already have a template for recommendation letters, or they may use the Common Application for those letters. If you need a personal recommendation from your counselor and/or teacher (not a form filled out such as Common App)

we would prefer you send a list of your activities and accomplishments for them to use as a reference when they write your recommendation.

- ❑ Many schools require a standardized test like the [ACT](#) or [SAT](#). Some universities also require SAT subject tests; if they do, you need to sign up for the ones you want to take. It is a good idea to register for these no later than September of your senior year. We highly recommend that juniors sign up and take SAT/ACT tests in the spring or early summer of your junior year. This allows a student to take the test a second time if they want a higher score.
- ❑ Fall is also a good time to start looking for scholarships you may qualify for. [Fastweb](#), [Collegescholarships.org](#), and local organizations like the Rotary Club are good places to start.

Winter

- ❑ Make sure you have completed and submitted your applications to all of the universities on your list.
- ❑ If you applied for an Early Decision (vs. Early Action) admission and have been accepted, you will need to withdraw your applications from other schools.
- ❑ Make sure your [FAFSA](#) or [CSS Profile](#) is complete and submitted by the deadline.

Spring

- ❑ Compare your financial aid packages from each college you've been accepted to.
- ❑ Let the college of your choice know of your decision to attend; most colleges have a deadline of May 1st to confirm acceptance.
- ❑ Let your counselor know which college or university you plan to attend so that EA can send your final grades, class rank, and proof of graduation.
- ❑ Prepare a budget for the coming school year.
- ❑ Apply for scholarships as many are due for consideration in March/April.
- ❑ Send thank you notes to counselors, teachers, scholarship committees, and anyone else who helped you through the process.
- ❑ If this is your junior year, now is a good time to get a head start on registration for the standardized tests mentioned earlier for college acceptance.



ENLIGHTIUM™
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

[About](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Curriculum](#)

[Tuition](#)

[Students](#)

[Enrollment](#)

[Login](#)

A banner image showing a group of students. A red arrow points from the left towards the 'Resources' link in the navigation bar.

[Resources](#)

More *Stay Connected* letters can be found on the EA website on the [Resources page](#) under “Stay Connected.”



Desiree Towner

Guidance Counselor

Desiree Towner graduated from Northwest University with a BA in Psychology and Pastoral Care, and then she received a Masters in Education with an emphasis in School Counseling from Heritage University. She works as a Guidance Counselor for families and students interested in Enlightium Academy.

Prior to joining the EA team, Ms. Towner worked as a high school counselor. She is also a registered therapeutic riding instructor through the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association.

Ms. Towner volunteers at her local church as a bassist and vocalist for the music team. In her free time, she and her husband enjoy spending time with family, their dog, Grady, and horses, Aspen and Momma.