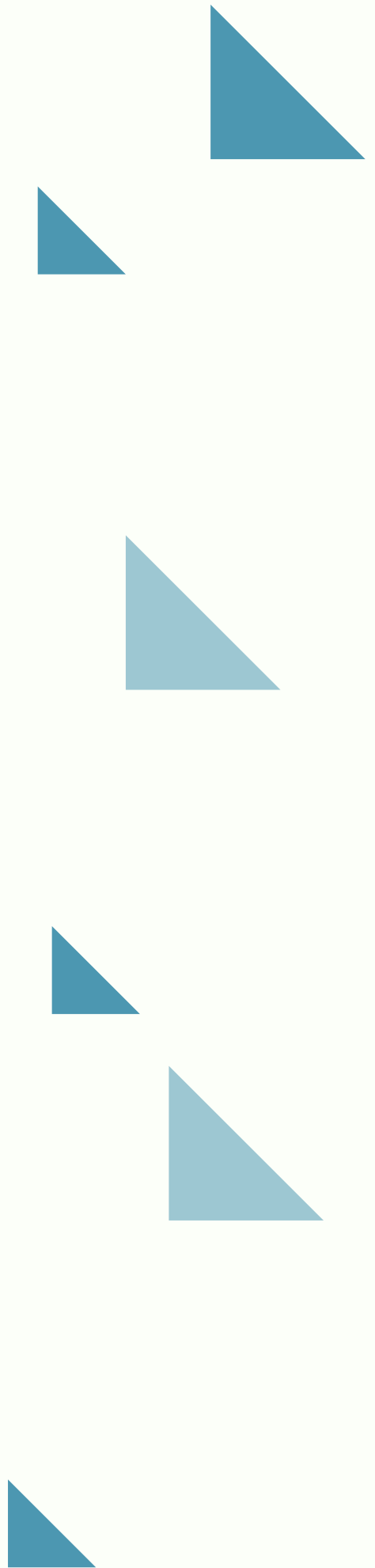


# San Joaquin Memorial Fall 2020 Counseling Update



## Who is my counselor?

Counselors are assigned alphabetically by last name.

### Last names

- A – F** —————→ Ms. Debbie Arceo (darceo@sjmhs.org)  
**G – N** —————→ Mrs. Kylie Gomez (kgomez@sjmhs.org)  
**O – Z** —————→ Mrs. Lisa Cameron (lcameron@sjmhs.org)

**Counseling Office Asst** —————→ Ms. Diana Reap (dreap@sjmhs.org)

Contact for help with Facts Parent Portal access, scholarships, college visits, FCC Dual Enrollment Liaison

**Counseling Intern (all grade levels)** —————→ Ms. Marisol Trujillo (marisolt@sjmhs.org)

## What is the new grade program at SJM?

Facts Family Portal - For Facts access instructions see: [sjmhs.org/facts](https://sjmhs.org/facts)

All parents should access their students' grade book and attendance records online. Regular monitoring of progress is key to academic success. If you have questions about your child's academic status in a class, do not hesitate to reach out to your student's teacher directly. The best way to connect is email.

# SAT, ACT, PSAT, and All-School Test Day Updates

For the class of 2021, most colleges are test blind or test optional. That means, students can (and should) apply without test scores if they are unable to test (health concerns, test center closures, etc.).

If students can take the SAT or ACT safely, we recommend that they do. If a high score is earned, it could be considered as added benefit (similar to an award) on some college applications.

## **Test Requirement Update (Oct. 2020):**

Some east coast colleges are still requiring an SAT or ACT. Seniors should check their colleges' websites and if required, sign up for the next available test date.

SAT registration – [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)

ACT registration – [act.org](https://act.org)

**SJM's All-School Testing Day** (practice ACT & PSAT for 9th – 11th graders), typically offered in mid-October, has been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are planning on giving the January 2021 PSAT/NMSQT to juniors and will provide ACT practice for 9th and 10th graders.

Should students practice for college admissions tests? Yes! Even though some universities are discussing or have decided to discontinue use of SAT/ACT, many will resume the requirement and will use scores for placement. So, we will continue to prioritize test prep.

## **Test Prep at SJM**

Are you looking for an online test prep program? Please contact your counselor to get access to free test prep through Albert.io. We plan to enroll all students in this test prep program in the spring, but we'd love to help interested students get started right away. Also, don't forget, Khan Academy is a free online test prep program open to everyone! ([khanacademy.org](https://khanacademy.org))

# What should college-bound seniors be doing now?

- Join the "Class of 2021 – Counseling" Google Classroom (join code = zlmvtmf).
- Schedule a meeting with your counselor (use Google request form here: <https://forms.gle/AS81ywfmqz5dfKBf6> ).
- Log into Naviance and update "Colleges I'm Applying To List."
- Sign up for virtual college visits in Naviance.
- Begin college applications. (See links to applications in Naviance.)
- Search for scholarships. (See "Paying for College" and Scholarship Search in Naviance.)

## When are the Counseling Parent Nights?

Parent Nights will be offered virtually this year. Look for an email invitation to register for the virtual meeting.

Senior Parent Night – October 8, 2020. Miss this event? [Click here to view the information](#)

Freshman Parent Night – October 15, 2020. Miss this event? [Click here to view the information](#)

Junior Parent Night – January 2021 (TBA)

Sophomore Parent Night – January 2021 (TBA)