



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

PERALTA PARK • 1294 ALBINA AVE • BERKELEY • CALIFORNIA 94706-2599
TELEPHONE (510) 526-9242 • FAX (510) 559-6277 • WWW.SAINTMARYSCHS.ORG

March 7, 2019

Dear Juniors and Your Parents:

We are delighted to invite you to the 2019 Case Studies Program on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. This letter provides you with detailed information about this event, especially planned for juniors and their parents. We feel it is very worthwhile and informative for both.

The Case Studies Workshop is a unique program occurring at five sites in the Bay Area. Our East Bay event is presented in cooperation with Head Royce, Bentley and Maybeck High Schools. It gives students and parents an opportunity to understand how college admissions offices make decisions about who is admitted and who is denied among a field of many very qualified candidates; the kind of decisions that colleges will be making about Saint Mary's applicants next fall. Admissions officers from nearly 95 colleges and universities nationwide will participate. You become part of an admissions committee, chaired by two or three of those representatives that will review four simulated applications. After you make your decisions about which student you will admit to Red Brick University, or wait-list or deny, all the admissions officers proceed to the auditorium for a college fair, and you can meet with them about their schools. A list of participating colleges is available on the site listed below and subject to change.

The Case Studies Workshops will take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at Saint Mary's College High School from 7:00 to about 9:30 p.m. Because parents and students from four other high schools will also be attending, Saint Mary's students and their parents should plan to arrive on campus between 6:30 and 6:55 p.m. in order to park, sign in, and receive the location of your "committee" by 7:00. Students and parents do not sit on the same committee. **Please be aware of the neighborhood and park safely and free of driveways. I strongly recommend using the Posen Street for entrance onto campus and parking.** During the second half of the evening, students (*without their parents/guardians*) participate in a college fair where they can meet the admission officers who will read their applications in the fall. This is a chance for students to ask questions, gather brochures, and learn more about the range of college options available to them.

To get your own Case Studies applicant files and see the participating colleges attending (students and parents should each have their own), go to our website, <https://www.saintmaryschs.org/student-life/college-counseling/case-studies-2019/> Please have your cases available electronically or bring a copy with you, we will not provide copies of each case study.

In order to make the best decision, you need to review the packet of the students' files **before** beginning your deliberations. Each packet contains the profile of the fictitious college on whose committee you will sit, a rating sheet for you to make notes about each student, and tips on how to read the applicants' files, and the following for each of the three students:

His/her completed application including personal statement and activities

His/her high school transcript including SAT/ACT scores

A profile of his/her high school

The school report (the counselor recommendation)

One teacher recommendation

Be sure to bring your files with you when you attend the Case Studies Workshop.

After the Case Study deliberations, students will be given access to the college fair, Parents and Guardians will have the option to attend two presentations. The first is a discussion with Femi Ogundele, the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Undergraduate Admissions at UC Berkeley, moderated by our schools' college counselors. The second is a presentation about students athletes and the college process, moderated by J.T. Thomas, who served as the Cal Women's Soccer Coach for 11 years and as a Bay Area college counselor. Each session will allow time for general college Q&A.

I hope that your schedules allow you and your student to take advantage of this opportunity. Saint Mary's looks forward to partnering with you as you embark on your college application process. If you have any questions about the Case Studies workshops, please contact me at (510) 559-6219 or by e-mail at sryan@stmchs.org

Sincerely,

Sonia Ryan

Director of College Counseling

Immediate Past-President, Western Association of College Admission Counseling