



CAREER CENTER CONNECTION

NEWS FROM THE SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER

APRIL/MAY 2018

TESTING OPPORTUNITIES

WHO SHOULD BE TAKING WHAT AND WHEN?

Testing season is upon us and it is important to understand which students should be taking which tests and when each test will be taking place. Simley is offering students more opportunity than ever to take advantage of college credits and being able to take various entrance exams right here at school. So, let's get them all straight by taking this one test at a time.

ACT (AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST)

Students who took the ACT in April at Simley should expect their results to arrive by mail in six to eight weeks. Students will receive their score report and interest inventory results. Included on the score report will be an ACT ID number. This can be used to create an ACT account at www.actstudent.org. The account is important to create as this is how the student will register for the test should they wish retake it and also how they will send official scores to colleges and universities, if needed.

If a student took the ACT previous to the April test administration at school their scores can be accessed on their ACT student account online. The test company will simply match them to the existing account and add the new scores. A score report will also be sent via mail to the home address.

Students planning to go to a four-year college or university should definitely plan on taking the ACT at least a couple of times. Most students will take the test two-three times. The exam is accepted at every college across the country and every college will take your best score available. Juniors planning on attending a technical or community college are also encouraged to take advantage of this particular testing time because if college-readiness benchmarks are met, no further testing will be required.

Future test dates:	Test Date:	Registration Deadline
	June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018
	July 14, 2018*	June 15, 2018
	September 8, 2018	August 3, 2018

AP (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)

Who: Any student enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) course

When: Monday, May 7, 2018 – Friday, May 18, 2018

Where: Simley High School (Various locations)

How: Online registration closed on February 28, 2018

Cost: \$53.00 (exam) + \$1.00 (administration fee) = \$54.00

Notes: Excellent opportunity to gain college credits and save money and time before you get to college. Credits are well received by the majority of colleges and universities.

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ASVAB (CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM)

Who: Any sophomore, junior, or senior student who is interested in learning more about what career might be a good fit for them. In addition, the ASVAB is the military entrance exam, so any student considering the military as a post-secondary option should consider taking this exam.

When: The ASVAB was offered in mid-April- it will be offered again in the fall 2018.

Notes: Scores will NOT be released to any branch of the military. If a student would like their scores released they must sign a specific release that can be picked up in the Career Center.
Students will receive their scores a just a couple of weeks after they take the exam (Tuesday, May 1). In conjunction with the results hand back and as a part of the Career Exploration Program, students will attend a one hour session that will dive deeper into their career interests and provide excellent resources for further career exploration.

ACCUPLACER (PLACEMENT EXAM)

Who: Any senior student planning on going to a technical or community college after high school will need to take this exam for placement purposes. This determines if a student is college ready academically in the areas of math, English, and reading. This specific testing date (at Simley) will be offered by Inver Hills Community College. If you plan to attend any other technical or community college you will be able to take the exam but will need a testing voucher from your specific school (see Ms. Kimble for details).

When: Thursday, May 17, 2017 @ 8:30 AM

Where: Simley High School (PUB LAB)

How: Sign-up with Ms. Kimble in the Career Center

Cost: FREE!

Notes: If a student met college and career readiness benchmarks on the ACT they are exempt from taking the ACCUPLACER. Students should check with their individual college to see if they need to take the exam. If a student does not score high enough on this exam they will need to take remedial or developmental courses in college that they have to pay for but that do not count towards their degree so it is well worth it to take the time and study for this exam! (Hint: Ms. Kimble has great resources to help with studying!)

CLEP (COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM)

Who: Simley High School is now a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) test site. These 90-minute exams (exams with an essay component take additional time), can be administered only at official CLEP test centers. CLEP exams cover the material generally taught in introductory college level courses and most colleges award credit for qualifying scores, saving a student both time and money towards their degree. Simley students have the opportunity to participate in taking any of the 33 exams; however, will be specifically presented to students in College Algebra, Communications 11 and Sociology as these courses have a natural parallel to specific CLEP exams and students have already been preparing for the exam just by taking the course.

When: Monday, May 21, 2018 – Friday, May 25, 2018

Where: Simley High School (IMC)

How: Register online (<https://clep.collegeboard.org>) AND sign-up with Ms. Kimble in the Career Center

Cost: \$85.00 per exam

Notes: This is a significant cost; however, it is minimal compared to what a student pays for a full college course. Each college and university individually determines how CLEP scores/credit will be awarded. It is very important to research this in advance. Individual college policies can be searched at: <https://clep.collegeboard.org/school-policy-search>.

SUMMER ROAD TRIP: WE'RE GOING TO COLLEGE!

VISIT 8 COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN 4 DAYS- FOR FREE!

The application for the *Summer Road Trip: We're Going to College* will soon be available! Applications can be found in the Career Center or in the Counseling Office.

Why are we offering the opportunity to get on college campuses? The college planning process may be new or even overwhelming! Students and families don't always have the support, resources, or transportation to explore their college options. In addition, physically getting on campus is one of the best ways for students to understand and figure out what they are looking for in a college and weigh out pros and cons. To better serve students and families in the post-secondary planning process, we will be offering a Summer Road Trip where we will visit two college campuses per day for four days.

The road trip will take place Monday, June 25- Thursday, June 28. While at each campus students and parents will have the ability to learn more about the college, meet with admission representatives, tour the campus, and ask questions. Participants are welcome to join one, two, three, or all four days at **no cost**. There will be an opportunity each day for a campus dining experience but participants will be responsible for paying for their own lunch on the college campus or bringing your own bag lunch.



Colleges that will be visited this year will include: The University of Minnesota- Twin Cities, Augsburg University, University of St. Thomas, Winona State University, University of Wisconsin- River Falls, St. Cloud State University, College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, and Hamline University.

This program is taking place as a part of the Tri-District College and Career Readiness initiative between Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul, and Mendota Heights. All three schools will have the opportunity to participate in the College Road Trip. Each morning a bus will leave from either Simley High School, Sibley High School, or South St. Paul High School (see application for specifics) outside the main entrance and follow the itinerary for the day. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis with priority being given to upperclassman. The application deadline will be **Wednesday, May 30th but you should get your application in ASAP to save your spot!**

SUMMER PROGRAMS

WHY TO PARTICIPATE AND WHERE TO LOOK



From law to economics and writing to engineering, colleges are offering summer enrichment programs to high school students. In an effort to recruit independent and high potential learners, colleges design summer programs for students to explore. Many of the programs are week-long, overnight experiences that permit the students to not only absorb the college campus environment but also to meet other students with their same interests.

There are a plethora of summer programs and camps for students to participate in which vary widely in terms of cost and time commitment. **Students interested in taking part in a summer program should**

reference the bulletin board outside of Ms. Bate's classroom where they will find a ton of opportunities posted!

Questions about programs or applications can be directed to Ms. Kimble.

In addition to summer programs and camps, students have the opportunity to spend their time off of school by volunteering, working, or visiting college campuses. Of particular interest that I would like to highlight in terms of college visit opportunities, are the following:

- **Summer Road Trip: We're Going to College** (June 25 – June 28)
 - 8 college visits in 4 days (see above for more information)
 - To participate, complete application found in the Career Center (FREE)
- **Meet Minnesota** (June 18 – June 22)
 - University of Minnesota's special summer visit week. Visit five campuses.
 - To schedule your visit and learn more about each campus, go to: campusfinder.umn.edu (FREE)
- **Minnesota Private College Week** (June 25 – June 29)
 - Explore any of the 17 MN Private Colleges. AM and PM sessions at each college.
 - Register and plan your trip at: mnprivatecolleges.org/mpcw

GREAT RESOURCE ALERT

CHECK OUT THE COLLEGE ESSAY GUY



College Essay Guy™
get inspired.

A fantastic resource that has quickly become one of my favorite is the College Essay Guy. The College Essay Guy, Ethan Sawyer, is a nationally recognized college essay expert and sought-after speaker. He provides a ton of free resources for students and families as well as online courses, workshops, articles, products, and books. He advises on the college planning process in an easy-to-understand, efficient, and effective way that really makes sense. I highly recommend checking out his site, www.collegeessayguy.com, as I am confident you will find it helpful and relevant!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SOON TO BE CLASS OF 2018!

SENIOR REMINDERS

Seniors will graduate in six short weeks! Below are a few reminders as we approach the end of the school year:

- ✓ If your student has already decided which school to attend in the fall be sure they are getting their housing applications and deposits submitted.
- ✓ It's not too late to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), if your family has not already done so. If you still need to complete the financial aid application go to: www.fafsa.gov to get started.
- ✓ National Decision Day is May 1st which means seniors must commit and put a deposit down on the college they plan to attend by that date.
- ✓ Senior signing day at Simley is Thursday, May 24th. This celebratory event will recognize all of the hard word seniors have put in as well as what their plans are after high school. Listen to announcements for more information.
- ✓ The senior slide is a very real thing. Continue to encourage your senior to finish the year strong and on a positive note. All colleges and universities require a final transcript after graduation- remind your student they do not want to jeopardize their college admission due to poor grades!

TOP TIER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

OPPORTUNITIES TO HEAR FROM ADMISSION COUNSELORS

Students who are considering any Ivy League or highly competitive college or university should be aware of upcoming events where admission representatives travel around the country to different cities in groups to talk with students and families about their specific admissions criteria and process. Events typically last one to two hours and are high beneficial to attend. All events must be registered for in advance.

- **Exploring College Options**
 - Duke University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University
 - Thursday, May 17, 2018 @ 7:00 PM
 - Hilton Minneapolis
1001 Marquette Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55403
 - Register at: www.exploringcollegeoptions.org
- **Coast to Coast College Tour**
 - Dartmouth College, Northwestern University, Princeton University, University of California-Berkeley, Vanderbilt University
 - Wednesday, May 23, 2018 @ 7:00 PM
 - Double Tree by Hilton Hotel (Bloomington- Mpls. South)
7800 Normandale Boulevard Minneapolis, MN 55439
 - Register at: www.coasttocoasttour.org
- **Exploring Educational Excellence**
 - Brown University, University of Chicago, Columbia University, Cornell University, Rice University
 - Monday, June 4, 2018 @ 7:00 PM
 - Double Tree by Hilton Hotel (Minneapolis- Park Place)
1500 Park Place Boulevard Minneapolis, MN 55416
 - Register at: www.exploringeducationalexcellence.org

think COLLEGE!

UNPREPARED

ROB LOWE ON SENDING HIS SON OFF TO COLLEGE

Adapted from *Love Life* by Rob Lowe. Copyright © 2014 by Rob Lowe. Copied here from Slate (slate.com)

To all of the parents of seniors who will soon be sending their kiddo off to college or out of the house for possibly the first time ever. Maybe you are feeling excited, maybe you are already feeling sad, maybe feelings are bitter sweet, or maybe whatever you are bound to feel hasn't hit you yet. Regardless, after reading this article, I felt like you could appreciate the perspective and the words included. All the best as you venture into your new chapter as well.

I'm trying to remember when I felt like this before. Like an elephant is sitting on my chest, like my throat is so tight and constricted that I can feel its tendons, like my eyes are 100 percent water, spilling out at will, down pathways on my face that have been dry for as long as I can think of. I'm trying to remember: When was the last time my heart was breaking?

The death of my mother was one time, but her passing was prolonged enough to let me prepare for it, to the extent anyone can. At the most intense moment, sitting at her gravesite, I felt like I could hear every leaf blower in a 50-mile radius, felt as if I could feel the sun's rays turning my skin darker shades with each second, my skin irritated and jumpy, making me want to crawl out of it. I'm feeling it all now again, but no one has died.

When I was a boy, I had to leave my friends in the summer, just as Malibu was becoming Malibu, say goodbye to my first girlfriend and go to Ohio to stay with my dad. There is a little of that sense memory at play too, a feeling that I'm about to be left out of important events, separated from life as I know it, the world as I love it.

I am remembering and feeling the details of my parents' divorce and our family's forced march out of my home to an alien world across the country. The goodbyes to my father and my beloved grandparents; rationally I knew I would see them all again, but now I have the same body-deadening weight of the condemned, counting the minutes until the final moments of a life that's all I've ever known. This encompassing, exhausting sadness I had mostly forgotten, or buried, until now.

Today is my son Matthew's last night home before college.

I have been emotionally blindsided. I know that this is a rite many have been through, that this is nothing unique. I know that this is all good news; my son will go to a great school, something we as a family have worked hard at for many years. I know that this is his finest hour. But looking at his suitcases on his bed, his New England Patriots posters on the wall, and his dog watching him pack, sends me out of the room to a hidden corner where I can't stop crying.

Through the grief I feel a rising embarrassment. "Jesus Christ, pull yourself together, man!" I tell myself. There are parents sending their kids off to battle zones, or putting them into rehabs and many other more legitimately emotional situations, all over our country. How dare I feel so shattered? What the hell is going on?

One of the great gifts of my life has been having my two boys and, through them, exploring the mysterious, complicated and charged relationship between fathers and sons. As I try to raise them, I discover the depth and currents of not only our relationship but ones already downstream, the love and loss that flowed between my father and me and how that bond is so powerful.

After my parents' divorce, when I was 4, I spent weekends with my dad, before we finally moved to California. By the time Sunday rolled around, I was incapable of enjoying the day's activities, of being in the moment, because I was already dreading the inevitable goodbye of Sunday evening. Trips to the mall, miniature golf, or movies had me in a foggy, lump-throated daze long before my dad would drop me home and drive away.

Now, standing among the accumulation of the life of a little boy he no longer is, I look at my own young doppelgänger and realize: it's me who has become a boy again. All my heavy-chested sadness, loss and longing to hold on to things as they used to be are back, sweeping over me as they did when I was a child.

In front of Matthew I'm doing some of the best acting of my career. I've said before that the common perception that all good actors should be good liars is exactly the opposite; only bad actors lie when they act. But now I'm using the tricks of every hack and presenting a dishonest front to my son and wife. To my surprise, it appears to be working. I smile like a jack-o'-lantern and affect a breezy, casual manner. Positive sentences only and nothing but enthusiasm framing my answers to Matthew's questions.

"Do you think it's cold in the dorms in the winter?" he asks in a voice that seems smaller than it was just days ago.

"Naah!" I lie, having no idea what his new room for the next four years will be like.

This line of questioning is irrelevant anyway, as my wife Sheryl is preparing for any possible scenario, as is her genius. We all have our strengths; among hers is the ability to put anything a human being could possibly need in a suitcase. Or box. Or FedEx container. She

is channeling her extraordinary love and loss into a beautiful display of preparing her son for his travels. And in the end, Arctic explorers will travel lighter.

Matthew's dog, Buster, watches me watching Matthew as he sorts through his winter jackets. I am one of those people who believe dogs can actually smile, and now I can expand that belief to include an ability to look incredulous as well. Buster seems to be the only member of our family to see what a wreck I am, and he is having none of it.

"You disgust me," he seems to say, looking at me with his chocolate eyes. "Get a backbone, man!"

The clothes are off the bed and zipped into the bags. The bed is tidy and spare; it already has the feel of a guest bed, which, I realize to my horror, it will become. I replay wrapping him in his favorite blanket like a burrito. This was our nightly ritual until the night he said in an offhanded way, "Daddy, I don't think I need blanky tonight." (And I thought that was a tough evening!)

I think of all the times we lay among the covers reading, first me to him, *Goodnight Moon* and *The Giving Tree*, and later him to me: my lines from *The West Wing* or a movie I was shooting. The countless hours of the History Channel and *Deadliest Catch*; the quiet sanctuary where I could sneak in and grab some shut-eye with him when I had an early call time on set, while the rest of the house was still bustling. I look at the bed and think of all the recent times when I was annoyed at how late he was sleeping. I'll never have to worry about that again, I realize. I make up an excuse to leave the room and head to my secret corner.

For his part, Matthew has been a rock. He is naturally very even-keeled, rarely emotional; he is a logical, tough pragmatist. He would have made a great Spartan. True to form, he is treating his impending departure as just another day at the office. And I'm glad. After all, someone's gotta be strong about this.

Our youngest, Johnowen, will be staying behind and returning to high school, and now it's time for them to say goodbye. I've been worried about how Johnowen will handle the departure of his big brother. Only two years apart, they share most of the same friends, which is to say that Johnny hangs with all the older boys who are also leaving home. My sons are very close in that vaguely annoyed constant companionship that brothers can share (if they are lucky).

Now what will happen to their NFL rivalry and smack talk? The nightly ear-splitting deconstructing of Scandinavian dubstep EDM? The incessant wrangling about what guys and what girls are coming by and when? Life is breaking up the team that kept me in loving consternation until all hours of the morning and throughout those never-ending summer nights.

I am a boy again as I wonder: What will become of my two closest friends?

In the driveway Matthew gives Johnowen a laconic high-five. "Peace," he says, clearly going out of his way to avoid any emotion or drama. Johnowen, whose passion runs just barely under the surface, is a little taken aback. He looks at me, sad and bemused, and I know what he is thinking: "That's my brother! A cool cucumber till the end." He watches Matthew hop into the car for the ride to the airport.

Of the many horrors of divorce, the most egregious is that it robs a kid of the best of both worlds. Dads can do many things that even the best moms can't, and vice versa. I've always been fascinated by whom my kids come to and for what purpose, whether they are drawn to Sheryl or to me, and I've noted that it always surprises me which one of us they need for comfort or advice and when.

On the plane, we have two seats together and one apart. Matthew chooses to sit with Sheryl and I see how happy it makes her. Then on go the headphones and not a word is shared for most of the flight. Sheryl and I look at each other and smile. "Teenagers."

An amber, evening light fills the cabin as we flee the setting sun, heading east. I've taken a break from reading and am staring at my boy. The light from his window is cutting across his face, accentuating his cheekbones and strong jawline, making him look unbearably handsome and grown-up. He might as well be a young businessman headed to a meeting.

His favorite headphones are on and he is reading, so I can consider him in freedom, without his awareness. I remember the first time I laid eyes on him in the delivery room. "He's blond!" was my first thought. And I remember what I whispered to him when his eyes opened for the first time in his life as he peered in my face, and (I am convinced) into my soul. "Hello, I'm your daddy. And I will always be there for you."

Sheryl has looked up from her iPad and mouths to me, "Are you okay?" I want to be, for her; I don't need her worrying about anything other than the logistics ahead, and I certainly don't want to draw any attention on the plane. But something about her face and the way she is looking at me, while I am looking at him, pulls the rug out again and I avert my eyes from her, from him; my sunglasses go on and I open up a newspaper, covering my entire face and anything that anyone might see, like a bad version of Maxwell Smart hiding from a KAOS agent. I am amazed that so much water can come out of the eyes of someone who dehydrates himself with so much caffeine.

Just as we land, I take one more peek at Matthew. If he has any emotion about any of this, he is not showing it. I'm proud that he is charging into this chapter that opens the narrative of his adult life with such confidence. And I sneak another peek at Sheryl and allow myself to think, "All of this is exactly as it needs to be."

TRENDING CAREERS

HVAC TECHNICIAN



What HVAC Technician's Do

Heating and cooling system mechanics install and repair heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration systems.

Work Environment and Activities

HVAC/R technicians must be able to work independently, in extreme conditions, at all hours of the day. From the cold of winter to the heat and humidity of summer, in attics, basements, crawl spaces and on roof tops. Occasional heavy lifting, working off ladders or scaffolding and being comfortable with heights are also potential requirements. HVAC/R technicians should expect to be on call and work after hours and some weekends.

How to Become an HVAC Technician

Many HVAC techs will complete a combination of a formal schooling program as well as an apprenticeship. Some choose to complete one or the other.

Many heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration technology programs include paid apprenticeships. As an apprentice, students learn skills of the trade while working with experienced workers.

Many community colleges and technical schools offer certificate and associate degree programs in heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration technology (HVAC). A certificate program usually takes a year of full-time study. An associate degree program at a community college usually takes two years of full-time study to complete.

Pay

Median yearly salary in Minnesota is: **\$51,250.**

Job Outlook

Demand for this occupation will be strong. It is growing at a rate of 7.1% in Minnesota- just higher than the national average. Demand will be strong for this occupation as the construction industry continues to rebound. Climate-controlled systems also create demand for qualified HVAC mechanics. Most systems need to be upgraded every ten-15 years. Job prospects will be best for those with apprenticeship training or technical training in electronics.



Local Schools Offering a Degree in HVAC

Dakota County Technical College (Diploma)

Dunwoody College of Technology (Certificate, Associate of Applied Science)

MN State Community and Technical College- Fergus Falls (Diploma)

North Central University (Associate of Applied Science, Bachelor)

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY

WE ARE CALLED AUGGIES.

www.augsburg.edu



Augsburg is a friendly, faith-based campus that offers more than 50 undergraduate majors and nine graduate degrees. Augsburg is committed to service-learning, experiential education, inclusiveness, and the exploration of vocation. Defined by excellence in the liberal arts and professional studies, Augsburg is shaped by its urban and global settings, and guided by the Lutheran faith. Augsburg believes in the power of first-hand experience- for learning, for living, for finding purpose. Every day, Augsburg students push beyond their comfort zones to ask “why,” to act on their beliefs, to make an impact.

Student demographics:

2,430 undergraduate students	34% ethnic/racial diversity	40% socioeconomic diversity
Graduation rate: 59% (above average)	Retention rate: 77% (above average)	Average class size: 16 students
39 U.S. states represented	29% first generation college students	13:1 student-to-faculty ratio

Tuition (2017-2018): \$34,010 (tuition, books & fees) + \$10,248 (room & board) = \$44,258 (total cost of attendance)

Degrees Offered: Bachelor and Master Degrees

Room & Board: Dorms and apartments are available for Augsburg students. 81% of first-year students live on campus in designated first-year housing. There is no requirement for living on campus any set amount of time.

Admissions: Average ACT for admitted students is 19-25. Steps to becoming an Auggie:

1. Fill out an application. Applications are available in July before your last year of high school. There are 2 ways to apply: Augsburg College Application (Augsburg.edu/firstyear) or The Common Application (commonapp.org)
2. Complete your application by submitting the following: official high school and/or college transcripts, official ACT or SAT score with writing, application essay (instructions in application), and one letter of academic recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or professor.

Financial Aid and Scholarships: 90% of students receive some type of financial aid. There are a plethora of scholarship opportunities at Augsburg- even an Early Auggie award that awards the student an additional \$1,000 scholarship per year just for applying by December 1st!

Academic Programs: Augsburg offers over 50 undergraduate majors. Their 5 largest programs include: Business, Management, and Marketing, Health Professions, Education, Social Sciences, Communications and Journalism. Augsburg recently transitioned from a college to a university with the addition of several graduate level programs. All classes at Augsburg are professor taught and all professors hold office hours so students can easily meet with them 1:1.

Campus Life: Augsburg offers NCAA Division III athletics in 21 different sports. There are also a wide variety of intramural athletics and fine arts opportunities. In addition, there are over 50 student clubs and organizations, making it very easy to get involved.

Visiting Campus: Visiting campus is one of the best ways to know if a college will be a good fit. To visit Augsburg, simply sign-up online for a tour and individual admissions counselor meeting at: <http://www.augsburg.edu/visit/>



IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

Careers in the Marine Corps:	May 3 @ 9:30 AM
AP Testing:	May 7- May 18
Accuplacer Placement Test:	May 17 @ 8:30 AM
CLEP Testing:	May 21-May 25
Senior Signing Day:	May 24
B.E.S.T. Foundation Scholarship Reception:	May 30



Upcoming College Representative Visits:

- Argosy University: 5/10 @ 9:30 AM

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FUN FACT:

Harvard has the largest academic library in the world, with 15.8 million volumes.

