

# Welcome to Senior Year Orientation

Helping you prepare for the end of high school and the beginning of college!



Christian – Classical - Collaborative

# Summer 2025

- \* Register and take the ACT at an area high school or MSU to get a baseline score

- \* Begin discussing higher education options with your student: local college, state college, technical college, private college, out-of-state college

- \* Narrow the list to 2-5 options

- \* Set up several college campus visits

- \* Begin searching for scholarships (local, through intended college, A+, ACT)

- \* Apply to top college choices

*We are lions!*

GLORIA DEO  
ACADEMY

- Haidi Edwards & Holly Peck -

## GDA Communications Coordinators

- **Seniors Pictures – cap & gown** (Fall 2025 date TBD)  
Photos displayed on Senior Wall in main foyer. Posters go home with students in May.
- **Senior Spotlight** — Seniors fill out in CCG class Late Feb 2026  
Showcased individually on social media March-May 2026
- **Senior Slideshow** — Up to 10 pictures (by end of March 2026 or earlier)  
Video will be shown at graduation
- Reminders for Deadlines will be sent out to families

20  
24

Luke  
Stearman

**Gloria Deo Academy**

May 7, 2024 • 🌸

**Meet the Class of 2024** 🎓

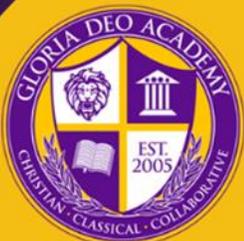
**Luke Stearman**

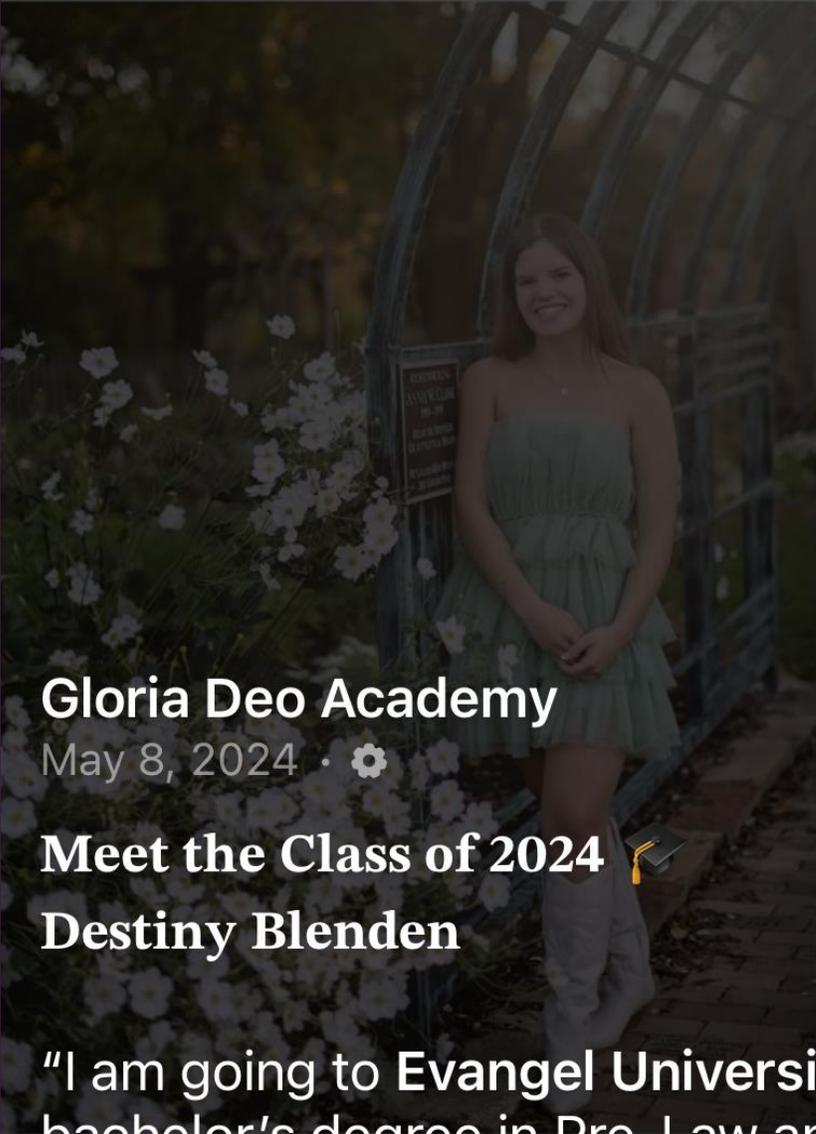
"I am going to Missouri State University to pursue a mechanical engineering degree. I have received the Board of Governor's Scholarship for \$5,500 a year, Missouri Bright Flight for \$3,000 a year, and the A+ Program Scholarship."

## Senior Spotlight Example #1

### Highlights

- College
- Degree Program
- Board of Governor's Scholarship (\$5550/yr)
- MO Bright Flight (ACT - \$3,000/yr)
- MO A+ Program Scholarship (\$500 yr)





# 2024

*Destiny  
Blenden*

**Gloria Deo Academy**

May 8, 2024 · 🌸

**Meet the Class of 2024** 🎓

**Destiny Blenden**

"I am going to **Evangel University** to pursue my bachelor's degree in Pre-Law and double majoring in Business Management with a minor in Government. After this I hope to attend law school and become an attorney."

## Senior Spotlight Example #2

### Highlights

- College
- Degree Program
- Majors
- Minors
- Life Goals



# 2025 ACT TEST DATES

REGISTER BY THE DATE BELOW TO AVOID A LATE FEE

By Feb 28

By May 9

By June 6

APR.

5

JUN.

14

JUL.

12

ACT

## Welcome To MyACT

Don't have an account? Create your account today to register for the ACT!

Create MyACT account

Have an Encourage Account?

That works here too! Use the same username and password to login.

*Note: Any information you enter in Encourage will be reflected here and on ACT score reports.*

## Sign in to your account!

Email address

[Forgot e-mail?](#)

Email address is required

Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

Password is required

Sign In

ACT is improving Customer Support access to your web account by removing Google Single Sign On functionality from MyACT. If you used this feature, please click the **forgot password** link above to update your account.

Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

# Stay Updated on ACT testing dates & Test Results

- The ACT test covers core sections: English, math & reading
- The science portion is optional, scored out of 36 & scored separately. It is not included in the composite score
- 171 questions/2 hours
- Your student's composite score will be the average of core sections (English, math & reading)
- The Superscore is calculated using core sections only
- Students typically plateau after 4 tests

## WHAT'S STAYING THE SAME ON THE ACT?



### CORE CONTENT AND CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

The ACT will continue to assess high school content areas and question types will remain consistent.



### SCORING SCALE

The 1-36 scale for composite and individual section scores will remain the same.



### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Students will still have opportunities to qualify for scholarships based on their ACT scores.



### OPTIONAL WRITING SECTION

The Writing (essay) section will remain an optional part of the exam.



### TEST FORMAT OPTIONS

Students will continue to have the option to take the test online or via paper and pencil.

# Dual Credit Options – 3 college credits=0.5 high school credit

## Drury, Evangel, & Ozarks Tech

- **Drury Dual Credit –GSTU & English IV (all online \$90/\$270), College Algebra & REL 109 seated are \$70 per credit hour-\$210 total & other options available**
- **Evangel Dual Credit – \$65/credit hour – \$195 seated course, Psych, Adv Bio, Bible (most have taken)**
- **Ozarks Tech Dual Credit – \$57 per credit hour, \$171 total (partnership in progress)**

# Parents' TO DO List

**1. Work together with your student to create an account at ACT.org. Encourage your student to take the test during Summer 2025.**

**2. Start a portfolio for Letters of Recommendation. Write a list of teachers, coaches, employers and mentors. Request their full name, email address and phone number.**

**3. Start a portfolio for keeping track of A+ hours, honors, extracurriculars, and anything extra your kiddo has done in life that paints a picture of his/her character.**

# FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

## What you need to complete the FAFSA

- **FSA ID:** A verified account username and password
- **Social Security numbers:** For the student and their parent or spouse contributor
- **Tax returns:** For the student and their parent or spouse contributor
- **Bank statements:** For the student and their parent or spouse contributor
- **Income and asset information:** If required

## How to complete the FAFSA

1. Create a Student Aid Account with a username and password
2. Get an FSA ID
3. Complete the FAFSA

[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)

*We are lions!*

GLORIA DEO  
ACADEMY



EVANGEL  
UNIVERSITY

YOUR CALLING. OUR PASSION.



Gloria Deo Academy & Evangel University - Partners in Education

**~Reducing the cost of Christ-centered higher education~**

**GDA graduates qualify for scholarships and discounts guaranteed to cover at least \$16,000 per year for any of Evangel's 70+ on-campus programs**



## Gloria Deo Academy & SBU - Partners in Education

**GDA graduates receive 50% off tuition at SBU**

**\*If students choose this option, they don't qualify for any other scholarships from SBU.**

**However, outside scholarships will be accepted.**

**\* SBU is ACT test optional. Apply for admission to SBU**

**with your official high school transcript**

**and you will be admitted on your GPA alone**

**\* Sports Scholarships – contact via email the coach with video**

**and stats**





## A+ Scholarship

The A+ Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship that provides scholarship funds to eligible GDA students. Information regarding the scholarship can be found on the MO.gov website or <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants-scholarships/a-plus>. The A+ program will pay your tuition up to \$215 per credit hour to any Missouri public community college, vocational or technical school. To be eligible for this benefit, you must enroll full-time (12 or more credits per semester) within 48 months after graduation from high school. Some 4-year colleges in Missouri offer their own A+ recognition scholarships. These are determined by the colleges themselves. Check with the Financial Aid Office at the college and ask if they offer any incentives for A+ students.

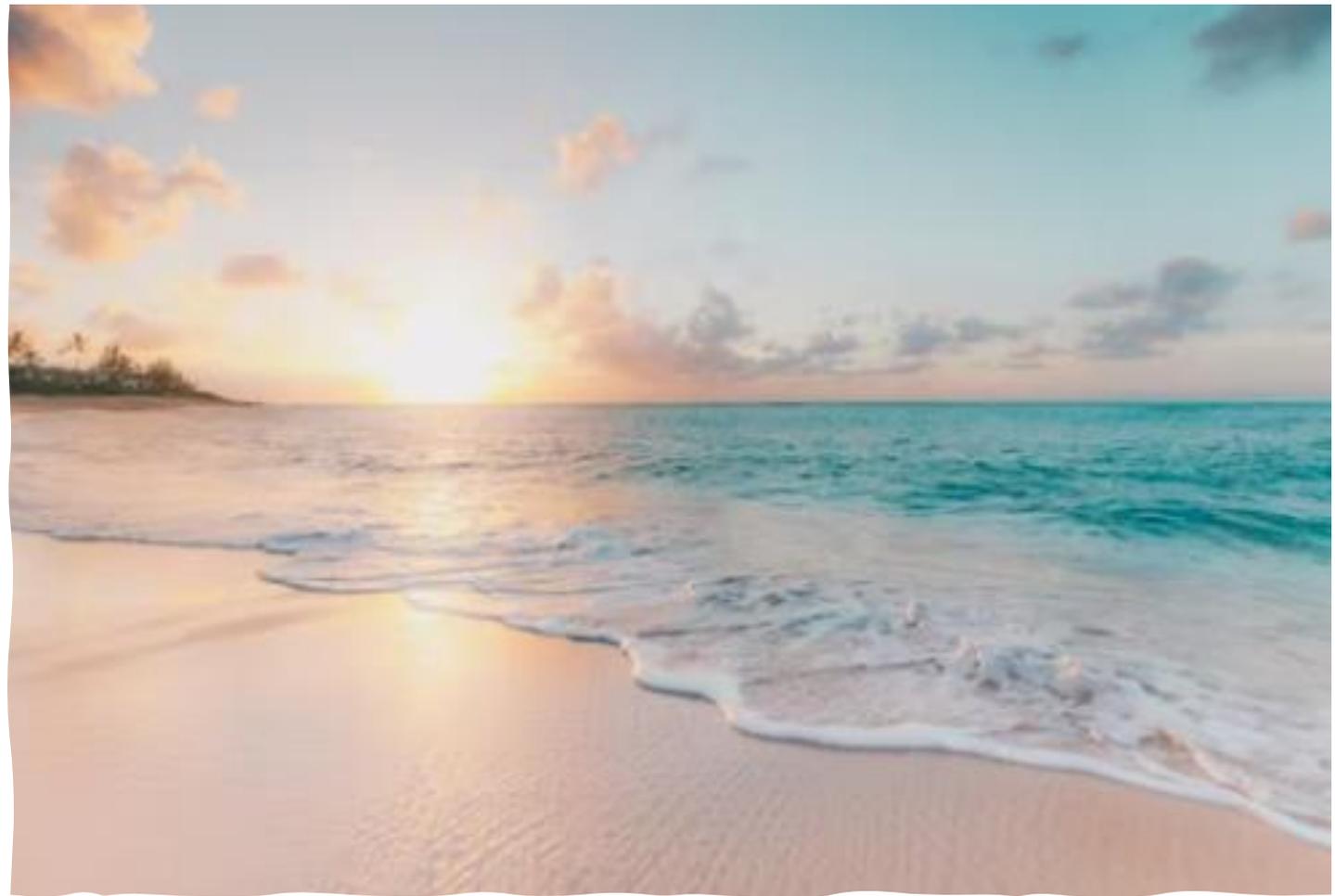
\*12.5 job shadow (unpaid) hours may qualify toward you're A+ hours –See Mrs. Smith to learn more!

**Total Hours needed by graduation = 50 Hours**

# Senior Trip 2026



Angela Harshman  
Carefree Travel



- Aimee Kuzemka – M/W Point Person
- &
- Kristy Ogden T/Th Point Person

# Senior Fees 2025-2026

Photography Fee - \$20 per student (includes group photo)

Gown – \$30 cost if you choose to keep it

Cap & Tassel - \$20 will be charged to your account

Parent/guest Senior Breakfast

## Other Considerations:

ACT/SAT registration Fees

College Application Fees

Transcripts sent through Parchment or National Student Clearinghouse (for a fee \$)

Professional Senior Pictures with outfit changes/venue changes

Senior Trip, Yearbook, Prom

Graduation Announcements

Plan a budget for a Senior Party and Dorm Room Decor

*Remember to  
Breathe, it's going to  
be okay!  
God's got you!*



# Senior Breakfast

- In May, the Saturday before graduation
  - GDA pays for each Senior
    - Parents/guests pay for themselves (max 2)
      - Student Blessing
- We need a new venue this year!



Table Decorating – Each student receives a 6-foot table at Graduation for you to decorate with interests, and achievements



# Senior To Do List

- Take the ACT/SAT until you are satisfied with your Superscore
- Send Mrs. Smith a screenshot of your Superscore for her to add to your transcript
- Email college transcript requests to: [jsmith@gloriadeoacademy.org](mailto:jsmith@gloriadeoacademy.org)
- Complete College Admissions by Deadlines
- Request Financial Aid Forms and Applications. Check Deadlines for Submissions
- Complete Applications for EVERY Scholarship for which you may be eligible
- Follow up with your employers, teachers, guidance counselor and mentors to ensure Letters of Recommendation have been sent (send a Thank you note or email)
- Plan to attend College Planning and/or Financial Aid Info Nights and College Fairs
- Communicate with your Parents
- Keep your GPA up!!
- Be aware of Senioritis – it's real!
- Most of all, enjoy your last year of high school! 😊



**We are here to help guide you and your senior this year!**

**Please feel free to contact us at anytime to arrange a meeting or ask questions. –Gennie, Jennifer & GDA Upper Grades Staff**

**“My son, keep your father’s command and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.**

**Proverbs 6:20-22**



# Resources with Links

**Common App** - <https://www.commonapp.org/counselors-and-recommenders/recommender-guide>

## Key Benefits:

- Efficiency:** Fill out one application with your basic information and submit it to multiple colleges that accept the Common App.
- Streamlined essay process:** Write a single personal essay that can be used for all applications.
- Simplified recommendation management:** Invite teachers and counselors to upload their letters of recommendation directly to the platform.
- Access to a wide range of colleges:** Most colleges, including public and private institutions, accept the Common App.
- Deadline tracking:** Easily monitor application deadlines for each college on your list.
- Fee waiver option:** May be eligible for fee waivers if you qualify for financial aid.

**The Scoir College Network:** <https://www.scoir.com/>

- Scoir is a Network connecting students, supporters, middle schools, high schools, and colleges to expand college and career access and improve student outcomes.



# Resources with Links

- Community Foundation of the Ozarks: <https://www.cfozarks.org/resources/scholarship-criteria>
- College Mix Christian College Scholarship :  
<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/32396/college-mix-christian-college-scholarship>
- For family members of US military or veterans:  
[https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/19711/folds\\_of\\_honor](https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/19711/folds_of_honor)
- Planning to pursue a STEM career path in college – either full degree or certificate program  
<https://stlouisgraduates.academicworks.com/opportunities/9111>
- Big Future Scholarship  
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships>
- Nurse Corps Scholarship Program:  
<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/15267/nurse-corps-scholarship-program>

