



# Columbia-Brazoria

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 158, West Columbia, TX 77486 ★ 979-345-5147 ★ fax 979-345-4890 ★ [www.cbisd.com](http://www.cbisd.com)

August 14, 2018

Dear Junior Parent or Guardian:

Congratulations! Your student is half way through high school. Now is the time to begin making plans for the senior year and the transition after high school. This letter is designed to review a few of the items to consider in order to ensure a smooth path to graduation.

A minimum of 26 credits in required state courses and successful completion of the five STAAR End of Course Exams is needed to graduate from Columbia High School. Remember, all courses taken in grades 9-12 will be used in the grade point calculation. It is very important for your student to keep their grades as high as possible. Texas has a top 10% rule that allows students to be an automatic entry to state colleges if they meet the criteria (University of Texas is an exception to this rule, please contact the guidance office for more information). Ask your junior for his/her progress report and report card each nine weeks. If your student is failing any course, contact the teacher to find out the problem. The CHS phone number is (979) 345-5147; the junior/senior counselor's extension is 2016. Do not wait until progress reports in December to find out what your student needs to do. I will have a parent college/financial aid presentation in the evening in October to cover admissions and financial aid questions.

Dual credit classes are a wonderful opportunity available to our juniors. There are several options that will allow your student to begin earning college credit while still in high school. These classes are taught by college professors and have high expectations. Please visit with your child, and me if necessary, to determine if this choice is right for you.

The TSI exam is an entrance requirement into any Texas college. Your student needs to see Mrs. Lancaster on a Tuesday or Thursday at the CHS counseling center to enroll. Some students who meet certain criteria may be exempt so have your student see Mrs. Lancaster or Mrs. Westbrook soon! Your junior should take the SAT, ACT, or both depending on the college he/she wishes to attend. Since the major universities are moving their admission deadlines up in the year, it is becoming more and more important for these exams to be taken near the end of the junior year. We will offer the PSAT exam as a practice test on October 10th. This test, which costs \$16.00, is a good opportunity for your students to see how they might perform on the real exam. Registration for this exam will end on September 11. Online registration is now available at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for the SAT and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for the ACT. You can access a free ACT/SAT online prep at both above websites. These are self-paced online tutorials that the students can access from any computer. I hope they will take advantage of this awesome opportunity. In addition to testing information, college and career information is available in the Counseling center and online at [www.collegeforalltexas.com](http://www.collegeforalltexas.com)

Also, if you have a student athlete planning on participating in college activities, he/she must register with the NCAA clearinghouse at the beginning of their junior year. Registration must be done online at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). You can access this link and several others at the guidance website [www.cbisd.com/](http://www.cbisd.com/). Also available on the website are ACT and SAT test dates, links to all colleges in the United States, and other helpful information.

What an exciting time! Good planning and cooperation always makes a smooth transition to the senior year. Enjoy this wonderful time in your student's life!

Bobbi Westbrook, CHS Junior/Senior Counselor

**Catch the Challenge !      Learn for Life !      Come  
Grow With Us !**

All schools fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency      Columbia-Brazoria ISD is an equal opportunity employer.