

Guidance News for Juniors!!!



October 2018

This newsletter can also be found at www.brandywinebobcats.org.
Just click on the student link and select Counseling

The PSAT will be given to all juniors on Wednesday, October 10th. This is a standardized test that provides practice for the SAT. It also gives you a chance to enter the **National Merit Scholarship Competition**. The test consists of reading, writing, and math. Students testing locations are:

Adbullah – Duffield testing with Mrs. Hauck in room 403

Dunifin – Lauri testing with Mrs. Mitchell in room 506

Lenox – Rieth testing with Mr. Keifer in room 604

Ritchey – Zimmerle testing with Mr. Sidenbender in room 505

SPED Students testing with Mrs. Baumgartner in room 513

Scholarship Opportunity!!!

- **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards**

If you've made a difference by volunteering in your community over the past year, you could win \$1,000 and a trip to Washington D.C. Prudential would like to celebrate your volunteerism by offering several \$1,000 scholarships. If you are interested you can go to <http://spirit.prudential.com> for an application. When asked for the access key, type the word **spirit**. The deadline is **November 6th**.

- **Lakeland Health Care Volunteer Scholarship**

If you have at least a 3.0 GPA and would like to pursue a career in health care then this scholarship is for you. If you get 100 hours of community service at Lakeland Hospital you could apply for this \$3,000 renewable scholarship. Call 269-985-4548 or visit www.lakelandhealth.org/volunteer for more information!

- **John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest**
The JFK Library Foundation invites high school students to write an original essay on the political courage of a U.S. elected Official. The first place winner will receive \$10,000! Go to www.jfklibrary.org for more information. The deadline for submission is **January 18th**.
- **Voice of Democracy**
Students compete by writing and recording a broadcast script on a patriotic theme that is chosen by the VFW. Students compete for more than \$2.5 million in scholarships, with the top scholarship of \$30,000. All entries must be turned into the local VFW post before midnight **on October 31st**. Go to the www.vfw.org and then click on community and then select Youth and Education for more information.

College Admissions & Preparation For Your Junior Year

- October**
- Attend college fairs to get more information about colleges.
 - Take the October PSAT. Junior year PSAT scores may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Hispanic Scholars Programs. So, even though these scores will not be used for college admission, it is still a good idea to take the PSAT. The more times you take standardized tests, the more familiar you will become with the format and the types of questions asked.
- November**
- Junior year grades are extremely important in the college admission process, because they are a measure of how well you do in advanced, upper-level courses. Grades also are used to determine scholarships and grants for which you may be eligible. So put in the extra effort and keep those grades up!
 - If you will require financial aid, start researching your options for grants, scholarships and work-study programs. There are several different websites that you can start looking at for information.
- December**
- You should be thinking about registering for the SAT and/or ACT. Many colleges accept both the ACT and the SAT. You should check with the college you are thinking about attending to see which test they prefer.
- January**
- Begin to make a preliminary list of colleges you would like to investigate further. Surf the Internet and use the college resources in the counseling office or library.
 - When selecting your senior courses, be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically and make sure you select the courses that the college/university you want to attend requires.

- February**
- Decide whether your initial list of colleges meets your needs and interests (academic program, size, location, cost, etc.) and whether you are considering colleges where you are likely to be admitted. You should be optimistic and realistic when applying to colleges.
 - Begin visiting colleges. Call to set up appointments. Interviews are always a good idea. Set up interviews as early as possible-interview times become booked quickly!

- March**
- Email, call, or use the Internet to request admission literature and financial aid information from the colleges on your list. There is no charge and no obligation to obtain general information about admission and financial aid.
 - Take Michigan Merit Exam/SAT

- April**
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges from the original list that no longer interest you and add others as appropriate.
 - Look into summer jobs or apply for special summer academic or enrichment programs. Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing their skills and interests.

- May**
- You can register to retake the ACT/SAT. They are usually given again in June.

- June**
- After school ends, get on the road to visit colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents.

Additional Information

St. Joseph County College Fair

There will be a huge college fair at the Century Center in South Bend on **Thursday, October 4th from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** Approximately 80 colleges, universities, two-year schools, and the military will be there.

College Visitation

A junior or senior may take up to two DNR college visitations per year. A visitation may be approved for more than one day for distant locations with counselor approval. College visitation days must be approved by the counselor 3 days prior to the visitation date. Pick up forms for such visits in the Counseling Office.

Job Shadowing

You may take up to two DNR job shadowing days per year. These days provide a great opportunity to check out careers that interest you. Job shadowing days must be approved by the counselor 3 days prior to the actual job shadowing date. Pick up job shadowing forms in the Counseling Office.

Testing Out of A Class?

If you plan to test out of a class you must do so by Thanksgiving Break of your senior year. Talk to your counselor if you have any questions.

ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES

Career Big Future: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org is a great site for researching colleges and financial aid.

Cappex: A free website where you can learn which colleges want you, before you apply and learn about more than \$11 billion in merit aid scholarships. Just go to www.cappex.com.

Career Cruising: www.careercruising.com is a career exploration and planning tool that you can use to explore career and college options and to develop a career plan. If you need your password/ID stop in and see Mrs. Roeder. Check it out!

CHEGG.com: www.chegg.com has information on over \$1.9 billion dollars in scholarships! You can also research colleges from this site.

FastWeb: www.fastweb.com “find your dream college” by using this website. You can also do scholarship searches.

FAFSA 4caster: www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov is a financial aid estimator that you can use before officially applying for financial aid using the FAFSA.

KnowHow2GOMichigan: www.KnowHow2GO.org helps students plan for college.

My Scholly: This is a great app or website that can help link you up with 100’s of different scholarship. Just go to <https://myscholly.com> or download that app on your phone.

Peterson’s Undergraduate Channel: www.Petersons.com provides information and tools that will help you prepare, search, and pay for college.

Student Aid: www.studentaid.ed.gov is a great website from the federal government that contains a lot of college/financial aid information.