

Guidance News for Juniors!!!



SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Scholarship Opportunity!!!

- **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. More information will be coming your way soon!
- **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**.

WHY SHOULD YOU GO TO COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL?

Many careers require a college degree, so attending college will provide more career choices for you. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that college graduates will earn a **million dollars more** over a lifetime than someone who doesn't attend college.

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

One of the most important aspects in preparing to go to college involves effective planning and preparation. Even if you're not sure about attending college, making the right choices now will keep college success as an option for you. Most colleges strongly recommend that you take the following classes in high school:

- 4 years in English
- 4 years in Math
- 4 years in Science
- 4 years in Social Studies
- 2 years in Foreign Language

WHAT ARE STANDARDIZED TESTS?

Because grades may not tell the whole story about your academic ability, nearly all colleges will also ask you to submit scores from a national standardized test. The ACT and SAT are two national exams used for this purpose. Juniors should think about taking these tests this Spring.

ACT: The ACT test is a three-hour test made up of four parts: English, Reading, Science, and Math. You may also elect to take the writing portion. Your ACT composite score, together with your high school grades, indicates how prepared you are for college. The Composite score is the average of your four test scores. Your Composite ACT score and each Test score (English, Math, Reading, Science) range from 1 (low) to 36 (high). The scores from the various sections of the ACT will help your college place you in the right classes, matching your skills with course requirements. The ACT Assessment is accepted or preferred by more colleges and universities than any other entrance exam. The cost of the ACT is \$50.50 for the regular test and \$67 for the ACT Plus Writing test. You may register on-line at www.act.org or pick up a registration packet in the Counseling Office.

SAT: The SAT is a three-hour test that measures verbal, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills students have developed over time and skills they need to be successful in college. The SAT also contains a mandatory writing portion. Many colleges and universities use the SAT as one indicator along with class rank, high school GPA, extracurricular activities, personal essay, and teacher recommendations of a student's readiness to do college-level work. The cost of the SAT is \$47.50 without the essay portion and \$64.50 with the essay portion. You may register on-line at www.collegeboard.com or pick up a registration packet in the Counseling Office. **All juniors will be taking the SAT for free in April as part of the MME Test.**

Additional Information

Andrews University Center for Reading, Learning, and Assessment

Are you struggling in school and don't know why? Do you need a little extra help? Andrews University offers academic testing to help identify reading challenges, one-on-one tutoring, and many other services. For more information call 269-471-3480.

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 forms for such visits in the Counseling Office today.

Upcoming Events

College Fair At LMC

LMC will be hosting a college fair on **Monday, September 24th** from 6:00p.m.-7:30 p.m. at their Benton Harbor Campus in the Mendel Center. Over 60 colleges will be there!

College Night At SMC

SMC will be hosting a college night at their Dowagiac Campus in the Student Activity Center on **Wednesday, September 26th** from 6:30-8:00p.m. Sixty colleges and universities will be represented.

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.

Online Help

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.

Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation: Educational and scholarship opportunities for students of all levels. Just go to <http://www.cksf.org>.

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

FinAid: Visit www.finaid.org for comprehensive and current information on athletic scholarships and much more.

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

Good Call: Go to <https://www.goodcall.com/scholarships> for an outstanding scholarship search!

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.

Pathfinder: This website helps you explore careers, schools and programs in Michigan to find the path that is right for you. Just go to <https://pathfinder.mitalent.org/>.

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

Scholarship America: Provides information and resources for your scholarship searchers. Just go to www.scholarshipamerica.com.

Scholarships.com: Go to www.scholarships.com for a free college scholarship search and financial aid information.

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