

# November 2011

## **HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S INFORMATION**

High School Counselor: Janet Hennenfent

### **Important Dates to Remember**

- November 3 Army Reserve Rep. (here during lunch)  
November 4 1:00 dismissal (Jr./Sr. arrange college visits)  
November 8 FAFSA Program for juniors/seniors and parents (6:30 p.m., high school room 110)  
November 11 No School (Jr./Sr. arrange college visits)

### **FAFSA Program for Juniors/Seniors & Their Parents**

FAFSA Program for Juniors/Seniors & Their Parents, at 6:30 p.m., Thurs., **November 8th**. A local college financial aid director will provide an update on the new FAFSA application. This program will allow parents & students time to collect necessary information prior to completing the FAFSA application in January.

### **Attention Seniors**

Any student requiring a particular ACT composite score for college scholarships may ask to take the test at the college of their choice. Since you would be asking for special testing other than the National testing dates, please note that scores are only good at that specific college or University.

1. Seniors should have submitted two or more college/university applications. If you have not heard from the schools within 3 weeks call admissions and ask about the status of your application.
2. Students going directly into the workforce after high school should have submitted 2 or more employment applications along with a resume to prospective employers. Follow-up with a phone call.
3. For graduating Seniors who want to work and receive advance training consider:  
Apprenticeships: More information available in LRC or Counselor's Office  
Military Service: [http://www.go.com/WebDir/U\\_S\\_military?lk=noframes&svx=related](http://www.go.com/WebDir/U_S_military?lk=noframes&svx=related)
4. Any student requiring a particular ACT composite score for college scholarships may ask to take the test at the college of their choice. Since you would be asking for special testing other than the National testing dates, please note that scores are only good at that specific college or University.

### **Attention Juniors**

This year all Juniors attending a Public High School in Illinois will take the Prairie State Achievement Exam on April 24 & April 25 (testing 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)

This test will have two components:

1. The ACT - to meet college entrance requirements (Day one testing)
2. WORKKEYS - to determine workplace readiness skills (Day two testing)

All juniors are required to take the Prairie State Exam on April 24 and 25 as required by the state of Illinois for graduation (at no expense to the student). *All students will register for the April 24<sup>th</sup> ACT date at school, in March.*

In addition to April 24<sup>th</sup> students may take the ACT on one of the national test dates either before or after the April testing at Mercer County High School. Keep in mind there is no limit to the number of times students may take the ACT. *To qualify as an Illinois State Scholar, students must have their highest score recorded by June 9, 2012. Students interested in taking the ACT other than on the 24<sup>th</sup> date may register online at [www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org).* Students should contact the counselor's office if they want help registering on-line. Please note testing dates and registration deadlines.

Basic fee is: \$49.50 (includes writing).

<b><u>ACT Registration Deadlines</u></b>	<b><u>Test Dates</u></b>
November 4, 2011	December 10, 2011
January 13, 2012	February 11, 2012

<b><u>ACT Registration Deadlines</u></b>	<b><u>Test Dates</u></b>
March 9, 2012	April 14, 2012
May 4, 2012	June 9, 2012

## HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS' INFORMATION

(Continued)

(ACT Information Continued)

**Students that can't afford the registration fee for the ACT (No Writing) or ACT Plus Writing, may be eligible for an ACT Fee Waiver. During 2011-2012, ACT will make fee waivers for the ACT test available to juniors or seniors who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. Keep in mind that once funds have been exhausted, requests for waivers will be denied. Students interested in a fee waiver should contact the counselor's office two months prior to the test date.**

**SAT Program Test Calendar** *Required for some colleges on East Coast ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org))*

**Registration Deadlines**

November 8, 2011

December 30, 2011

February 10, 2012

**Test Dates**

December 3, 2011

January 25, 2012

March 10, 2012

**Attention Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors and Parents**

Make plans to visit post-secondary schools. Check the school calendar for days out of school and make arrangements to visit colleges. Keep in mind that most schools are open on Saturday so students may visit. **Reminder:** Juniors get one excused college day and seniors get two excused college days with prearranged forms from the counselor's office.

**No school or In-service Days:**

*These are good days to Schedule College visits. (Between the junior and senior year, 18 schools may be visited using no school days, add the sophomore year and there are 27 college visit days.)*

1:00 dismissal	November 4, 2011	1:00 dismissal	January 20, 2011
No School-Veterans Day	November 11, 2011		
1:00 dismissal	November 18, 2011	President's day	February 20, 2012
1:00 dismissal	December 2, 2011	Teacher's Institute	March 30, 2012
1:00 dismissal	December 16, 2011	Spring Break	April 4-9, 2012
Martin Luther King Day	January 16, 2012		

**College Open House Dates**

**Seniors should be visiting to finalize their college selection by mid December.**

*Juniors should visit 3 or 4 colleges before the end of the school year. A 3:00 or 4:00 appointment could be arranged for schools nearby*

**Use the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's Website at [www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com) or [whatsnextillinois.org](http://whatsnextillinois.org) to Obtain Information on the Following Topics:**

*(Click on anyone of these sites to obtain additional information in each of these areas.)*

How to apply for Financial Aid, Financial Aid Sources, Illinois Aid Programs, Higher-EdNet, College Cost and Savings Calculator, State and Federal Aid Estimator, Loan Repayment Calculator, Illinois Colleges, Planning for Your Child's Future, Academic Preparation, College Selection and Admission, Loan Repayments, and Other Sites. *(Click on State and Federal Aid Estimator to fill out an estimate of your Expected Family Contribution and Federal Pell Grant award for the 2012 academic year.)*

**Academic Support Services**

Academic support is available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Students wanting academic support meet with their regular classroom teacher from 3:00-3:15 p.m., and then move to the LRC for supplemental instruction until 4 o'clock. Transportation is provided to central locations for students who normally ride the bus home. Students wanting academic support should sign-up in the counselor's office. If you have any questions please call Jan Hennenfent at the high school 582-2223 (ext. 3).