

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S INFORMATION

OCTOBER 2011

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 5-16	Small group college information sessions for seniors
October 5	Deadline for PSAT registration (Cost \$15.00, sign-up in the counselor's office)
October 7	1:00 p.m. Dismissals for School Improvement (Sr. arrange college visits)
October 10	No School (Columbus Day, Jr. & Sr. arrange college visits)
October 12	PSAT Testing for interested 9 th -11 th graders
October 20	Parent/Teacher Conference (12:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
October 21	Parent/Teacher Conference (8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
October 22	ACT National Test Date
November 4	Registration Deadline for the December 10 th , ACT National Test Date

PSAT FOR FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS is Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Juniors wanting to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship must register to take the PSAT. Juniors also take the PSAT as a practice test for the ACT/SAT. Students must register in the counselor's office by 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Keep in mind that limited space is available and on a first come first serve basis. A registration fee of \$15.00 is due at the time of registration. Students may pay in cash or check. Please make your check payable to Mercer County High School. Freshmen and sophomores may also take the PSAT to improve their test taking skills if room is available. The registration process is the same for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Students will need two number two pencils, a calculator and a book to read.

POST-SECONDARY PLANS FOR SENIORS

1. Seniors will be assigned to a small group post-secondary information session on October 3, 4, 5, & 6. Post-secondary school information along with a copy of their transcript will be distributed so students can complete college applications and arrange college visits.
2. Seniors are encouraged to submit college applications at this time. Seniors should submit post-secondary school applications to the school of their choice by mid October.
3. Seniors needing a transcript sent to a college should complete a transcript request form. Be sure to include the name and address of the school who will receive the transcript. Transcript request forms are available in the counselor's office and the main office.

POST-SECONDARY VISITS

Seniors may use two school attendance days and juniors may use one attendance day to visit post-secondary schools. Forms may be picked-up in the counselor's office and must be returned to the main office at least one day prior to the visit, for the absence to be excused. Keep in mind that most post-secondary schools have special fall preview days on Saturdays and encourage parents/students to make private appointments if they cannot attend a preview day. Several colleges are currently offering scholarships to students who attend the preview days. Scholarship eligibility is often based on a qualifying essay or a drawing.

College Fall Preview Days

Seniors & Juniors - make plans *now* to attend a college fall preview visit day at the college of your choice.

Augustana College	Oct. 29
Illinois State Univ.	Oct. 10 or Nov. 11
Monmouth College	Oct. 10 or Nov. 11
Northern Illinois Univ.	Oct. 10 or Nov. 11
SIU Carbondale	Nov. 5
Western Illinois Univ.	Oct. 10, Oct. 29 or Nov. 11

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

College representatives meet with interested students September through December. All college representative visits have been schedule during advisory hour (2:36-3:00 p.m.). Dates are announced on the daily announcements and in the monthly bulletin. Students must get a pass from the counselor's office at least one day prior to the visit and report to their advisory hour before leaving to meet with a representative.

The following representatives will be at Mercer County High School during advisory:

Coe College	Sept. 28
Southern Il. Univ. (Carbondale)	Sept. 29
St. Ambrose Univ.	Oct. 5
Eureka College	Oct. 6
Illinois State Univ.	Oct. 6
Univ. Of Wisconsin/Platteville	Oct. 12
Paul Mitchell	Oct. 17
Western Illinois Univ.	Oct. 19
Monmouth College	Oct. 26

ACT Test Dates [ACT Plus Writing](#) (regular deadline is \$49.00, late fee registration is \$70.50)

The following ACT test dates are available for all high school students who wish to take the test:

Test Date	Registration	Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 10, 2011		August 12, 2011	August 13 – 26, 2011
October 22, 2011		Sept. 16, 2011	Sept. 17 – 30, 2011
December 10, 2011		November 4, 2011	November 5 – 18, 2011
February 11, 2012*		January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012		March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012
June 9, 2012		May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012

Students may register on-line at www.act.org and use a credit card for payment.

REMEMBER to include Mercer County High School's code 14008 on the registration information so the school has your act scores for your transcript. Keep in mind that the ACT can be taken multiple times and colleges do not care if scores go down on retakes. Colleges will not pull the highest scores from multiple dates but do take the highest scores from one single test date regardless of the number of times the test has been taken.

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).