

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S INFORMATION FOR APRIL 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

April	22	Prairie State Achievement Exam for Juniors (Day 1, ACT, 1 st -8 th hour)
April	23	Complete Prairie State Exam for Juniors (Day 2, ISBE & WorkKeys, 1 st -8 th hour)
April	29	Early Dismissal 11:30 (Juniors/Seniors make college visits)
May	6	Prairie State Achievement Exam Make-up Test (ACT) Day 1
May	7	Prairie State Achievement Exam Make-up Test (ISBE & WorkKeys) Day 2
May	8	Early Dismissal 11:30 (Juniors/Seniors make college visits)
May	13	Aledo High School Awards Program (Aledo High Auditorium. 6:30 p.m.)

PRAIRIE STATE ACHIEVEMENT EXAMINATION (PSAE) April 22th & 23th, 2009

The PSAE is a statewide achievement test for grade 11 students that will be given in April. Students will be tested over two days. On April 22nd, Day 1, students take the ACT Plus Writing, which includes multiple-choice English, Mathematics Reading, and Science and an essay Writing Test. On April 23th, Day 2, testing will include a science test developed by the State Board of Education, and two WorkKeys tests, Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information. Students are encouraged to bring healthy snacks and water to drink.

Students will complete the ACT registration form during the second week of April. Students will list the name of four colleges that will receive their ACT scores. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss post-secondary plans and school options so students can list their college choices on the ACT registration form. The state of Illinois is paying for each junior to send ACT scores to four colleges. If scores are requested at a later date it will cost \$9.00 (priority \$13) per school.

Parents may contact the Illinois State Board of Education for information regarding the PSAE by calling 217-782-4321 or the ISBE has a full 144 page text at <http://www.isbe.net/ils/default.htm>.

ACT/PSAE ONLINE PREP FOR JUNIORS

Juniors are encouraged to take advantage of the online test prep program at the following site: www.actonlineprep.com. The online ACT prep program is provided by the Illinois State Board of Education and is free for all juniors at Aledo High School. Keep in mind this program is designed exclusively by ACT test development professionals and includes the following:

- Practice tests with real ACT test questions
- Practice essays for the new optional ACT Writing Test, with real-time scoring
- Comprehensive content review for each of the ACT's four required tests—English, Math, Reading, and Science
- Diagnostic test and personalized Study Path
- Anywhere, anytime access via the Internet

All juniors have been assigned their own user login and passwords. When students login to ACT prep the first time, they should keep the same user login and password originally assigned. The counselor's office has a copy of the original login and password if students need a second copy.

FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORE TESTING ON APRIL 22, 2009

The Explore Test will be given to freshmen and the Plan Test to the sophomores 1st-4th hour on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. The EXPLORE & PLAN provide valuable information about students' academic development and allow students an opportunity to explore career and training options so they can make sound decisions about their high school coursework and post-high school choices. If you are not familiar with the EXPLORE and PLAN Programs, please visit the following sites for more information: www.act.org/explore or www.act.org/plan/.

SENIORS PLANNING TO ATTEND BLACK HAWK COLLEGE

Seniors who plan to attend Black Hawk College (B.H.C.) should register for the COMPASS Placement Test by calling B.H.C. at 309-796-5352 or 796-5100. The COMPASS is an untimed, computerized test that helps colleges evaluate your skills and places you into appropriate courses. COMPASS offers tests in Reading, Writing, Math, Writing Essay, and English as a Second Language. Students will receive their COMPASS test results immediately upon completion of testing, and your score report will include a placement message informing you of what courses you should take and how to register.

ADDITIONAL COMPASS INFORMATION

- Students who need to take the COMPASS test with accommodations based on their disability should contact Disability Services by calling 309-796-5949 (Quad-Cities)
- Students who have taken the ACT test within the past two years and scored 22 or higher in the individual English, Reading or Math tests do not have to take the corresponding COMPASS test: (Students must provide proof with an ACT test score report.)
ACT 22 or higher in English exempts you from the COMPASS writing test
ACT 22 or higher in Reading exempts you from the COMPASS reading test
ACT 22 or higher in Math exempts you from the COMPASS pre-algebra test, however you are required to take the COMPASS Algebra test.
- Students who have completed courses, or taken a placement test such as ASSET or COMPASS at another college or university may be exempt from portions of the COMPASS test. These students **should first see an advisor or counselor before taking the COMPASS test**. You may take the COMPASS test free of charge onetime per academic year (Sept.1-Aug. 31). If you wish to retake the COMPASS test during the same academic year, the cost is \$15 per individual test or \$30 for the entire test. Payment is made in cash or check at the time of testing.
- Students are encouraged to review and study for COMPASS testing. For sample tests and more information visit <http://www.act.org/compass/sample> This website has 70 pages of test questions in PDF versions that can be downloaded or viewed with Adobe Acrobat software.

SENIORS SHOULD SUBMIT FAFSA FORMS

Seniors, if you have not submitted your Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms please do so immediately online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please contact the counselor's office if you would like help completing the form.

TOP TEN PERCENT OF THE SENIOR CLASS

The top ten percent of the senior class may receive two consecutive years of tuition at Black Hawk College immediately following high school (including summer) if renewal criteria is met. Students must submit the following information before May 15th:

- complete B.H.C. application.
- enroll at B.H.C. full-time.
- complete a B.H.C. Academic Achievement Award Form (pick-up from high school counselor).

SENIORS ! FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP DUE DATES

Catfish Jazz Society (available in the counselor's office)	Mar. 30, 2009
Charles Curry SMART Bus Scholarship (available in the counselor's office) (3.0 to 4.0 GPA Majoring in Natural Resource curriculum or Education Curriculum)	Mar. 31, 2009
PEO Chapter H (available in the counselor's office)	Mar. 31, 2009
PEO Chapter AG (available in the counselor's office)	Mar. 31, 2009
Mercer County Women for Women (available in the counselor's office)	Mar. 31, 2009
Donald Kiser Memorial Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 1, 2009
Illinois Lumber and Material Dealers (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 1, 2009
Mercer County Retired Teachers Association (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 1, 2009
Muscatine Comm. College Foundation Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 1, 2009
Aledo Lodge No. 252 (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 6, 2009
Connie Sue Smith Memorial Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 6, 2009
WIN (Women's Issues Network) available in the counselor's office	Apr. 10, 2009
Kiwanis Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 14, 2009
DARE (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 15, 2009
Univ. of Ill Alumni Association of the QC Illini Club (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 15, 2009
Aledo Jaycees Scholarship (available in the counselor's office) must be received by	Apr. 30, 2009
University of Ill. Balanced Man Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 17, 2009
Black Hawk College Scholarship	May 1, 2009
Mellinger Foundation Scholarship	May 1, 2009
Rock Island Optometric Center (health career field, available in the counselor's office)	May 4, 2009
ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers http://sections.asce.org/quadcite/events.htm	May 15, 2009

Friday, May 1st is the last day for seniors to take a Post-Secondary Planning Day.