

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S INFORMATION

Important Dates To Remember For February 2009

February	5	11:30 Dismissal (Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships)
February	7	ACT Test Date (Take admissions ticket, drivers license, calculator & 2 pencils)
February	16	No School President's Day (Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships)
February	27	Frank E. Smith Family Scholarship due.
March	1	Seniors complete FAFSA Form on-line before March 1, 2009 www.fafsa.ed.gov
March	8	Early Dismissal for Spring Vacation (2:00@AHS, AJH & 2:10@Apollo)
March	10	Parent/student program "The Perfect Fit" (6:30 p.m. in the AHS Auditorium)
March	27	No School (Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships)
April	9-13	Spring Break
April	17	11:30 Dismissal (Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships)
April	22 & 23	All juniors take the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE)

JUNIORS TAKE PRAIRIE STATE ACHIEVEMENT EXAMINATION (PSAE)

All Aledo High School juniors will take the Prairie State Achievement Exam at Aledo High School on the mornings of April 22 & 23, 2009. On day one students will take the ACT test. Day two of the PSAE incorporates two WorkKey's assessments along with an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) developed component consisting of writing and science.

All juniors will register in mid-March for the Prairie State Achievement Exam, at that time juniors will be asked to list the names of four post-secondary schools that need to receive their test results. Families are encouraged to research schools prior to mid-March so the appropriate school codes are recorded on the preregistration form so the schools being considered receive test scores. The state of Illinois will pay to have four schools receive each students test scores. Post-secondary schools require these test scores as part of the application process for admission. If students need additional schools to receive test scores the cost will range from \$7.00 to \$30.00 for each school that needs a score report.

ACT PREP CLASSES

With all the competition in national testing, it is highly recommend that juniors study for the ACT. The following is a list of suggestions for juniors as they prepare to take the ACT:

1. Use the ACT study booklet given to you in January during English III. (Sample questions and answers are included in the ACT study booklet.)
2. Contact the local library for additional ACT study materials.
3. Buy an ACT Study Guide from a bookstore.
4. Contact the high school librarian for an ACT computerized program. (May be checked out or used at school.)
5. Request the high school librarian to order ACT study materials through the inter loan library system.
6. Take an ACT prep class. (Suggestions are listed below.)

ACT Prep Classes will be offered at the following locations:

Black Hawk College ACT Prep class

Contact 755-2200 for more information

Project Excel (Cost Varies) (about \$20 per hour)

Marguerite Kruse offers private and small group ACT prep sessions.

Contact Marguerite at 593-9100 (Sherrard)

Sylvan Learning Center (about \$600 for a 24 hour program)

Contact 563-359-1001 for more information

GOOD DAYS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS TO SCHEDULE COLLEGE VISITS

February	5, 2009	Early Dismissal (11:30)
February	16, 2009	No School (President's Day)
March	16, 2009	Early Dismissal (1/2 day)
March	27, 2009	No School (Teacher's Institute)
April	9, 2009	Spring Vacation (April 9 th -13 th)

Most post-secondary schools welcome and encourage students and parents to visit on Saturday, so everyone can have an opportunity to visit schools of their choice.

WEEKLY GRADE REPORTS

Every week the high school compiles a list of students with an accumulative grade of D or F. Parents concerned about their student's grades may call on Friday, after 12:00 noon, at 582-2223 (ext. 3).

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FREE FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE FEB. 8TH AT B.H.C. FOR SENIORS & PARENTS

(1:00 p.m., Sunday, February 8th, 2009)

Need money for college? Black Hawk College can help. Come to College Goal Sunday at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, February 8th. College Goal Sunday is a free workshop that will help families complete the 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form is required for state and federal assistance at most post-secondary schools. The event will be in the lower lobby in Building 1 at the college's Quad-Cities Campus, 6600 34th Ave., Moline. Free parking will be available in the lot off 70th Street.

Students and their families should bring their 2008 federal 1040 tax forms, W2s, statement of untaxed income for 2008, and their driver's license or ID card. For more information, contact the Black Hawk College Financial Aid Office at (309) 796-5400.

SENIOR PARENTS DO YOU NEED HELP FILLING OUT FAFSA ONLINE?

Families can get FREE help filling out their online 2008-2009 FAFSA applications during FAFSA Friday at Black Hawk College (Quad Cities Campus). FAFSA Friday is the first Friday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in Building 1, Room 101B (below the library). The next sessions will be February 6, March 6 and April 3. Computers are also available from 9:00-11:00 p.m. or 2:30-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the Quad Cities Campus Financial Aid Office.

THE PERFECT FIT: A GUIDE TO YOUR POST-SECONDARY SEARCH

“The Perfect Fit” will be held **March 10th from 6:30-8:30 p.m., in the Aledo High School auditorium.** The presentation is open to all area high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors and their parents. A wide range of topics will be covered to help families with post-secondary plans. All families regardless of their prior knowledge about the post-secondary search process will benefit from the practical tips shared by the professionals.

The first half of the program is designed to help students take a close look at training options.

Students interested in specialized or on the job training will benefit by attending mini sessions on apprenticeship programs, career track certificate programs, and the military.

Students interested in careers requiring four or more years of schooling beyond high school should attend the mini information sessions on private colleges, state universities and the community college two plus two program.

The evening will end with a panel discussion where presenters hope to jump start students career training plans and reduce family stress by answering questions and providing tips about the post-secondary process.

<p>Presenters: Augustana College, Black Hawk College (Moline and Kewanee Campus), Illinois/Iowa Construction, Military & ROTC Program at WIU, Western Illinois University (Macomb and Quad Cities Campus)</p>
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CAREER INFORMATION FOR JUNIORS

Junior English students were introduced to the College Board and College Zone for career, college and scholarship information in January. Parents are encouraged to help students with their post-secondary plans by accessing the web sites listed below:

College Zone - www.collegezone.com

College Board - www.collegeboard.com

List of Colleges and universities – www.ute4xas/index.html

Vocational Schools – www.vocationalschools.com

Job Corp – www.jobcorps.dol.gov

Military – www.todaysmilitary.com/ or www.armedforcescareers.com/

Peace Corp – www.peacecorps.gov

College View – www.collegeview.com

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SCHOLARSHIPS

All juniors and seniors have received a list of scholarships. Additional copies are available in the counselor's office. Seniors are reminded to check the due date for upcoming scholarships. Please note the Frank E. Smith Scholarship is due the last school day in February, which is February 27, 2009.

It is important for juniors to start locating scholarships during their junior year. Collecting scholarships as a junior gives students a plan of action to follow as a senior. It also allows juniors an opportunity to fulfill specific scholarship requirements and helps students reduce stress during the senior year.

2009 SCHOLARSHIP DUE DATES (An up-dated list of scholarships will be posted on the counselor's bulletin board and outside the English IV classroom. Scholarship applications and information may be picked up in the Counselor's Office)

SENIORS, please note the following scholarship due dates:

Burger King Scholars Program www.bk.com/scholars	Feb. 2, 2009
Community Foundation of the Great Riverbend Scholarships www.cfgrb.org :	Feb. 2, 2009
Don E. And Charlotte Williams Scholarship	
Louis F Bulechek Scholarship	
Edwin R. Adland & Ruth H. Adland Scholarship	
Mike Condon Memorial Scholarship	
Great River Bend Cyclone Award Scholarship	
<i>(All Community Foundation Scholarships are available in the counselor's office and must be returned to the Counselor's office by Feb. 2, 2009.)</i>	
KFC Colonel's Scholars Program www.kfcscholars.org	Feb. 10, 2009
AXA Achievement Community Scholarship Program www.axa-achievement.com	Feb. 15, 2009
Best Buy Scholarship http://www.bestbuyinc.com/community_relations/scholarship.htm	Feb. 15, 2009
Mediacom (www.mediacomworldclass.com)	Feb. 15, 2009
FFA Scholarships (www.ffa.org)	Feb. 17, 2009
Frank E. Smith Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Feb. 27, 2009
Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau Agricultural Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Feb. 27, 2009
Daily Iowan Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	March 1, 2009
Illinois AMVETS Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	March 1, 2009
Illinois Odd Fellows-and Rebekahs www.ioof-il.org	March 1, 2009
Illinois Sheriff's Association (www.ilsheriff.org)	March 13, 2009
Catfish Jazz Society (available in the counselor's office)	March 30, 2009
PEO Chapter AG (available in the counselor's office)	March 31, 2009
Donald Kiser Memorial Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	April 1, 2009
Illinois Lumber and Material Dealers (available in the counselor's office)	April 1, 2009
Mercer County Retired Teachers Association (available in the counselor's office)	April 1, 2009
Mellinger Foundation Scholarship Application is available starting February 2, and is due in the Mellinger office by May 1, 2009. <u>I listed an April due in an effort to draw more attention to the scholarship.</u> This an excellent source of money that slips away from many students because they miss the due date. This is an excellent scholarship for all students to complete. <u>Keep in mind that the application is involved so start the application process in February.</u> Mellinger Scholarship Information and application may be accessed online at www.mellinger.org.	April 1, 2009
ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers http://sections.asce.org/quadcity/events.htm	May 15, 2009

For additional scholarship information and searches, visit the following web sites:

2. College Zone www.collegezone.com
3. Fastweb-financial aid- www.fastweb.com
4. Scholarship Aide- www.scholaraid.com
5. Plato- www.plato.org
6. Sallie Mae – www.salliemae.com
7. Financial Aid - www.finaid.org