

BBCHS

Counseling Department Junior Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

2nd Quarter 2011-2012



COUNSELING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

12/19- 12/21 - Final Exams

12/22 - Winter Break Begins

January

1/4 - Classes Resume

1/4-1/6- Make-Up Finals

1/16 - No School

1/25 - Early Dismissal

Counselors

Mr. Wunder	A - Ch
Mr. Lamie	Ci - Goo
Mrs. Howard	Gor - Lam
Mrs. Kashanitz	Lan - On
Mr. Luhrsen	Oo - SI
Mrs. Stover	Sm - Z

Technology Corner

- Many of the departments post their final exam study guides on the BBCHS website.
- Don't forget to keep accessing your student's grades on Infinite Campus. This is the best way to know how they are doing in school.

ACT Test Prep

In April, juniors will take the Prairie State Achievement Exam and the ACT test. For most juniors, this will be the first time that they take the ACT and they can feel a lot of pressure to do well. For those looking to better their scores, there are many test prep options available. One recommendation would be to check your local bookstore. ACT has many test prep manuals that are often accompanied by a CD-ROM and can be purchased for minimal costs.

Before anything else,
preparation is the key
to success.

-Alexander Graham Bell

- ACT online prep is available now through www.actstudent.org for about \$20.
- It is also important to note that the PSAE ACT will NOT include the Writing test. If a student plans on applying to a college that requires a Writing score, the student should plan to take the full length ACT including the Writing portion of the ACT on a national test date. Test dates and registration deadlines are available at www.actstudent.org

Final Exams

All juniors are expected to take final exams. Each test is comprehensive in nature and will count for 20 percent of the student's overall semester grade. Students must pass 2 out of the 3 components that make up the semester grade: quarter 1, quarter 2 and the final exam. Remember there are no early finals during the 1st semester. Make-up finals need to be pre-arranged and will be taken on January 4th, 5th, and 6th.

Figuring out Financial Aid Language

While students are worried about all the research they will need to do in order to plan for college, parents are worried about their financial future. Here are some terms that are often used in the world of financial aid.



- **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**: This is a form created by the US Department of Education which collects personal and financial information used to determine eligibility for federal and state student aid. Filled out after January 1st of senior year.
- **EFC (expected family contribution)**: The amount calculated from the FAFSA indicating the amount that the family can contribute to a college education. It is used to determine the eligibility for financial aid.
- **Grant**: Gift aid that does not have to be paid back.
- **Award Letter**: A document sent by a college's financial aid officer to admitted students indicating the type and amount of aid available at that college.

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS!!



BBCHS is very excited to announce that registration for the 2012-2013 school year has begun. We recommend that all students review the course description guide accessible on the home page. There are several new courses available to students this year and some courses have been eliminated from the curriculum. It is always important to keep in mind many of our courses have prerequisites that students need to meet prior to being enrolled in the course.

Counselors have already begun meeting with students and can make sure that the course requests are completed correctly. Parents will then receive a course request verification sheet in February to determine if any other changes need to be made.