

BBCHS

Counseling Department Sophomore Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

1st Quarter 2011-2012



**COUNSELING
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

October

10/22 ACT
10/24 2nd Quarter Begins
10/26 Early Dismissal

November

11/3 Late Arrival
11/3 & 11/8 Parent/Teacher
Conferences
11/4 Registration Deadline
For ACT
11/11 Veterans Day
No School
11/23-11/25 Thanksgiving Vacation
No School

Career Cruising

Counselors will meet with all Sophomores in study hall periods during the 2nd quarter to introduce them to a new online program called Career Cruising. Students will receive their unique passwords at this time. This will allow them to access their portfolio from any computer. One class session per quarter is planned for sophomore's continued career exploration. Here's what Career Cruising has to offer:



- An interest assessment that matches student's interests to a list of 40 careers
- Detailed information about occupations
- Links to comprehensive college, university, and vocational school information
- A career portfolio that can keep track of career interests, extra-curricular activities and work experience that can be used to print a professional looking resume.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be November 3rd and 8th. Students will have a late arrival on the 3rd and Conferences will be 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. On November 8th, they will have a regular school day and Conferences will once again be 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Just like last year, appointments with teachers will be scheduled through the school website. If you do not have internet access, call 815-

937-3707, extension 6600. If you have any concerns about your student's grades or classes, this is a great opportunity to talk with his or her teacher. If you have other concerns that you would like to talk with a counselor about, those appointments will need to be made through the Counseling Office at extension 6040. The Counseling Office will also have a table full of free information in the lobby so please stop by and check it out!



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

Researching possible careers or looking at colleges for the future? Go to BBCHS's guidance page and click on post-secondary. There are great websites that can help you in your search!

Driver's Education Information

The 1st nine week class of Drivers Education classroom will finish Friday October 21st and we are talking to those students about their Behind The Wheel portion. We schedule all the BTW based on their date of birth. We seem to be working through the December/January birthdates at this point. A couple of things to remember the student must have their permit in order to do the BTW. They must have passed the class, they must have all their school fees paid, and some students want to wait till 3rd quarter so they may have an opportunity to drive during the school day instead of before school or after school. We will be signing up more students the 1st day back 2nd semester. For students enrolled in the 2nd quarter of the class they need to remember it is important to get your permit as soon as possible that way when the opportunity to drive comes they will be eligible.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal



BBCHS parents are able to check their student's grades online. By simply registering on the school website, parents and students can access current grades, and upcoming assignments. You can also see attendance. This year we have added an option to view your student's unofficial transcript showing courses and grades since the freshman year. If you have questions regarding your student's progress, you can also access teacher's emails.

To register, go to the school website at www.bbchs.org and under the "For Parents" title, select the "Infinite Campus Portal" link. If you have not already registered, you will need your access code that was previously mailed to you. If you can't find your Access Code just email at DLarocque@bbchs.org or call Dolly LaRocque at extension 6039 with your student's information. You will be mailed the Access Code number that you need to get registered online.

Time to PLAN...



All Sophomores will be taking the PLAN test on October 26th. This standardized test is the second in the ACT testing battery. The PLAN is sometimes referred to as the "pre-ACT". It prepares students for the ACT by providing test taking experience and an estimated ACT score. The PLAN also gives a variety of detailed information specific to your student such as college readiness and high school course plans. The score report will include each test question, the student's answer, and the correct answer. This can help to determine academic strengths and gives tips on how to improve the student's score.

Similar to the ACT and EXPLORE, the PLAN is divided into four areas: English, Math, Science and Reading and the test will take about 2 hours to complete. In preparing for the test, remind your student that each section has a time limit so it's important not to spend too much time on a single question. There's no penalty for guessing so make sure to answer each question and if there's time at the end, you can return to the most difficult ones. The chart on the right gives a breakdown of the test sections and their time limits.

Subject	Number of Questions	Time Allowed
English		30 minutes
Usage/Mechanics	30	
Rhetorical Skills	20	
Math		40 minutes
Pre-Algebra/Algebra	22	
Geometry	18	
Reading	25	20 minutes
Science	30	25 minutes

Test Taking Hints



- Get a full night of sleep.
- Bring a calculator.
- Carefully read and follow directions.
- Fill in ovals neatly.
- Check out the PLAN website and try some sample test questions at www.actstudent.org/plan.



The PLAN test is also a great tool for career exploration. The test includes an interest inventory that students take as part of the pre-test administration. From the results, students are provided a list of careers that most closely match their interests.