

BBCHS

Counseling Department Junior 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

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

Making the most of college visits

Juniors should be planning college visits during this year. Colleges and universities typically hold open houses on the days that we are off of school. Visiting the campus is one of the most important activities of your college selection process. There is no better way of discovering your likes and dislikes than by seeing the real thing in person. Here are some ways that you can make sure that you get the most out of your visit:

- Be prepared with some specific questions such as, the size of the typical class, what are the different options in the dorms, what percentage of the students live on campus, what percentage of students go home on the weekends, what is security like on campus, and what does the tour guide particularly like about the campus.
- If you have already decided your course of study, call ahead to find out if you could meet with someone from that department.
- Meet with an admissions counselor to find out the minimum requirements for admission.
- Always attend when classes are in session. If possible, talk to students and faculty.
- Make sure you visit the dorms and have lunch on campus.



See the back page of this newsletter for upcoming dates of open houses.

Technology Corner

- Parents have received an access key to sign up for Infinite Campus. Instructions on how to access the site are located on the BBCHS website.
- Many college search engines are available online. Check out www.collegeboard.com

College Admissions Seminar

For students who are working through the process of applying to college, this can be a very stressful time. To help with this, the counseling department is offering a College Admissions Seminar during Parent/Teacher Conferences on Tuesday November 8th 2011 at 7 PM in the Auditorium. The seminar will focus on the admissions process from both the public and private schools' point of view. All college bound students are welcome to attend this forty-five minute presentation.

Representatives from Illinois State University and Millikin University will speak regarding the differences and similarities in applying to public and private schools. There will be discussion on the process of applying and what each type of school is looking for in an applicant. Because public schools and private schools can be so different, our goal is to help students learn about both. Hopefully we can help make this process a little less confusing.

State University Open House Dates

Eastern Illinois University:
 Friday, November 11, 2011 (Veteran's Day)
 **Check their website next semester for spring dates

Illinois State University:
 Friday, November 11, 2011 (Veteran's Day)
 Monday, March 19, 2012
 Monday, April 2, 2012

Northern Illinois University:
 Friday, November 11, 2011 (Veteran's Day)
 **Check their website next semester for spring dates

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
 Saturday, November 5, 2011
 Saturday, April 21, 2012
 Friday, July 13, 2012

Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
 Friday, November 11, 2011
 School of Engineering Open House, March 24, 2012
 School of Education Open House, March 31, 2012
 School of Business Open House, March 17, 2012
 School of Nursing Open House, February 18, 2012
 School of Pharmacy Open House, April 14, 2012

The University of Illinois, Chicago
 Friday, November 11, 2011 (Veteran's Day)

University of Illinois, Springfield
 Saturday, November 12, 2011
 Saturday, January 28, 2012
 Saturday, March 3, 2012
 Saturday, April 21, 2012

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
 Orange & Blue Days: Special programs every Friday through November 11. Reserve your spot at www.illinois.edu

Western Illinois University:
 Friday, November 11, 2011
 Monday, February 20, 2012
 Saturday, March 31, 2012



Junior Year: An important year

The sixth semester transcript is typically the one that is sent to colleges for admission. As colleges have specific GPA and class rank requirements, it is important that you are at these minimum requirements by the end of this school year. It is important that by the end of year, you have taken the most challenging coursework in which you can be successful. Also, your junior year teachers may be the ones who write you letters of recommendation for college applications as they will be able to comment on your most recent work and how you performed throughout the semester or year. If you have not gotten involved in any activities up to this point, you may want to begin to think about ways in which you can demonstrate your leadership or teamwork to college admissions representatives. Also, junior year is when you will be taking a ACT exam as a part of the PSAE testing in April. For most colleges this is also required for admission. If you have any questions regarding college admission requirements, please sign up to see your counselor.



Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be November 3rd and 8th. Students will have a late arrival day on the 3rd and a regular school day on the 8th. Conferences will 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!