

# High School Counselor's Information For December 2008

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

December 8, 2008	First day for students to make 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Schedule Changes
December 9, 2008	"The Perfect Fit: A Guide to Your Post-Secondary Search" 6:30-8:30 p.m., Auditorium
December 12, 2008	Last day for students to make 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Schedule Changes
December 12, 2008	Seniors Submit Final College applications for Fall 2009 acceptance
December 13, 2008	ACT National Test Date
December 15, 2008	Teacher recommended schedule changes (Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> )
January 20, 2009	First day of second semester

## **SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR SECOND SEMESTER**

Schedule changes for second semester will be considered December 8 through December 12, 2008. Changes may be made from 7:45 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by the counselor's office for schedule changes during study hall, lunch, or before/after school.

## **"THE PERFECT FIT: A GUIDE TO YOUR POST-SECONDARY SEARCH" (Dec. 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.)**

High school students and their parents are invited to attend "The Perfect Fit: A Guide to Your Post-secondary Search". The first half of the program is designed to help students jump start their future plans by taking a close look at training options. Students interested in options that require 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 second half of the program will involve 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.

"The Perfect Fit" will be held **Tuesday, December 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., in the Aledo High School auditorium.**

The presentation is open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors and their parents from all area high schools. Topics ranging from college preparation and campus visits to the application process and financial assistance will be covered. All families regardless of their prior knowledge about the post-secondary search process will benefit from the practical tips shared by the professionals.

### **Presenters:**

Augustana College, Black Hawk College (Moline and Kewanee Campus), Illinois Trade Union, Military Programs & ROTC Program at WIU, Western Illinois University (Macomb and Quad Cities Campus)

## **SCHOLARSHIPS (January-February)**

### **Please note the following scholarship due dates:**

Best Buy Community Scholarship available in January at [www.bestbuy.com/scholarships](http://www.bestbuy.com/scholarships)

Iowa-Illinois Regional Auto Show Jan. 5, 2009

(Iowa-Il. Regional Auto Show Scholarship must be returned to the Counselor's office by Jan. 5, 2009)

Sam Walton Community Scholarship Program [www.walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving](http://www.walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving) Jan 31, 2009

Burger King Scholars Program [www.bk.com/scholars](http://www.bk.com/scholars) Feb. 2, 2009

Community Foundation of the Great Riverbend Scholarships [www.cfgrb.org](http://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

(All Community Foundation Scholarships must be returned to the Counselor's office by Feb. 2, 2009)

AXA Achievement Community Scholarship Program [www.axa-achievement.com](http://www.axa-achievement.com) Feb. 15, 2009

Frank E. Smith Scholarship Feb. 27, 2009

# Counselor's Information Continued

## WEEKLY GRADE REPORTS

Every Monday, Aledo 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 Monday's after 9:00 a.m., at 582-2223 (extension 3).

## ATTENTION FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS & PARENTS

Now is the time to visit colleges. Check the school calendar in the student planner for days out of school and make arrangements to visit colleges. Keep in mind that most schools are open for Saturday visits. Reminder: Juniors get one excused college day second semester and seniors get two excused colleges days for the year.

No school or In-service Days are Good Days to Schedule College Visits: Check out the following dates:

Martin Luther King's Birthday	January 19, 2008	President's Day	February 16, 2008
Teacher's Institute	March 27, 2008	Spring Break	April 9-13, 2008

## College Zone [www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com)

College Zone is a trusted source for college information set up by the State of Illinois. Whether you're a student or parent you will find valuable information on grants, scholarships, loans, financial aid, prepaid tuition, **financial aid estimator, loan repayment calculator, SLOPE Calculator** and much more.

The **State and Federal Aid Estimator** provides an estimate of how much financial aid, including the State of Illinois' Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant, may be available to help pay for college. Results are based on estimates and may not reflect actual awards. Access the calculator at [www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com). Under Resource Center click *Calculators*, then *State and Federal Aid Estimator*.

Use the **State and Federal Aid Estimator** to:

- Estimate an **Expected Family Contribution** (EFC) for both public and private colleges.
- See how "what-if" situations (inheritance, bonus, moving, etc.) may impact your financial aid eligibility.
- Estimate education loan payments for Stafford, PLUS, Perkins, and others.
- Print your own EFC Report for future references.
- Estimate current year MAP grant eligibility.
- Estimate current year Federal Pell grant.

Use the **Loan Repayment Calculator** to estimate what a student's monthly payments will be once they enter the repayment period. The calculator can help students decide how much they should borrow based on what they reasonably will be able to repay once they complete their training and are working.

Use the **SLOPE Calculator (Student Loans Over Projected Earnings)** to calculate the percentage of a borrower's income that should be taken up by educational loan payments. Experts recommend that your student loan payments not exceed 8% of your first-year income.

## ACT/ETM PREP CLASSES

**The attached registration form and \$100 fee is due to the Regional Superintendent by December 19, 2008.**

The Regional Office of Education, in cooperation with the school districts in ROE 27, is offering ACT Preparation classes over a nine-week period in two locations. The new ACT preparation course that the Regional Office will be offering is through Education Testing Methods, Inc. (ETM) and is divided into nine weekly sessions with each session lasting three hours. The registration and textbook fee for these classes is \$100. There is a minimum of 20 students per class and a maximum of 50. These classes will be offered on Wednesdays in Monmouth and Saturdays in Aledo (exact locations to be announced). You must mark on the registration form where you will be attending. NOTE: If you miss a class you can attend at the other location. Listed below are the dates, locations and times.

Wednesday-Monmouth-Classes will be held from 6:30-p.m.-9:30 p.m.

January 14, 21, & 28	February 4, 11, 18, & 25	March 4 & 11
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Saturday-Aledo-Classes will be held from 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m

January 17, 24, & 31	February 7, 14, 21, & 28	March 7 & 14
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