

MARCH 2009

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S UPDATE

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1	Seniors complete FAFSA form on-line before March 1, 2009 at www.fafsa.ed.gov
March 10	Parent Night To Address College Search ("The Perfect Fit" 6:30 p.m., Aledo High School)
March 16	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. @ H.S. (Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships)
March 27	No School (Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships)
April 8	Early dismissal for Spring vacation (2:00 @ AHS)
April 17	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. (Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships)
April 22	Prairie State Achievement Exam for all juniors (Day 1-ACT, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
April 23	Prairie State Achievement Exam for all juniors (Day 2-PSAE, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
April 29	Early Dismissal 11:30 a.m. (Jr. & Sr. make college visits/work on scholarships)
May 13	Awards Program at AHS (6:30 p.m.)

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP DUE DATES

Scholarship Information may be accessed online at the website listed or picked up in the counselor's office.

Frank E. Smith Family Memorial Scholarship	Feb. 27, 2009
Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau Ag. Scholarship	Feb. 27, 2009
Daily Iowan Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Mar. 1, 2009
Illinois AMVETS Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Mar. 1, 2009
Illinois Odd Fellows- and Rebekahs www.ioof-il.org	Mar. 1, 2009
Marine Corps Scholarship (Parent is a current or former Marine) www.mcsf.org	Mar. 1, 2009
Township Official of Illinois	Mar. 1, 2009
Black Hawk College	Mar. 6, 2009
Illinois Sheriff's Association (www.ilsheriff.org)	Mar. 13, 2009
Catfish Jazz Society (available in the counselor's office)	Mar. 30, 2009
PEO Chapter H (available in the counselor's office)	Mar. 31, 2009
PEO Chapter AG (available in the counselor's office)	Mar. 31, 2009
Mercer County Women for Women	Mar. 31, 2009
Donald Kiser Memorial Scholarship (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 1, 2009
Illinois Lumber and Material Dealers (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 1, 2009
Mercer County Retired Teachers Association (available in the counselor's office)	Apr. 1, 2009
Rock Island Optometric Center	April 1, 2009
Aledo Lodge No. 252	Apr. 6, 2009
Aledo Education Association Scholarship	April 11, 2009
DARE	Apr. 15, 2009
Mercer County Women for Women	April 21, 2009
ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers http://sections.asce.org/quadcities/events.htm	May 15, 2009

Mellinger Foundation Scholarship (www.mellinger.org) May 1 of year applying (All seniors should apply.)
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For Additional Scholarship Information and Searches, Visit The Following Web sites:

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

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S INFORMATION (Continued)

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.

Presenters: Augustana College, Black Hawk College (Moline & Kewanee Campus), Illinois/Iowa Construction, Military & ROTC Program at WIU, Western Illinois university (Macomb & Quad Cities).

Use The Web To Develop Post-Secondary Plans (Good Info. For Jr./Sr. & Their Parents)

All juniors and their parents are encouraged to spend time accessing post-secondary information on the web.

1. The College Zone at www.collegezone.com is a site developed by the State of Illinois. (Excellent resource)
 - a. Researching Colleges/Careers
 - b. Searching for Scholarships
 - c. Determining the families expected dollar contribution for post-secondary plans
(Use the State & Federal Aid Estimator at http://www.illinoismentor.org/FinAid/wizard/nonlogon/Financial_Aid_Calculator1.asp)
2. College Board at www.collegeboard.com and ACT at www.act.org are additional resources for students and Parents.
3. Become familiar with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students/parents are encourage to complete the FAFSA online by March of their senior year. (Students & Parents should request a PIN number at www.fafsa.ed.gov to submit the FAFSA online.)

POST-SECONDARY VISITS

The first Friday in April is the last day for post-secondary visits. Keep in mind that parents must accompany students on the post-secondary visits for the day to be an excused absence.

1 day allowed junior year (cannot be carried over to senior year.)

2 days allowed senior year

Schedule additional visits on:

Saturday

Teacher's Institute (March 27)

No School-vacation (April 9-13)

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S INFORMATION (Continued)

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, which are reading for information and applied mathematics along with an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) developed component consisting of science.

All juniors will register in mid-March for the Prairie State Achievement Exam, at that time junior will be asked to list the names of four post-secondary schools that need to receive their test results. Families are encouraged to research post-secondary 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. Students wanting to send additional schools test codes may do so by going to www.act.org and click "send your scores".

ACT PREP

Juniors are encouraged to prepare for the ACT by using one of the following suggestions:

- 1. Contact the local library or AHS library for ACT study materials.**
- 2. Buy an ACT Study Guide from a bookstore.**
- 3. Contact High School Librarian for ACT computerized program.**
(May be checked out or used at school.)
- 4. Request High School Librarian to order ACT study materials.**
- 5. Take an ACT prep class.**
- 6. Study on-line at www.act.org**
- 7. Private ACT Study Sessions at Project Excel** (Cost Varies - about \$20 per hour)
Contact Marguerite Kruse at Project Excel, located in Sherrard (phone 593-9100)
Marguerite Kruse offers private and small group ACT prep sessions.
- 8. Sylvan Learning Center** (Cost about \$600 for 24 hours)
Contact 563-359-1001 for more information

NATIONAL ACT TEST

Students are encouraged to review ACT study materials and to take the ACT more than once during their junior/senior year. ACT registration packets are available in the counselor's office or register on-line at www.act.org. Students wanting to qualify, as an Illinois State Scholar must have their highest ACT score recorded no later than June 13, 2009 test date.

Fees: ACT Only (NO writing)\$30.00, ACT Plus Writing \$44.50, Late Registration Fee Add \$19.00,
Standby Testing Add \$39.50

NATIONAL ACT DATES:

Registration Deadline	Test Date
February 27, 2009	April 4, 2009
May 8, 2009	June 13, 2009
Not available at this time	September 12, 2009
Not available at this time	October 24, 2009
Not available at this time	December 12, 2009
Not available at this time	February 6, 2010
Not available at this time	April 10, 2010
Not available at this time	June 12, 2010

**All ACT test dates have a standby option for students who did not register by the due date.
Fee: \$69.50 or \$84 plus writing.**