



COLLEGE PLACEMENT NEWS

February 2011

Mrs. Schaefer - Freshmen
Sophomores (J-Z)

Mrs. Wuller - Sophomores (A-I)
Juniors

Mr. Rensing - Seniors

Mrs. Tepen - Secretary

HONOR ROLLS SEMESTER 1

High Honors—3.8 and higher
89—Seniors
57—Juniors
47—Sophomores
48—Freshmen

Honors—3.4—3.799
17—Seniors
17—Juniors
12—Sophomores
12—Freshmen

ACT SCORES CLASS OF 2010

We are proud of the class of 2010 whose average ACT score was 23.3. This score was noticeably higher than most high schools in the metro east area as reported in the Belleville News-Democrat dated August 22. The Illinois State average was 20.8 and the National Composite Score was 21.1

CAREER DAY

A career day for the entire student body is scheduled for the morning of March 29. The career speakers will address the nature of their work, educational requirements, related careers, and answer questions. Each presentation will last 30-40 minutes. The students choose two speakers based on their career interests. This is an excellent opportunity for them to learn about various careers and continue thinking about how the courses they select may relate to their future career plans.

COLLEGE FAIRS

College fairs provide a great opportunity for students and parents to talk with representatives and gather additional information on selected colleges. Students and parents are encouraged to attend these programs and begin the college planning process.

On Sunday February 27, Southwestern Illinois College will host the **METRO EAST COLLEGE FAIR** from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. About 100 colleges and universities will send representatives. At 1:00 a session will be held on the topic of "How to find money for College" which will cover grants, loans, scholarships, and student work. A second workshop at 2:00 will assist seniors and parents in the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Since space is limited for the FAFSA workshop reservations should be made before February 24 by calling 235-2700 ext. 5288. Bring 2010 tax returns and W2's. Another workshop called *Tips and Tools for Transfer Success* for students planning to attend SWIC then transferring to a 4-year university will be held at 2:00 in rooms 1410/1411.

The **ST. LOUIS ALL METRO COLLEGE FAIR** will take place at Maryville University on Sunday April 10 from 1:00 to 3:00. Maryville is on Conway Road, 1 block north of HWY 40 at Woodsmill, 2 1/2 miles west of I-270. Approximately 250 colleges from throughout the United States will be in attendance.

REGISTRATION

Registration for current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors is scheduled for **February 25**. The course catalog will only be available on our website at www.althoff.net. Counselors will discuss course options with students in religion classes. We encourage students to review the online course catalog in advance of this meeting. Students should plan and discuss tentative schedules with their parents, teachers, and guidance counselor. A recommended course program should include:

4 years Religion	3 years Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)
4 years English	3 years Science
3 years Social Studies	2 years Foreign Language, Music or Art
0.5 year Technology Skills	0.5 year Information Processing
0.5 year Health	.25 Consumer Ed
	2.75 PE

ADVANCED COLLEGE CREDIT AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Althoff students have an opportunity to enroll in 24 hours of college through the Advanced College Credit Program (1818) of St. Louis University.

The Science Department is offering Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Physics 2, Chemistry 2, and Advanced Biology.

SENIORS

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Some colleges NO LONGER ACCEPT APPLICATIONS for fall 2010 enrollment. Any senior who has not applied should do so as soon as possible. Always allow ten school days for processing the transcript and application materials.

COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID

The 2011-2012 **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form is available on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Applications may be filed electronically with the results available in about 2 weeks.

The financial aid night held in November was a success. Some materials are still available for anyone who could not attend.

FINANCIAL AID TOLL FREE HOT LINES 1-800-4 FED AID

The Federal Student Aid Information Center is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Eastern Time). The staff can answer any questions you may have concerning the FAFSA form.

FAFSA COMPLETION WORKSHOPS

If you were unable to attend the Althoff FAFSA Completion Workshop on January 24, opportunities still exist.

The Office of Student Financial Services of *St. Louis University* is offering a free workshop on the topics of *2011 Financial Aid 101 at 2:00 and Completing Your FAFSA Question by Question at 2:30*. This workshop will be held on Sunday, February 13, at the St. Louis University Busch Student Center, on the Northeast corner of Grand at Laclede. Reservations are not required. Bring a copy of the completed 2010 tax return if it is available. For more information call (314) 977-2350.

As previously noted, SWIC will offer a financial aid and a FAFSA Completion Workshop in conjunction with the college fair on February 27. How to Find Money for College will be held from 1:30 to 2:00 in the Theatre. The FAFSA workshop will be from 2:00 to 2:45 in the Success Center in Room 1240.

Colleges have varying requirements for financial aid. It is advisable to work directly with the college financial aid office.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Students must apply to the college before they are eligible for scholarships from that school. The financial aid office of the college can supply a listing of scholarships available.

It is important that scholarship applications be completed as neatly and as early as possible to allow sufficient time for the processing of transcripts, recommendations, and assimilation of materials. Teachers usually have many recommendation letters to complete and would appreciate receiving the forms **10** days prior to the deadline.

Mrs. Tepen has distributed a current list of local and regional scholarships available at this time.

The following are some Scholarship/Financial Aid sites on the Internet:

U.S. Dept. of Education FAFSA	www.fafsa.ed.gov
U.S. Dept. of Education FAFSA Express	www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/index.html
Comprehensive Scholarship/Financial Aid Info.	www.finaid.org
College Scholarship Service	www.collegeboard.org
FastWeb (free scholarship search)	www.fastweb.com
Sallie Mae Inc.	www.wiredscholar.com
Illinois Student Assistance Commission	www.collegeillinois.org
Scholarships	www.scholarships.com

Following is a list of scholarships and awards designated specifically for an Althoff senior: **Seniors will be notified when the applications are available.**

Julian W. Buser, M.D. Health Services Scholarship (major in a health related area.)
Dorothy T. Buser Business Scholarship (major in business, computers, or a related field)
Mathis, Marifian, Richter & Grandy Law Scholarship
Optimist Club of Belleville
Enid M. Klingele Life Science Prize (this award is strictly for excellence in science)
Southwestern Illinois College Foundation for Althoff students attending SWIC (priority Deadline is March 1, 2011.) www.swicfoundation.com/scholarships
St. Clair County (West) Rotary Club Educational Scholarship
John (Jack) Guciardo Memorial Scholarship (major in art, art education, photography or architecture).
Commerce Bank Scholarship

Any senior who receives a scholarship should bring a copy of the award letter to Mrs. Tepen or to Mr. Rensing. **Scholarship recipients** are announced as part of the graduation ceremony and also listed on the website. To protect your privacy, dollar amounts will not be posted.

JUNIORS

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

During the spring, some college representatives will be on campus. Because of budget restraints, some colleges have discontinued spring visits and recommend interested students to attend area college fairs. We encourage juniors to attend and discover the differences among the many schools. A weekly listing of the visits will be posted on the first floor doors. This is especially helpful for those students who are unable to attend a college fair.

COLLEGE PLANNING

During the first semester Mrs. Wuller met with students individually and reviewed their educational plans. This semester she will meet in small groups in the Internet lab to research colleges. Mr. Rensing will discuss the college planning process and will distribute the *Althoff College Selection Workbook*.

ACT AND SAT

The ACT or SAT results are a major component in college admissions and scholarships. Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) does not require the ACT; instead, students must take the COMPASS assessment test given by appointment at SWIC. ACT advises students to enroll in challenging Math, Science, and English classes. Other opportunities to increase scores are to take the sample tests provided with the registration forms; use a study book; go to the test prep websites; or enroll in a review class provided by colleges or private companies.

An ACT preparation workshop will be held at Althoff on Tuesday, April 5 & Wednesday, April 6. Students will meet from 3:30-6:00 at a cost of \$75.00. **A letter and registration information will be mailed to the homes of juniors.** To register on-line go to www.zaps.com/schools or call 1-877-927-8378 and bring a check made payable to **ZAPS** to the seminar. Since space is limited, it is very important to register as soon as possible. This program is an introductory workshop and students should continue reviewing and studying the materials before taking the actual test.

A listing of tutoring centers in the area, offering ACT and SAT review classes, is available in The College Placement Office. The following sources on the internet may also be helpful: www.number2.com, www.actstudent.org, www.PrincetonReview.com, and www.collegeboard.com

ACT offers an on-line program for \$25.00. It can be ordered at www.actstudent.org.

Althoff is a test center for the April 9 ACT. The regular registration deadline is March 4 and the late deadline is March 5-18. Mrs. Wuller will assist juniors in the completion of the ACT registration forms. We recommend that juniors take the April test then retest again in June, September, or October if desired. Southwestern Illinois College is a test center for every ACT. Since more emphasis is being placed on the composite score, a larger percentage of students are making a second or third attempt. If the test is taken more than once, colleges generally accept the highest ACT composite score. Some universities require the written test while others may recommend it and others neither require nor recommend it. The ACT website has a listing of the schools requiring writing.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission uses a combination of the ACT or SAT scores and the unweighted rank in class to determine the **Illinois State Scholar** awardees. To be eligible, a student must take the ACT or SAT no later than June of their junior year.

Test Date	Regular Registration	Test Center
ACT April 9	March 4	Althoff
ACT June 11	May 6	SWIC
SAT May 7	April 8	Other
SAT June 4	May 6	BTHS-E

COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAMS

Many colleges offer summer workshops for juniors. This is an excellent opportunity to discover first hand what it would be like to attend that college, to live on campus, to interact with other students, and to learn new material. Some schools offer college credit for attending these programs. Additional information is available in the College Placement Department, or you may contact the college admissions office.

SOPHOMORES

Sophomores are encouraged to continue their search for a career. An excellent web site is the Illinois Work Force Information at: www.ilworkinfo.com click on career resources then CIS--the user name is *illinois* (no caps) and the password is *careers*. In the sophomore year students should begin thinking of college. Individual appointments may be made to discuss careers or preliminary college plans.

SOPHOMORE REGISTRATION

Mrs. Schaefer and Mrs. Wuller will meet with sophomores to plan courses for the junior and senior years. It is important for students to review the curriculum guide online then discuss the proposed course choices with their parents.

Begin your college search by visiting the College Fair at SWIC on February 27, 2011.

Since colleges look to your grades for all four years, it is important for you to continue to study hard and keep your grades up.

FRESHMEN

FRESHMAN REGISTRATION

Quarter three is an important time for freshmen. Mrs. Schaefer will meet with students to review academic progress and to prepare students for registration. To meet college admission requirements and prerequisites for Althoff courses, we encourage freshmen to formulate a course plan not only for the 2010-2011 school year, but also for the junior and senior years as well. Mrs. Schaefer will distribute a worksheet designed to aid in the development of a 3-year course plan. If a student or parent would like to discuss classes for the sophomore year, contact Mrs. Schaefer or Mrs. Wuller.

Many times freshmen do not realize the full impact of freshman grades on the cumulative GPA and class rank until they begin applying for college in the senior year. Freshmen should always strive to do their best in all their classes.

If we can be of assistance, please call 235-1100 and ask for the respective counselor.