



COLLEGE PLACEMENT NEWS

September 2011

The Guidance staff would like to welcome you to the 2011-2012 school year. If we can assist you in any way, please call 235-1100 and ask for the respective counselor.

Mrs. Kathy Schaefer	Freshmen class
	Sophomore (last name J-Z)
Mrs. Kathy Wuller	Junior class
	Sophomore (last name A-I)
Mr. John Rensing	Senior class

The counselors will be meeting with each student at least once during each semester. In addition, counselors will meet with their students in their classroom to disseminate information of a more general nature.

INFORMATION NOW is available for students and parents to review academic progress. We recommend that you check this site regularly. If you do not have access to a computer, contact your son/daughter's counselor for grade monitoring. You may call Mrs. Pam Schumacher to set up your password 235-1100, ext. 133.

Colleges on Campus. This year representatives from many colleges will visit our school. We encourage juniors and seniors to meet with them. This is an excellent opportunity to gather information and meet one on one with college admissions counselors. This year the JETS Tour which includes over 18 Jesuit College reps will be at Althoff Catholic on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 for Althoff Catholic students to speak with.

College Night, Monday, October 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. Our main presenter will be Mr. Steve Held, an Althoff Catholic graduate, who has had considerable experience working in admissions offices at both private and public universities. He will discuss the college selection and application processes. This meeting should last about one hour. There will also be an opportunity to speak individually with the panelists and our counselors after the program. Parents and students at any grade level may attend, but the program should be especially helpful to junior parents.

College Fair, Sunday, October 16, 2011 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. The National College Fair will consist of representatives from more than 150 colleges and will be held on the campus of St. Louis University. Workshops on financial aid and choosing a college will also be held. This is the first fair of the year and we encourage all students, especially junior and senior students and parents to attend. More detailed information will be distributed to the junior class and any other interested students. A listing of the schools in attendance may be picked up in College Placement or you may check this out at www.nationalcollegefairs.org.

College Fair, Tuesday, October 18, 2011 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. A college fair consisting of about 100 colleges will be held at the Morris University Center on the campus of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Financial aid information and college search information will also be available.

Financing College, Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. This program is designed to help clarify financial aid and the types of financial assistance available. A question and answer session will follow. All grade levels are welcome, but this should prove especially informative to the parents of juniors and seniors. We will assemble a packet of materials available for anyone who is unable to attend. The printed FAFSA forms for federal financial aid should be available in early December. The FAFSA will also be available on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

College Testing. Althoff Catholic is a test center for the October and April ACT test. Both ACT and the College Board strongly encourage on-line registration. While most colleges do not require the written test, the University of Illinois requires it. Check the college website or the ACT website, (www.ACT.org) to determine if the written test is needed or recommended.

ACT TEST DATES FOR 2011-2012		
<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	Sept. 17-30,2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	Nov. 5-18,2011
SAT I TEST DATES FOR 2011-2012		
October 1, 2011	September 9, 2011	September 21,2011
November 5, 2011	October 7, 2011	October 21, 2011
December 3, 2011	November 8, 2011	November 20, 2011

ACT Prep Workshops at Southwestern Illinois College. The two workshops will consist of three sessions each, meeting from 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. The cost is \$156.00.

CSA 1000-section 002
Saturdays (3 sessions)
September 24 – October 8

CSA 1000-section 003
Saturdays (3 sessions)
Oct 22-Nov 15

For additional information, or to register, call the office of Community Education at (618) 222-5393. A social security number is required to register.

ACT Prep Workshops at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The format will include review sessions in grammar and vocabulary, reading comprehension, science and math. The total fee for the workshop is \$159.00 including books. Early bird registration is \$144 for 1 week in advance registration. Classes will meet on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-noon. The first course will be from September 17 –October 5th at Edwardsville High School. The next course will be October 29 – December 3 in Room 1302 in Peck Hall at SIUE. Applications are available in the College Placement Department or you may register by telephone through the Office of Continuing Education at 650-3210 or register online at <https://aceweb.siu.edu/WConect/ace/>.

ACT Online Prep. The ACT testing company also offers practice tests, a comprehensive content review for each of the four required tests, and practice essays. The cost is \$19.95 and may be ordered online at www.actonlineprep.com.

We have compiled a list of other area sources where students may go for the ACT classroom or individual tutoring:

Sylvan Learning Center: <http://tutoring.sylvanlearning.com>
Kaplan: <http://www.kaplan.com/TestPreparation>
Princeton Review: <http://www.princetonreview.com>
My Tutor: www.my-tutor.com

Internet. There is a wealth of valuable information available about selecting a college, financing college, scholarships, individual college web sites, and career information. We urge you to encourage your son or daughter to utilize this valuable resource. Some interesting searches are the College Board, College Zone, Wired Scholar, College View, Cynthia Good, U.S. News, Yahoo College Search, Mapping-your-future and Fastweb. A more extensive list is available in our office.

Career Search. One of the most comprehensive Career Planning Sites is the HORIZONS program, which is available to Illinois students through the State Board of Education. The Internet address is:

<http://www.ilworkinfo.com>. To access this site, click on (career resources), then click on CIS,
user name enter *Illinois* (all lower case)
Password is *careers*

This site provides current information focusing on occupations, vocational schools, colleges, financial aid, job searches, apprenticeships, and related topics.

Many publications are available to assist in the college search. One comprehensive source is the College Handbook, which is published by The College Board. The cost is approximately \$30.00. We have copies of this Handbook in the College Placement Department for the students to review at their convenience.

The College Placement Department offers peer tutoring for any students who wish to receive additional help. Students should sign up for this service with their counselors.

Student Athletes. Students considering playing at Division 1 or 2 universities should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse after the junior year. The Clearinghouse only accepts courses in the areas of English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. Students may register on-line at www.eligibilitycenter.org and also check the list of acceptable courses.

SENIORS

Seniors should refer to the College Planning Booklet they received last spring. By this time, seniors should have narrowed their college selection to about 5 or 6 schools. Any seniors who need help with their college search or would like to begin the application process should make an appointment with Mr. Rensing.

Most schools now require an application fee. Some schools will waive the application fee if the application is completed on-line. All deadlines must be adhered to for admission as well as for scholarship consideration. Please allow 10 school days for transcript and application processing. Some universities no longer print applications thereby requiring on-line application.

Selective Service System. All 18 year old men are required to register. Students may register via the Internet at www.sss.gov. If a student does not register, he may not be eligible for federal student loans and grants for college, job training, and federal employment.

FAFSA Workshop for Senior Parents: Monday, January 30, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall

This program is designed to assist parents in the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Step-by-step instructions will be given. Tax information is needed to complete the form, but if it is not available, the instructor will assist in estimating the college financial aid.

JUNIORS

Mrs. Wuller will meet with the juniors to discuss college choices and assist with course requirements. National Honor Society application takes place during the second semester of junior year. A 3.5 cumulative GPA on the regular rank is required to be an eligible candidate as well as leadership and service activities.

PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The test is a qualifier for the National Merit Scholars and the National Achievement Scholarship Program. This test provides the student with test taking practice for the SAT, which may be taken later in the year. All juniors will take the test on October 12, 2011.

SOPHOMORES

Mrs. Wuller and Mrs. Schaefer will meet with the sophomores to discuss grades, career choices, and college choices.

Althoff Catholic has been chosen to give the 2011 Field Trial for College Boards PSAT /NMSQT Research Project test which will be administered to all sophomores on October 12, 2011.

PLAN Test. All sophomores will take the PLAN test January, 2012. This test acquaints students with the type of questions found on the ACT. The results indicate a score range that students may expect to earn on the ACT. The test also provides an interest inventory to assist in career exploration and in choosing courses for future years. Please ask your son/daughter to share the results with you.

FRESHMEN

Mrs. Schaefer will meet with freshmen to familiarize them with College Placement Department services and materials available to them. Periodic grade checks and evaluations of the progress the students are making toward graduation will be conducted. Also, discussions will be held regarding their career interests and general course requirements necessary for attending college.

Althoff Catholic has been chosen to give the 2011 Field Trial for College Boards PSAT/NMSQT Research Project test which will be administered to all freshmen on October 12, 2011.

EXPLORE Test. The Explore test will be given to all freshmen January, 2012. The content of the test is closely related to that of the ACT and the PLAN tests. The areas tested are English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The test also gathers information about students' coursework, educational and career plans after high school, and other relevant information.

We encourage the freshman to take advantage of the peer tutoring that is available in the College Placement Department.