

COUNSELING UPDATE FOR PTA  
DECEMBER 2017

To date, our office has processed 188+ college transcripts. It has been announced that if an application must be received at a college by January 1<sup>st</sup>, the request should have been submitted to our office by this Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup>. Any requests that are turned in after that date are likely to be sent after the winter break.

We have set the dates for class registration for the 2018-2019 school year. We will register juniors for their senior year in US History classes on February 6, 7, and 8. We will register freshmen for their sophomore year in Language Arts classes on January 23, 24, and 25. Parents can be informed of the choices in advance at the freshman educational planning session in the auditorium on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:00 PM. We will register the sophomores for their junior year, in Language Arts classes, on January 30, 31, and February 1. An opportunity for sophomore parents to gather information would be the 5:30 PM session in the cafeteria on January 30. After students register on-line for classes there will be a window of time for parents to access their students' selections and to make changes or seek information.

As a reminder, parents of seniors may now file the FAFSA for the 2018-2019 school year. The College Planning Center will work with families to actually fill in the FAFSA, the required form for federal financial aid. Parents can schedule half hour appointments and will have their FAFSA ready to submit or mail at the end of their appointment. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 877-272-4692. The College Planning Center ([www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov](http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov)) has an office at 1770 Boyson Road, Hiawatha, (located in the new Kirkwood Regional Center). Students can drop in for college planning as well. The expectation is that the FAFSA will be submitted electronically. The counseling page links to the FAFSA web site. Beware of scam web sites. The correct site will end in **.gov**. Seniors interested in finding scholarships need to be searching and applying throughout the year. There are a few scholarships available to juniors. The best sources of these are the daily announcements and the counselor's web site.

PSAT scores are now available to students online. Paper score reports should be arriving soon. Once we have them, students can pick up their score sheet and test book from their counselor. Students should be listening to the announcements to hear when the results will be distributed. We remind students that due to the high level of ability for the average test taker of the PSAT, the norms will usually cause a student to drop in percentile score from what they customarily get on other standardized tests.

We continue to encourage parents to build self advocacy skills in their children. It is a life skill that will be necessary in college and life beyond that. We welcome the opportunity to assist your students face to face which is how we get to know each of your students better.

2017 has been yet another year where we fully appreciate the PTA. The quality of support that comes from Washington's PTA is awesome. I have never asked for assistance that was not given in the best and most timely way possible. My department is very thankful for you.

Happy Holidays! The Counseling Department extends to you its best wishes.