

COUNSELING UPDATE FOR PTA JANUARY

We will soon be sending mid-year reports for those students who have applied to colleges using the Common Application. It would be helpful to the counselors if the students would let them know if they have ruled out some colleges so we don't prepare mid-year reports unnecessarily.

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 22nd, 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.

The FAFSA is the key to attaining financial support for college, based on need. Parents should know the priority deadlines of the colleges to which a student is applying. The expectation is now that the FAFSA will be done electronically. The College Planning Center on Boyson Road (1-877-272-4692) will schedule appointments with families to assist them in filling in the form and submitting it.

Our counseling page links to the FAFSA web site. Scholarship opportunities are routinely added to our web site, so be persistent in checking back. Encourage your student to listen closely to announcements also because we try to give local scholarship information at that time.

Remember the drop policy for classes. Students can drop a class in the first three weeks of a trimester and regardless of the grade, it will not be placed on the transcript. A student may drop a class up through the 2nd week (second semester through February 2) and regardless of the grade, there is no record of the courses posted on the transcript. A student may drop a class up through the 12th week and it will be placed on the transcript as a "W" (no grade, no credit, no effect on grade point). A student may drop a class in the 13th through the 17th week of class (from April 9 through May 26) with the grade on the transcript being determined by the student's grade at the drop point. A passing grade results in a "W" and a failing grade results in an "F".

Many of our students will be taking the February 10th ACT test and even more on April 14th and June 9th. Juniors should get at least one ACT taken this year, typically in April, or June.

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.