



Counselor's Newsletter

PCHS Guidance Department

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September, 2008

****Make-up English classes will begin Monday, September 8th and will continue on Monday nights from 3:30-6:00 at the Murphy Wall Extension. A sign-up sheet is available in guidance.***

SENIORS

- Seniors- You need to be filling out your college applications on line. Several early-bird deadlines are November 16th. Computers are available in the guidance department. Be sure to print off the transcript release portion of the application. Bring the release to guidance so that we can forward transcripts to the appropriate school.
- Hopefully, many of you have visited or have set up a visit to colleges. College visits are very important for the students but especially important for the parent. Plan to make those visits as soon as possible. **REND LAKE COLLEGE WILL HOST A COLLEGE FAIR ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD 6-8 P.M.** Students can visit with representatives from dozens of colleges. Students and parents will have an opportunity to discuss admissions requirements, majors, financial aid, etc.
- There will be a working meeting regarding financial aid for all senior parents on December 15TH at 6:30 p.m. in the PCHS auditorium. Come ready to fill out the FAFSA and local scholarship information. More details to follow as we get closer to the date. Continue to check the Guidance Newsletter on the PCHS website for monthly updates.
- Job Shadowing can also be set up in the Guidance office. Job Shadowing is important. It allows students to get a glimpse of what goes on during a typical day for a particular career. Job Shadowing days count as a college day.
- Students should be completing their RESUMES to attach to all scholarship applications. This prevents students from writing out the information on every application. Their personal essays are also very important.
- **All athletes** looking for athletic scholarships need to register with the NCAA on line at https://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/NCAA/student/index_student.html. Make sure you print off the transcript release and bring it to guidance. To receive any athletic scholarship money, you **MUST** be registered. PCHS NCAA Clearinghouse code is 9999. There is a \$50 fee. Register as soon as possible.
- U.S. Senate Youth Program applications are available in the guidance office. Two students will be chosen from each state to attend a conference in Washington D.C. from March 7-14, 2009. Visits to the Senate, House of Representatives, Supreme Court, and Pentagon are interspersed with time spent at various Smithsonian museums. The Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses for the week, including transportation, hotel, and meals.

JUNIORS AND SENIORS

- Students enrolled in an A.P. class will be **required** to take at least one A.P. exam at the end of the school year. If they are enrolled in more than one A.P. class, the student may choose which A.P. exam they will take. The cost for each exam is \$84 (last year). Exams are graded on a 1-5 scale. College credit can be given to those students that score a 3-5.

JUNIORS

- Keep in mind that juniors have been given permission to attend college presentations here on the PCHS campus. We recommend that students begin their college journey as soon as possible. Students that are interested in the pre-professional careers as well as allied health programs are wise to start their investigation of colleges as early as possible.
- **ACT testing is about to begin.** For this years juniors we strongly recommend that they take their first ACT test in February, 2009 (Deadline for application is January 6, 2009-the day after we get back from Christmas break). Registration packets are

available in guidance. Once you have picked up your packet, **fill out ONLY the front and the back pages of the registration folder and use the booklet inside the packet for code numbers of colleges and test sites. PCHS code is: 143-480.** PCHS will give the test April 22-23 along with the PSAE. This particular test date is the only determinant for Illinois State Scholars however; we recommend that juniors sample the test prior to the April 22nd test.

- Both the **ACT and the PSAE tests are free on April 22-23 here at PCHS.** A national ACT is also available on April 4, deadline: February 27, 2009, however, student scores will not be received before the April 22-23 test dates.
- We would like to remind you how important it is to take the ACT seriously. Pay particular attention to the testing dates as your college applications, transcript, and ACT scores will be through 6 semesters (your junior year).
- Students planning to attend Rend Lake College in the fall of '09 must take the ASSET test. If you scored a 21 in English AND a 22 in Math on the ACT you DON'T have to take the ASSET test. The ASSET must be completed prior to registration for RLC classes in the fall of '09. Please call Heather or Linda at RLC to schedule the test, 357-3742.

SOPHOMORES

- The HUGH O'BRIEN YOUTH LEADERSHIP (HOBY) organization is sponsoring an all-expense paid seminar in IL and also the opportunity to become eligible to attend the "World Leadership Congress" in Washington, D.C. During these seminars, 10th graders have the opportunity to interact with groups of distinguished leaders in business, government, education, and other professions to discuss present and future issues. **ALL SOPHOMORES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.** You will be judged by the designated selection committee on leadership ability, sensitivity to others, and desire to communicate your knowledge to your peers. An essay is required. Please submit your interest along with your essay to your counselor by November 10, 2008.

FRESHMEN

- Progress Reports for the first nine weeks will be mailed out the week of October 20th. Because PCHS uses semester grading periods these grades will not be on the student's transcript. They are used to help track student progress at the half-way point of the semester. Students will still have approximately 40 school days to maintain their current grades or, if failing, bring them up to passing. Although it is our goal for students to pass ALL classes it is especially important for them to focus on Math and English. The state now requires a student to pass 3 years of Math for high school graduation and PCHS requires 4 years of English. If a student fails these classes there is very little room for error and there is never a guarantee that a make-up class will be available off campus.
- **If your student is struggling in a specific class we would like to remind you that teachers are available beginning at 7:45 each morning. Also, NHS will offering tutoring the third week of school at 7:45 every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning in Ms. White's room (14).**

FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, & JUNIORS

- The Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) will be given the week of November 17th. The test is administered to all freshmen, sophomores, & juniors. To learn more about the tests you can visit their website at <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/itp/ited/index.htm>

Upcoming College Representative Visits @ PCHS

Students wishing to meet with a college rep **MUST** sign up in guidance prior to the meeting.

September 17, 2008	Southeast Missouri State (SEMO)	11:00 a.m.	Conference Room
September 17, 2008	McKendree College	9:00 a.m.	Conference Room
September 22, 2008	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville	11:10 a.m.	Conference Room
September 23, 2008	Quincy University	8:15 a.m.	Conference Room
September 24, 2008	Rend Lake College	11:00 a.m.	Cafeteria
September 25, 2008	University Missouri St. Louis (UMSL)	11:00 a.m.	Conference Room

September 30, 2008	Eastern Illinois University	11:00 a.m.	Conference Room
October 1, 2008	Southern Illinois University (SIUC)	11:00 a.m.	Conference Room
October 29, 2008	Blackburn	10:45	Conference Room

COLLEGE INFO:

Common Application: What is it? The Common Application is a not-for-profit organization that serves students and member institutions by providing an admission application-online and in print- that students may submit to any of their nearly 300 member schools. www.commonapp.org. This application allows you to fill out one application which may be duplicated and sent to several different colleges. Check the website to see if the school you are interested in uses The Common Application.

ILLINOIS COLLEGES:

Quincy University (Quincy, Illinois) will be hosting a number of Discovery Days this year. They are currently in the planning stages and dates have not been set however you can view all the details at <http://www.quincy.edu/Admissions/DiscoveryDays/>

University of Illinois-Springfield- will be offering several Preview Days. Preview Days are on the following Saturdays: October 18th, November 8th, January 24th, March 7th, and April 18th. For more information go to <http://www.uis.edu/admissions/preview.html>

Eastern Illinois University-Charleston, invites you to attend Open Houses on October 13th, November 10th. For additional information go to <http://www.eiu.edu/~admissns/openhs.php>

Eureka College (Eureka, Illinois) would like to invite you to one of several Open House dates: October 13th, November 8th, November 11th, and November 22nd. Also, during the second semester: January 24th, February 16th, and February 20th. For more information call 1-888-4-EUREKA or visit them on the web at www.eureka.edu

OUT OF STATE COLLEGES:

Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) - SEMO offers individual tours Monday-Saturday. They also offer an open house program called, The Show Me Days which will be held on October 4th, November 1st, February 21st, and March 28th.

University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri- will be hosting its annual Meet Mizzou Days on September 27th and November 1st. For more details go to <http://admissions.missouri.edu/visitus/specialEvents/mizzouDays.php>

University of Evansville (Indiana) will be hosting several open houses on September 6th, September 27th, October 18th, November 8th, and January 19th. For more information visit: www.evansville.edu/prospects/visitue

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

Many scholarships are available through PCHS- <http://www.pchspanthers.com/academics/scholarships.htm>. **However, from time to time other scholarship opportunities come available.**

Rend Lake College High Achiever scholarship- In order to qualify students must have an ACT composite score of 27 or higher. This scholarship includes all tuition, fees and books. Summers are also included.

Farm Bureau Tyler Smith Memorial Scholarship- Students must be majoring in an Ag related field. Applications are only available at the local farm bureau office. Deadline is early October.

Horatio Alger Scholarship is awarding \$2,500-20,000. This scholarship provides financial assistance to students throughout the nation who have financial need and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity. Students **must** apply on-line at www.horatioalger.org/scholarships

Wendy's High School Heisman- Must be a high school senior who has a GPA of 3.0 or higher and participates in at least one of the 32 sports officially sanctioned by the National Federation of State High Schools. Apply online at www.wendysheisman.com by 5:00 pm central time, on October 1, 2008.

The ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (IEG) is awarding seven \$1,250 scholarships to students whose parent(s) is an electric cooperative consumer/member. The applicant must be a senior who is planning to enroll full-time at an accredited two- or

four-year college or university anywhere in the United States. Other scholarships are also available for children of cooperative employees. Applications are available in the Guidance Office. Deadline is January 1, 2009.

The ILLINOIS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (ICF) will recognize a select few high school students in the state's prestigious Conservation YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP. The annual \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to ten (10) juniors and/or seniors who have made significant contributions or exhibited unparalleled dedication in preserving, promoting, enhancing or supporting natural resources in Illinois. Applications are available in the Guidance Office or visit www.ilcf.org. Deadline is December 1, 2008.

Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO)- Salutatorians, in addition to Valedictorians, may now qualify for the President's and Regent's Scholarships automatically with the required ACT/SAT scores. The guarantee deadline for all merit scholarships is December 15th. Scholarships of \$500-1,000 are now available to Marching Band students, with additional scholarships for all-state band members.

Lincolnland Legends is a program designed to engage Illinois students in honoring people who inspire and motivate them. Any junior or senior may nominate by essay someone for special recognition. Nominees must be still living and must have been born in, have lived in, or currently live in your congressional district in Illinois. The nominations should fall into the category of business and community leadership. Information is available from Mr. Herbst. \$3,000 scholarship, deadline December 1, 2008.

Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation- In order to apply students **MUST** apply online at www.coca-colascholars.org. The deadline is October 31st. Each year the foundation awards 250 scholarships ranging from \$10,000-\$20,000.

UPCOMING TESTS:

ACT (American College Testing Program). Registration forms are available in the PCHS Guidance Office. The ACT is the most frequently used test by Illinois colleges for admission and is even required in many cases. If you are a senior and have not taken the ACT we strongly recommend that you sign up for the test on October 27th. The last day for registration to avoid a late fee is Friday, September 21st. Pinckneyville's school code is 143-480.

Consumer Education Proficiency Test Consumer Education is a requirement for graduation. Any student in grades 11-12 wanting to test out of the class may register to take the proficiency test. The next test date is October 7, 2008. There is no fee for the test and students may register for the test in the guidance office. Sample questions are available at sign up. Students must sign up by January 25th.

Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) The ITED at PCHS is used in grades 9-11. From its beginning in 1942, the emphasis in the program has been on the use of ITED results for instructional purposes and to track student progress. **The ITED test dates for PCHS will be given the week of November 17th.**