

JUNIOR NEWS
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017
SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Welcome back! We look forward to your having an enjoyable and productive school year. The Junior News is for juniors and their parents and is available four times a year. Since there is a great deal of information about planning for after high school (career decisions, college or vocational school), it is felt that it would be best to communicate these important matters through a regular newsletter. Juniors should read the newsletter carefully.

(Important: Newsletters will be available to students in the guidance office and on the high school website. Announcements will be made when the next newsletter is available. Parents/guardians should obtain newsletters from their students.)

COURSE SELECTION DEADLINE: The add/drop period for elective courses has passed. The deadline for level adjustments, however, will be November 2nd, which is one week after the second parent-teacher conference.

DROPPING A COURSE BEYOND THE DEADLINE: A grade of “W” (withdrawn) will be entered on a student’s transcript when a course is dropped after the deadline, as outlined in the student handbook. This policy also outlines that a “W” for a course means no average or credit will be awarded.

PSAT/NMSQT: The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will be administered here at SBRHS on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 in the morning (during the school day). Students should report to school as usual, but be sure to bring with them two number 2 pencils and a calculator. Students may use a four-function, scientific or graphing calculator on specified math sections. (The PSAT informational bulletins were distributed to students via homeroom) Students will be dismissed to their classes directly after the test on that day. This year, all sophomores and juniors will be tested, so there will be no need for students to pre-register. The district will also be paying for the students to test, so there will no cost for students/families to take the test. Since most 4-year colleges require the SAT Reasoning Test for admissions purposes, it is highly beneficial to take the PSAT for practice and for exposure to the test. In addition, it is a good guidance tool for both the student and counselor as the scores are indicators of verbal and math strengths and/or weaknesses. The PSAT is a good measure of how you will perform on your first SAT Reasoning Test. The PSAT also qualifies juniors for participation in National Merit Scholarships.

SATs: The first opportunity that Juniors will have to take the SAT Reasoning Test here at SBRHS will be on Saturday, November 4, 2017. Other administration dates are December 2, 2017, March 10, 2018, May 5, 2018, and June 2, 2018. Visit www.collegeboard.org for surrounding test centers and to register. The SAT subject tests are also offered at each SAT administration. These subject tests are usually required or recommended by the selective four-year colleges, but please be sure to check if your potential colleges require you to take them so you can plan your testing schedule accordingly.

“My College Quick Start”: The College Board now provides a free, online tool for career, major, and college exploration called, “My College Quick Start”, which has proven to be valuable to thousands of students. It is highly recommended for students to use this resource, which can be accessed by logging onto www.collegeboard.com.

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS: Each junior will have an individual appointment with their guidance counselor. These interviews should begin in February. The purpose of the meeting is to assist the student in career exploration and plans for after high school. Students’ academic background, interests, skills and abilities will be discussed. If for any reason you have a need to see your assigned guidance counselor prior to your interview, please feel free to stop by the guidance office and make an appointment.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT: The annual financial aid workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the SBRHS Performing Arts Center/auditorium. There will be a presenter from the Massachusetts Education Finance Authority (MEFA) that evening. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student

Aid) along with the Financial Aid Profile will be reviewed. In addition, the financial aid process will be discussed in detail.

Although thoughts of financial aid in relation to college and vocational school costs are a year away, it is never too early to become acquainted with the financial aid assistance programs that are available. It may be helpful for juniors and their parents to gain some insight into what lies ahead for them. Juniors and their parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend any financial aid information sessions that they see advertised.

SOMERSET-CASE ANNUAL COLLEGE NIGHT: “College Night” will be held at Joseph Case High School on Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please note that not only will two-year and four-year colleges be represented but also one and two-year technical and vocational schools, as well. A list of schools attending will be posted outside the guidance office the week before College Night. This night affords both students and their parents the opportunity to speak directly with college admissions representatives concerning programs of study, costs and financial aid, facilities and admissions requirements at their respective institutions.

NAVIANCE: This interactive tool can help students with career exploration, the college search process, and ultimately, submitting transcripts and recommendations to colleges. All students were provided access codes and asked to create accounts. Students may see their guidance counselors for assistance with logging in and using their Naviance accounts. Naviance also offers an SAT prep function entitled, “Test Prep”, that is highly recommended.

MCAS RETESTING: Any student who has not taken the appropriate MCAS testing will be notified. Please feel free to see your guidance counselor with any questions regarding the MCAS tests and/or scores.

HOMEWORK CLUB REMINDER: Academic support is available in the library after school Monday through Thursday, 2:15-3:45. (Monday-English, Tuesday-Math, Wednesday-Social Studies, Thursday-Science.) **There is now a late bus available for Berkley students!! ☺**

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