

JUNIOR NEWS

December 2016

Somerset Berkley Regional High School Guidance Department

Counselors will begin meeting with junior students for junior interviews, beginning in February and will run through the end of the school year. The counselors will schedule these interviews on an individual basis during the students' study periods during the school day. The purpose of these junior meetings is to focus on the student's future vocational and educational plans after high school graduation. The following timetable relates to the schedule juniors should be adhering to with reference to their career planning.

JANUARY 2017– AUGUST 2017

- Examine educational opportunities available to you and discuss your plans with your parents/guardians.
- Investigate career choices and decide on career direction.
- Study college admissions requirements and select appropriate courses to meet them. Senior year courses are important to colleges and to your future!
- Begin school search by writing for individual school catalogs. If possible, visit schools and visit websites for colleges as well.
- Attend local college fairs to examine a wide variety of schools.
- Check with guidance about resources available for your career and college exploration.
- SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests and ACT are offered in spring 2017. (Somerset Berkley Regional High School will offer SAT testing in May of 2017.)
- Consider an ACT or SAT preparation workshop.

SEPTEMBER 2017 – OCTOBER 2017

- Senior guidance workshops held in September.
- Evening parent workshop held in September.
- Individual senior interviews will begin.
- Continue school search and school visits.
- Narrow down school choices.
- If applying for early acceptance, application packages must be completed and filed, beginning in October.
- Remain aware of all deadlines, allow time to gather all needed materials.

- * Seek out individuals to write recommendations if they are required.
- SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests and ACT tests are offered in October at area high schools.

NOVEMBER 2017

- Obtain school applications for regular admission process.
- Begin to fill out applications and write rough drafts of essay(s).
- Consider preparing a resume to highlight employment and out of school activities.
- SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests are offered in November at Somerset Berkley Regional High School.

DECEMBER 2017– JANUARY 2018

- SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests and ACT are offered in December at area high schools.
- Financial aid workshops are scheduled around this time of year.
- Submit applications on-line via individual college websites or via www.commonapp.org.

COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHT FOR FAMILIES OF JUNIORS

There will be a college planning night for juniors and their families here at the high school auditorium in **March** of 2017. (Details to follow.) This informative night entitled, **“A Road Map to College Planning”** will address the college planning process and will provide information on what to expect in the months ahead and how to plan accordingly. All upcoming seniors and their parents are highly encouraged to attend.

PSATs

Students who took PSATs in October should receive their test results towards the end of December. Please check them carefully. If you feel a particular weakness in a particular section of the test, you should talk with your counselor about ways you may be able to improve your scores. Bristol Community College and Bridgewater State College have SAT workshops that may be beneficial to you, as well as “A Great Place to Learn” in Swansea, MA. Students may also purchase software programs for SAT preparation as

well as make use of available online courses. Naviance, for example, includes a free program entitled, “Prep Me/Naviance Test Prep”, which has been very beneficial to our students. You should also be aware that all high school students who took the 2016 PSAT/NMSQT will receive access to “My College Quickstart”, without charge. This personalized planning kit includes a variety of information such as an SAT study guide, personalized lists of colleges and majors. Information on accessing the software program will be included with your score report.

SAT REASONING TEST

Juniors planning on applying to four year colleges after high school should be aware that these schools require scores on an admission test called the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT Reasoning Test). Even those who may not be considering college are encouraged to take these tests as you may change your mind. It is recommended that all students plan to take the SAT Reasoning Test once during their junior year. The SAT Reasoning Tests and SAT Subject Tests are offered in January, March, May and June. Students will also have the opportunity to take the test in the fall of their senior year.

Somerset Berkley Regional High School will be administering the SAT Reasoning Test on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Registration deadline for this test is April 7, 2017.

ACTs

The ACT (American College Test) is an alternative test that is available to prospective college applicants. The SAT is a projective test, which attempts to predict potential for academic success in college, whereas the ACT is a more knowledge-based instrument measuring what you actually know. If you have questions or would like further information about this test, please talk with your guidance counselor.

The ACT will be offered on February 11, 2017 (registration deadline January 13th), April 8, 2016 (registration deadline March 3rd), and June 10, 2017 (registration deadline May 5th) at select local high schools. Somerset Berkley Regional High School is not a test site for the ACT. Additional testing dates will be available in the fall of 2017. Register for the ACT via www.actstudent.org.

MCAS RETESTING/APPEALS

Retest opportunities in 2017 for the MCAS test will be available on February 6th and 7th for Science, on March, 1st, 2nd and 3rd for ELA, and then on March 6th and 7th for Math.

To be eligible for an appeal a student must have taken the grade 10 test three times in the subject being appealed, earn a scaled score of 216 or higher at least once, maintain at least a 95% attendance level and participate in tutoring and academic support made available by the school. **Please see page 127 of the student handbook for additional information.**

DISCOVER CARD TRIBUTE AWARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This scholarship program is available to **high school juniors** who have a minimum 2.75 grade point average for their 9th and 10th grades, have demonstrated accomplishments in leadership and community service and have faced a significant roadblock or challenge. Up to ten national scholarships of \$25,000 each and up to 300 state scholarships of \$2,500 each are given out each year. More information can be accessed at www.discovercard.com/tribute.htm.

2016 CHRISTIAN A. HERTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Juniors and sophomores who display strong academic promise but whose socio-economic background and/or environmental conditions may inhibit their ability to attain a post-secondary education/degree may apply for this scholarship (awarded for a max of four years). Interested students should see their guidance counselor for the application, as there is a nomination process within the school, as well. The deadline to see your counselor will be **February 5th**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

Juniors are reminded that they are required to complete **20** hours of community service over the course of the four years in order to graduate from Somerset Berkley Regional High School. Community service projects provide students with opportunities to engage in active learning while developing good citizenship. Through volunteerism, students will explore aspects of civic engagement, foster and create sustaining, healthy communities, as well as explore their identity in relation to the greater community. Students must have documentation of their service, including a description of the activity, and a signature from the overseeing supervisor. Please come to the guidance office regarding specific questions or for service opportunities.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **Mid-term of Quarter 2 is on Friday, December 16, 2016.**
- **Quarter 2 ends on Thursday, January 26, 2017.**

The
guidance
staff would like
to wish all our students
and their families a happy and
safe holiday season.