

September 12, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians of 11th Grade Students:

Often times we hear parents expressing concern about how to best prepare their son or daughter to further their education after high school. Whether it is preparing for a standardized test (ACT), selecting a college, or exploring careers, it is easy to become overwhelmed by the process. Like you, our goal is to help your son/daughter reach their full potential.

Please mark your calendars with the following important happenings that will occur during your son/daughters junior year:

- **ACT:** Any college-bound student that plans on attending a 4 year institution is advised to take the ACT twice in the second semester of his/her junior year of high school. It is critically important that your child be exposed to the material that is introduced in the fall of the 11th grade year in order to maximize his/her test scores. Students can register for the ACT at www.actstudent.org. In preparation for the ACT, please encourage your son/daughter to pick up an ACT practice booklet from the Guidance Office, and/or visit www.actstudent.org or www.studentedge.com for free online practice tests.
- **State-Funded ACT or SAT:** New this year, districts in the state of Ohio must administer a state-funded college admission test to Juniors in the Spring of 2017 as one of three diploma options. At Margareta, we will be administering the ACT on **March 21, 2017** during the school day free of charge to all Juniors. If a student is unable to make it to school that day, make up tests will be given **April 19, 2017** and **May 3, 2017**.
- **PSAT:** The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude/National Merit Scholarship Qualification Test) will be given to college bound juniors on **Wednesday, October 19th, 2016** at Margareta High School. Students may find the experience and the information very useful in planning for future education. It also allows you to compete for the National Merit Scholarship. There is a \$15 fee for student's to take this test. If a student wants to sign up for this test, they can do so in the Guidance office. Students may also obtain an informative student guide regarding the test.
- **Career and Campus Visit Day at BGSU/Firelands:** This event will be held on **September 24, 2016** 9am -11am. The purpose of this event is to assist students in choosing a college, an academic major and/or a career. There will be informational sessions about college coursework and career paths. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 419-372-0607. If students plan on participating in this event it is important that they register. To register for this event go to www.fireland.bgsu.edu and go to the Career and Campus Visit Day link.
- **College Fair of Sandusky County:** This event will be held at Terra State Community College on **October 3, 2016** from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Approximately 70 college representatives will be there, along with representatives from the NCAA & ACT. A financial aid workshop will also be offered. For additional information, please contact Admissions and Academic Advising at admissions@terra.edu or 419-559-2349.
- **Terra Exploration Day:** This event will be held on **November 7, 2016** from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This event is offered during the school day, thus we will be taking all Juniors to this event. During this event, students will be able to participate in interactive demonstrations on Allied Health, Computer Science, Digital Arts & Media Design, Hospitality Management, Music, and Skilled Trades. Permission slips for students to attend this event will be sent home with students in late October.
- **Health Professionals To Be Program:** This is a program that is offered to Junior students that are interested in Medical Health Professions. Through this program, students are taken on two field trips. One trip goes to Firelands Regional Medical Center and students are given the opportunity to meet with medical professionals and listen to informative presentations on several different medical professions, and the second field goes to The Medical College of Ohio for an in depth tour of the campus. Any students that are interested in signing up for this opportunity should see me in the Guidance Office.
- **Ohio Means Jobs:** Ohio Means Jobs is an internet-based system of occupational, post secondary education, and financial aid information. It contains the latest national, Ohio, and local labor market information and projections. It is designed to support academic/career exploration, planning, and decision-making using inventory assessments with the support of filter and sorting utilities. For more information go to the following Ohio Means Jobs website: <http://ohiomeansjobs.com>.
Step 1. Click on the green "Get started" tab (located on the left-hand side of the screen) to create an account (a "backpack"). You will choose a personalized user name and password.
Step 2. Click on "Career Profile," located under the "Explore it" tab (top of screen) and complete.
Step 3. Review your results....The results will be organized in career clusters based on your interests. Each cluster will contain a plethora of careers that you can learn more about including wages, preparation, working conditions, and job outlook.

I understand that preparing for college and career can seem overwhelming to your student. It is my goal to assist your child throughout the college planning process. Please feel free to contact me at 419-684-5351 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Heather Lott