

Dedham High School

Guidance Newsletter

January 2012

Who We Are

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Who is Your Counselor?

Seniors

Mr. Wolfson: A-F
Ms. Andrew: G-Me
Ms. McGrann: Mf-Z

Juniors

Mr. Wolfson: A-Gr
Ms. Andrew: Gs-Na
Ms. McGrann: Nb-Z

Sophomores

Mr. Wolfson: A-K
Dr. McCormick: L-Z

Freshmen

Ms. Andrew: Crimson
Ms. McGrann: Gray

Grade Level Briefs

Seniors – It's not too late to apply to college! Many colleges have February and March deadlines. In addition, other schools have a rolling admissions policy, meaning students can apply as long as there are still spaces available. Deadlines can be found on Naviance. If you have not already done so, February vacation is a great time to visit college campuses in order to see what college life is really like.

FAFSA forms are now available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm. Colleges/Universities prefer this form be completed by February 1st; however, the final application deadline is May 1st by midnight. If you would like free assistance with the financial aid process, you can contact the TERI Center, located at 35 Harvard Avenue, Hyde Park, Massachusetts. For more information you can call 1-877-332-4348 or visit www.tericollegeaccess.org.

The CSS Profile is another financial aid application that some private colleges and universities **require in addition** to the FAFSA. The website is www.profileonline.collegeboard.com. Students can find a list of colleges/universities that require the profile at this site.

Reminder - Documentation of 40 hours of Community Service is required for graduation! If you need help finding places to do community service, please see your counselor for suggestions.

Juniors - Junior seminars include an introduction to researching colleges and other post secondary planning through Naviance. SAT tests, college essays, letters of recommendations and college tours are discussed. Counselors will also share opportunities for internships and enrichment courses through The Education Cooperative and TeenLife organizations. A packet of helpful information will be given to students. Students have an opportunity to ask the counselors questions about colleges, financial aid, scholarships, and other related topics. We stress the importance of staying on top of this process throughout junior year.

The seminars are followed by parent meetings with their junior students. Every parent will be scheduled for a meeting if they have not already come in to meet with their counselor about post secondary planning. The meetings take about 45 minutes and provide an opportunity for parents and students to share ideas and ask questions about the process.

The juniors have received PSAT results and should be using the "My College Quickstart" online tutorial on www.college-board.com or a practice course such as Kaplan (1-800-KAPTEST) for review before the SAT.

Students who have performed very well on MCAS

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Important Dates

Events

2/1 - AFL-CIO Exam
2/3 - T2 Report Cards
2/13 - Post Secondary Planning Night (see enclosed flyer)
3/29 - Career Fair
4/13 - T3 Report Cards

Upcoming MCAS Dates

2/1-2/2	Bio Retest
3/1-3/2	ELA Retest
3/5-3/7	Math Retest
3/20-3/22	ELA 10th Gr.
5/15-5/16	Math 10th Gr.
6/5-6/6	Sci/Tech 9 & 10

Upcoming SAT Reasoning (SAT I) and Subject Test (SAT II) Dates

Test Date	Register by	Late Registration
Mar 10	Feb 10	Feb 24
May 5	Apr 6	Apr 20
June 2	May 8	May 22

Upcoming ACT Dates

Test Date	Register by	Late Registration
Apr 14	Mar 9	Mar 23
June 9	May 4	May 18

Congratulations!

Jacqui Flood and John Rocha will represent DHS at this year's HOBY Forum, Christina Palioglou is DHS's rep to the MassSTAR program, and Megan Corrado, Rachel Kana and Ronald Pucci will attend the MassSTART program!



College Night

Please join us for an evening to discuss the college application process. The event is being held on Monday, February 13th at DHS and students and parents of all grades are welcome to come. College admissions representatives and guidance counselors will present on various admissions topics and answer your individual questions. Please see the attached flyer for more details. It will be a valuable and informative opportunity for everyone present!

SAT Subject Tests

9th, 10th, and 11th grade students should consider taking SAT Subject Tests this spring. Some colleges recommend and others require scores from these exams. Subject Test registration deadlines are identical to the SAT dates listed in the front of this bulletin. For information on specific Subject Tests and additional test dates, visit www.collegeboard.com.

Fee Waivers

Students who receive free/reduced lunch are eligible to receive fee waivers for SAT tests, SAT prep courses, ACT tests and college applications. See guidance for more information.

Local Scholarship Application

Seniors: visit www.dedham.k12.ma.us/dhs/guidance for a local scholarship application. An assembly to review the application process will be held in mid-March. Applications are due by April 12th.

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tests will receive information about the Stanley Koplik Scholarship. Please speak to a guidance counselor if you have questions.

After February vacation, students can look forward to course selection for next year. Counselors will encourage students to challenge themselves and will review each student's AP potential as identified from PSAT results.

Sophomores - On March 29th, all sophomores will participate in the second annual Dedham High School Career Fair. Over forty professionals in a variety of fields will speak to students and answer their questions at individual booths. It will be a fantastic opportunity for students to understand what it takes to enter different careers, and learn about jobs they have never considered before. To help prepare students for the Career Fair, Mr. Wolfson and Dr. McCormick will be conducting career exploration seminars for all sophomores during the first two weeks of February. At these seminars, students will discover their "Personality Profile" through a comprehensive activity in Naviance and see how different careers match to their unique skills and interests. Students will also identify what types of college majors can prepare them for specific careers. The results of their exploration during these seminars can be saved to their personal Naviance accounts to be reviewed in the future. Opportunities for internships and enrichment courses through The Education Cooperative and TeenLife organization will be also be shared during these seminars.

Beginning in March, Sophomores will be taking the MCAS test. Dates of all exams are on the front of this bulletin. Sophomores who took and passed the Biology MCAS as freshmen are not required to retake the exam.

All sophomores recently received their PSAT scores and learned how to understand the score report. Additional resources for understanding the scores and how they relate to the SAT can be found on the Guidance Webpage at www.dedham.k12.ma.us/dhs/guidance/admissions/psat.html. Students also have access to My College Quickstart, an interactive PSAT and SAT prep resource. Students can review their PSAT and see explanations of every answer on their test. PSAT scores can also be used to identify Advanced Placement potential. Students will receive their personal "AP Potential" report from their guidance counselor.

Freshmen - Freshmen seminars introduce students to Naviance. Naviance is a computer program that students use throughout high school to aid in career and college searching. The focus will be to give freshmen their log in information, and to have students use the resume feature so they may begin to keep track of their activities, awards and community service.

Freshmen teams continue to have common planning time available for parents who would like to meet with all the core academic teachers, guidance counselor and assistant principal. Please contact either Mrs. McGrann (Gray) or Mrs. Andrew (Crimson) if you would like to schedule a team meeting. As always, please feel free to email the teachers or guidance counselor with any questions or concerns.

Course selection for next year will be beginning after February vacation. The Course Directory will be available on our website. Teachers will be recommending students for courses in subject areas based on performance so far this year. Students will then meet with counselors in groups to select their courses.

All Freshmen will be taking the Biology MCAS in June. Freshmen taking Honors Biology should also consider taking the Biology SAT Subject Test in June.

"Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day"

The Dedham Public Schools will host "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" at the Avery School on March 14th. Run in partnership with Nitsch Engineering, Inc., a Boston-based engineering firm, 100 middle and high school females will participate in this fantastic program that exposes the students to incredible opportunities in the world of Engineering.

Started by the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, and IBM in 2001, "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" aims to increase interest in math and science among girls. Now organized by the National Engineers Week Foundation (<http://www.eweek.org>), Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day has become a global event, reaching over one million young women each year. Participation is considered an excused absence.