

## **HIGHLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL-12760 TROXLER AVENUE-HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS 62249

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BUSINESS MANAGER

Dear Parents of Sophomores,

The counselors at Highland High School look forward to working with your child this coming year. We want to take this opportunity to inform parents of the counseling activities planned for the Class of 2012 this year.

**College/Career Planning.** The fall regional College Fair will be held at SIUE, October 20, 2009, 6-8 p.m. A Financial Aid Night sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is November 18, 2009 (tentative) at 6:30 p.m. A follow-up session on FAFSA completion will be January 13, 2010 (tentative) at 6:30 p.m. In addition, students (and parents) are encouraged to use the Career Center located in the Guidance Department. Resources, computerized **Career Cruising career interest survey**, and internet access are available. A full listing of materials available for checkout from the Career Center can be found at the district web site under "Visit Our Libraries". Go to the high school library link and check out the Alexandria Card Catalog or visit the Career Center. The four year academic plans introduced in eighth grade will be updated during the Pathways course. During this class, information about high school and career planning will be presented. **Sophomores should be thinking about their interests and abilities and how these characteristics can be matched to possible careers.** These sessions are designed to aid students in the career exploration process. This can be done by accessing [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) (Username: *highland* password: *high*).

**PLAN Test** will tentatively be given to sophomores on October 22 and has two important parts. One part is the practice ACT test. This is for your child's and HHS' information only. The second part is an interest inventory, which indicates the careers that would be of greatest interest to your child. **All sophomores will take the PLAN test.** Teachers will utilize test results in the core subject areas.

**PSAT/NMSQT.** This test is for juniors. In the case of sophomores, it is a practice test for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test to be administered the junior year. Generally, the top 10% and those in honors classes may want to take this test for practice during the sophomore year. The test will be given at HHS the morning of Wednesday, October 14. The cost of the PSAT/NMSQT is \$16.00. Students may sign up in September to take this test. Registration deadline is September 22.

**Parent Sessions.** School counselors know how important it is to communicate with parents concerning guidance activities and our role in working with your child. On September 23, 2009 from 6:30 -8:00 p.m. counselors will present on the college admissions process. A parent panel will share personal experiences and provide tips to help parents navigate successfully through the process. Sophomore parents are invited to attend.

**Registration for Next Year.** At the beginning of the second semester between January and March, counselors will come into math classes to help students understand the registration process as well as distribute curriculum and planning materials to sophomores to bring home and discuss with their parents. The 2010-11 schedule will be built from students' requests. Therefore, it is critical that your student's requests be accurate. Your signature is required on all registration and scheduling forms. This is a great time to evaluate and update your student's four year plan.

We encourage your child to see counselors anytime during the year for help with a particular situation or for information relating to school and careers. Parents are invited to call the counselor with questions or concerns. Valuable resource information is available at Counselor Corner on the HHS web site [www.highlandcusd5.org/hhs](http://www.highlandcusd5.org/hhs). Our aim is to assist your child in obtaining the best education possible in high school and in becoming well prepared for what they will be doing after high school. It is important to remember: **The goal of students during the sophomore year should be to do well academically and to begin thinking about possible careers and their educational requirements.**

We look forward to working with you and your child. Best wishes for a successful school year.

Sincerely,

HHS School Counselors (654-7131)

Mrs. Barb Heyen, Director of Guidance, Special Education Counselor

Mr. Michael Wartick, Class of 2010 and 2013 Counselor

Mrs. Staci Brown, Class of 2011 and 2012 Counselor