

Patriot Guidance Newsletter

Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed. (Proverbs 16:3)

Mrs. Diane Jones, Middle & High School Counselor

August 2016

Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year

Welcome back to another school year! I'm so glad you are here. **ACA Counselor's Connection** is on Facebook. Please visit the page to see important information about colleges, financial aid, scholarship, and leadership opportunities, etc. I plan to share important information throughout the year on Ren Web. Check Ren Web weekly or daily.

Counselor Introduction

Visits to middle school will be happening soon. Middle school is a special time of life full of excitement and challenges. My office is located on the second floor. Please let me know how I can help you this year.

Credits & Grade Point Average

Do you have enough credits to graduate? Visits to 9th grade bible classes will include a discussion about earning credits and how important it is to maintain a high GPA.

Resume Starter

ACA students are doing a lot of extra-curricular and leadership activities. We'll begin keeping track of all the wonderful activities by building a resume.

PSAT 8th Test Interpretation

We received PSAT results for 8th graders near the end of the year. I will be going over test results with 9th grade students soon.

Test Prep

Visit <https://www.khanacademy.org/>, <http://www.allpencilsdown.com/>, or <http://www.sylvanlearning.com/> for ACT prep. Khan Academy is a great site for help with math and science.

ACT Test Dates

September 10 (Registration deadline Aug. 5)
October 22 (Registration deadline Sept. 16)
December 10 (Registration deadline Nov. 4)
February 11 (Registration deadline Jan. 13)
April 8 (Registration deadline Mar. 3)
June 10 (Registration deadline May 5)

CEEB/High School Code is 012679

PSAT/NMSQT (October 19)

The deadline to register is Wednesday, Sept. 21st. The cost is \$21. Location of test site will be announced soon. Students in grades 9th-11th grade are encouraged to take this test. Sign up early to receive your guide to taking the PSAT and a full length practice test.

ACT Writing Test (October 27 & 28)

The test will be given to all 11th & 12th grade students. No cost to students.

PSAT 8th (January 21)

The PSAT will be given to all 8th graders. The test establishes a baseline measurement of your college and career readiness.

ASVAB (February 17)

Students 16 years of age, or older, can take the ASVAB. Deadline to sign up for the test is Friday, February 3. Please visit <https://official-asvab.com/> to learn more about the test. The test will last for three hours and can assist you with identifying career options and college majors.

Terra Nova (April 3-6)

The Terra Nova tests will be administered to 1st-9th grade students. More information about this test will be on Ren Web soon.

AP Exams

Cost & LOCATION TBA

(April 29) AP Studio Art
 (May 4) English Lit. & Comp.
 (May 5) Calculus AB
 May 6) US History
 (May 10) US Gov't. & Politics
 (May 11) English Lang. & Comp.

College Fair

All 11th & 12th graders will attend the college fair at Shelton State on **Wednesday, September 21**. Field-trip forms will be going home early September.

College Representative Visits

Many college representatives will come to visit you throughout the school year. They will be located in the foyer by the library during your lunch period. We will notify you by morning announcements when other representatives are scheduled to visit. **University of Alabama Representative** will be visiting us on **Monday, September 12** during your lunch period.

College Application Process

I will visit 11th & 12th grade in September, October & November to discuss the college application process, transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc. Seniors will receive their Senior Calendar/Timeline to complete tasks. Visit www.bigfuture.org to start learning about the college application process.

Letters of Recommendation

Request letters at least two weeks before deadlines. Give your teacher or counselor a copy of your resume.

Transcripts

11th & 12th Graders will be given Parchment registration codes. Please consider this fast and easy method to order transcripts. Parchment will charge a small fee. Information about parchment will go out on Ren Web soon or you can visit ACA Counselor's Connection on Facebook to learn more about it.

NCAA

Are you ready to play college-level sports? Register at www.eligibilitycenter.org

Financial Aid Workshop

A representative from a local college will discuss the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Date, time, and location will be announced soon. Please visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> to complete the FAFSA.

Scholarships

Scholarship information is received throughout the school year in the guidance office. I will send out information on Ren Web. Students are advised to apply for monies through the financial aid office of their prospective institution.

Scholarship websites

Zinch.com
 Fastweb.com
 ScholarshipPoints.com
 Cappex.com
 Scholarships.com
 CollegeBoard.com
 CollegeNet.com
 ScholarshipMonkey.com
 SallieMae.com

Diploma Order & Graduation

Seniors will indicate diploma type and confirm spelling of name on diplomas in November. Graduation date is **Sunday, May 21**.