

**MOBERLY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT PARENT NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER, 2009**

This newsletter is the first of three we hope to mail to each family during the academic year. We would like to start off by introducing ourselves and encouraging you to contact us if you need any assistance. Mrs. Kellie Austene will counsel the even year graduates. Mrs. Barron is the counselor for the odd year graduates. For those freshmen parents who might not know, your child keeps the same counselor all four years. The other member of the guidance department is Mrs. Bobbie Pollock who is the school's registrar as well as guidance secretary. She is the person to contact for mailing of transcripts and for setting up appointments with teachers and/or counselors.

CALENDAR DATES

The following is a list of upcoming dates through the month of November.

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 7 - No School
- Sept. 12 - ACT Test
- Sept. 16 - Dual Credit enrollment – MACC in IMC 9:00am.
- Sept. 23 - Recognition of Top 5% of 10th, 11th, 12th grade classes

OCTOBER

- Oct. 2 - Homecoming – Early Release
- Oct. 5 - College Fair at Hearn Center – Parents welcome – 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Oct. 7 - Junior and Senior Parent Workshops regarding getting ready for college, 5:30 p.m., IMC.
- Oct. 7 - PLAN test Period 1-4, for sophomores – district will pay for
- Oct. 12 - No school – Professional Development
- Oct. 14 - PSAT/NMSQT test normally for 11th grade (10th grade may also contact Mrs. Austene to take for practice).
First come/first served.
- Oct. 27 - ASVAB test for 10th-12th grade volunteer students – sign up in the Guidance Office
- Oct. 29 - Parent Teacher Conference (2:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m.)
- Oct. 30 - Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00 to noon.
- Oct. 30 - No School

NOVEMBER

- Nov.25-27 - No School for Thanksgiving Vacation

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Progress Reports for the year: Parents – we invite you to call at these times to check on your students' grades.

| <u>Progress Check</u> (D/F letters mailed) | <u>End of Term</u> | <u>Grades sent home with students</u> |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Sept 10 | Sept 30 | Oct. 2 |
| Oct. 21 | Nov 10 | Nov. 13 |
| Dec 3 | Dec 18 | Jan. 7 |
| | End of 1st semester | |
| Jan 26 | Feb 19 | Feb 23 |
| March 11 | April 9 | April 13 |
| May 3 | May 24 | Mailed home in June with audit letter |

Please note that our grades are a constant progress report and the semester grade is based on an accumulation of the entire semester. There will be no averaging of terms. Please call 269-2663 if you have any questions.

TESTS

The following is an explanation and clarification of some of the tests that will be administered to all or part of the student body this fall.

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A.C.T. - (American College Testing) is required for admission to most mid-west colleges. Since students should begin applying to colleges early their senior year, students are encouraged to take the ACT by April of their junior year, or in April of their 10th grade year if planning to take dual credit classes their 11th grade year.

| Test Date | Registration Deadline |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Sept. 12 | Aug. 7 |
| Oct. 24 | Sept. 18 |
| Dec. 12 | Nov. 6 |
| Feb. 6 | Jan. 5 (not in Moberly) |
| April 10 | Feb. 5 |
| June 12 | May 7 (not in Moberly) |

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SAT. This is another college admission test that can be taken in place of the ACT. This test is given in Columbia, but students may register through their counselor. Students should see their counselor, if they are going to a college out of state to determine which test to take.

| Test Date | Registration Deadline |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Oct 10 | Sept 9 |
| Nov 7 | Oct 1 |
| Dec. 5 | Oct. 30 |
| Jan 23 | Dec. 15 |
| Mar 13 | Feb 4 |
| May 1 | Mar 25 |
| June 5 | Apr. 29 |

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PSAT/NMSQT – (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) This is a voluntary test offered to juniors (and sophomores upon request). It’s a multiple-choice test that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities important for success in college. The test functions as a practice for SAT, reduction of college entrance test anxiety, competition for scholarships, signal to colleges to mail out recruitment information, and feed back about skills needed for college success. Juniors whose parents work for Norfolk Southern, Union Electric, Oscar Meyer Foods (Columbia Foods) or Bridgeport, Firestone need to take this test to be eligible for those scholarships. Many other national and college scholarships are tied to a good PSAT score. Juniors should see their counselor or their “connections” teacher to sign up for the test. Sophomores who wish to pay to take the test to help relieve test anxiety for the “real” thing as juniors need to see their counselor. Students should plan to bring calculators.

**Sophomores will all take the PLAN test as a district assessment. The ASVAB is a voluntary sign up for 10 – 12 grade students.*

***PLAN** - This is administered to sophomores to prepare them for the ACT Test. The PLAN includes tests in English, math, reading, and science reasoning, an assessment of their study skills to learn more effective study methods, an interest inventory giving clues to kinds of occupations they might like, and questions about their plans, goals, and needs. It helps them build future plans regarding: appropriate high school coursework, career options, study skills development, post-secondary options, and preparation for the ACT college admissions test.

***ASVAB** – (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test Battery) This test is administered to 10-12th grade students. This is by sign up only through the guidance office. At the 10th grade level it is for career exploration purposes only. Anyone taking it at the junior/senior level is typically gearing toward a branch of the Armed Forces, however, it is an excellent tool for career exploration in general.

TEST PREPARATION PROGRAM

Little Dixie Library has free “on-line” practice tests that are true previews of the official exams. Anyone that has a library card may access these on-line tests at their homes. Tests include Advanced Placement tests for Calculus and U.S. History, Civil Service Exam, ACT, SAT, ASVAB (Armed Services Voc. Aptitude Battery), GED tests, as well as tests for fire fighters, Graduate School entrance (GRE, GMAT), Law Enforcement, Real Estate, Basic Skills Improvement (writing, basic math, reading comprehension, vocabulary and spelling), Teacher certification, U.S. Citizenship, and Technical and Career College tests. Instant scoring is available. To access “Learning Express Library”, visit your local librarian at Little Dixie Library for information about how to access this at home.

Another website for test preparation is “4tests.com”. This site provides practice/tutorial tests on ACT, PSAT, SAT, GED, etc.

PREPARING JUNIORS FOR POST-SECONDARY TRAINING

WHAT CAN JUNIORS DO TO PREPARE FOR POST-SECONDARY TRAINING

Although most scholarship opportunities do not become available until the senior year, there are a number of things that juniors can be doing to be prepared for their senior year. During October Mrs. Barron will be doing classroom presentations on preparing for after high

school. All juniors will receive information on such topics as: choosing post-secondary training, scholarships, etc. There will be a parent workshop dealing with preparing for post-secondary education.

**SENIOR SMALL GROUPS AND PARENT WORKSHOP
ON "GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE"**

Mrs. Austene will be meeting with all seniors in small groups during Sept., so that information on financial aid, lists of scholarships, college interview, applications, a college planning manual, etc., can be distributed to every senior. She will also cover all the materials available to the student in the counseling center. The seniors are asked to take this information home to share with parents. There will be an evening session for parents.

Special Note to Senior Parents

Senior parents should be encouraging their children to read the weekly bulletin. All scholarship information received through the counseling department is announced in the bulletin and on the Guidance Blog accessed through the school webpage. Go to "Buildings" "High School" "Guidance" to see the blog.

Mrs. Austene will also be e-mailing parents through the parent portal regarding important senior information. Students will receive these e-mails through their school accounts as well. Please call Mrs. Austene if you would like to be on the parent portal, or email her at kaustene@moberly.k12.mo.us.

If your child is planning to participate in Division I or II sports, make sure they go to NCAA.org to determine if the student is eligible to participate in college sports. Eligibility requirements are discussed each year with all students, and is located in the course offering booklet that the students receive each year.

"Missouri Connections", previously known as "Kuder", is available on-line for students and parents to use. It has a wealth of information dealing with careers and post-secondary education. Students can take an Interest Inventory, Aptitude Test and Values Inventory. To access these, you must type in batch codes. Go to www.missouriconnections.org. First time users register, once registered batch codes for Interest Inventory: I942376GJD, Aptitude or Skills: S942382ZVK, and Values: V942378 FYV. See what occupations are available or start researching colleges!

COLLEGE FAIR

This year., Moberly High School will be transporting Juniors and seniors to the Mid-Mo College Fair at the Hearnes Center in Columbia. This is an event we encourage juniors and seniors and their parents to attend. Over 100 colleges, technical schools, and military representatives will be at the Hearnes Center to offer information and answer questions. This is an opportunity to explore colleges in person without having to drive campus to campus. Freshman and sophomore parents are enthusiastically encouraged to attend, also, even though juniors and seniors are targeted.

DUAL CREDIT ENROLLMENT

Juniors and seniors who have at least an 2.5 gpa on 4.0 scale can enroll in dual credit. English and Math classes have certain requirements which must be met. For A.P. English, students must have at least an 16 English and Reading ACT score or score high enough on the COMPASS test which can be taken at MACC. To do PreCalculus dual credit, students must have a 22 math ACT score or score at the appropriate level on the COMPASS test. Students with a 25 on the Math portion of the ACT may elect to only take AP Calc for Dual Credit (and not pay for Pre-Calc Dual Credit).