



Pisgah High School Junior Newsletter

October 2009

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Juniors: Time to Take Care of Business

It is your junior year, and by now you can probably see the finish-line. You're closing in on college and you know it, so this is not the time to slow down. Take these next few months very seriously. It is extremely important to maintain good grades in your junior year! Study hard! This is the last full year of grades that most college admission officers will see before deciding if you can "make the grade". This is also the time to start the college planning process. Gathering more information now will make for a less stressful senior year for students and parents. College websites are a great way to find out about entrance requirements and programs.

We are very excited about working with you guys this year. Call your counselor anytime at 646-3440, or email your counselor (see below).

College
Foundation of North
Carolina
CFNC.org

College Foundation of North Carolina is a free website that helps you plan, apply, and pay for college. On the website you can create your own account and keep track of your test scores, grades, and future goals through a high school planner! CFNC offers information on specific colleges and how to apply for financial aid. This website is worth checking out: CFNC.org



To Do List for Junior Year...

- **Take the most rigorous courses PHS has to offer.**
- **Plan your spring testing schedule.**

If you are planning to attend a college or university, you need to begin taking your college placement tests during your junior year. You may want to check the top schools you are considering to see which test they prefer.

- The SAT is offered at Tuscola on October 10th, November 7th, and June 5th, 2010.
- The SAT is offered at **Pisgah** on May 1st, 2010.
- The ACT is offered at **Pisgah** on Oct. 24
- The ACT is offered at Tuscola on February 6th, 2010.

Pisgah students can take these tests at any location when offered.

- **Volunteer in your community.**
- **Visit colleges and universities and explore scholarship opportunities.**
- **Challenge yourself by making the honor roll.**
- **Join one or more clubs and be an active member.**
- **Assume roles of leadership.**
- **Participate in sports.**

It is your job to figure out the best way to "package" yourself so that you will be able to compete for the competitive colleges and scholarships!



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ATTENTION JUNIORS!

Occasionally we receive information on essay contests and similar activities that juniors are eligible for. Most of these carry substantial amounts of money in the form of scholarships. Here are the ones we currently have on file:

- John F. Kennedy: Profile in Courage Essay Contest— First place winner receives a \$5,000 cash award and \$5,000 to grow in a 529 College Saving Plan.
- The Fountainhead Essay Contest—Choose from 3 topics. Essay must be between 800 and 1,600 words. First prize is \$10,000! Money available to 2nd/3rd place winners as well as semifinalists and finalists!
- We The People oratorical contest based on the US Constitution. National and State Scholarships available.
- Voice of Democracy—Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriotic Audio Essay Contest. Grand Prize: \$30,000 scholarship
For information on all of these please go by Guidance.

JUNIOR MARSHALS FOR 2009-2010

The 10 students with the highest grade point average by the end of the 5th six weeks during spring semester will be Junior Marshals for the 2009-2010 school year

CALLING ALL ATHLETES:

Athletes who are college bound to play sports or hope to earn a scholarship to play sports must register with the NCAA. Juniors go to www.ncaa.org. Academic rules will determine whether or not you will be able to play sports in college. Grade point averages are taken only in courses such as: English, Math, Natural/Physical Science, Social Science, Foreign Language, Religion and Philosophy. You must also achieve the required score on SAT or ACT.

When Do We Take the SAT?

- We recommend that students take the SAT twice during their junior year.
- The SAT combines the best overall score; therefore it is to the student's advantage to take the SAT more than once.
- The SAT is offered at PHS on May 1st and at Tuscola on June 5th.
- By waiting until later in the junior year, students have the opportunity to learn more English and Math skills which will benefit them on the test. However, juniors are eligible to take the SAT at any time during their junior year.
- To register for the SAT, visit www.collegeboard.com. Our school code is 340565. You must list our school code in order for us to get your scores.
- Students that need to receive accommodations on the SAT need to stop by the Counseling Center well in advance of chosen test date.

NOTE: The SAT is NOT needed for students entering a community college directly out

ABC's of College Degrees

Here's a quick guide to the types of degrees offered at community colleges and four-year colleges and universities.

Community Colleges

Diplomas and Certificates: These demonstrate that you have a set of skills for a particular occupation. The length of time required varies by occupation, ranging from 6 months to less than two years. Certificates and diplomas are available in subjects like auto mechanics, welding, cosmetology, and practical nursing.

Associate's Degree: These are two-year degrees that provide preparation for a career or for transfer to a four-year college or university. Typical careers that require an associate's degree are dental assistant, teacher assistant, and medical technologist. Students can also earn an associate's degree and then transfer to a four-year school to earn a bachelor's degree.

Four-Year Colleges & Universities

Bachelor's Degree: A bachelor's degree is awarded after four years of study at a college. The bachelor of arts (BA) and bachelor of science (BS) are the most common, and both include general education courses, courses in a declared major, and electives. This degree is also called an undergraduate degree. Examples of careers that require bachelor's degrees are teaching and engineering.

Master's Degree: A master's degree is an advanced degree earned in a specialized field after the completion of a bachelor's degree. Most master's degrees require two or three years of full-time study and include writing a thesis or taking comprehensive exams. School counselors, physical therapists, and social workers are examples of people with master's degrees.

Professional Degree: Becoming licensed in a recognized profession requires a professional degree. Professional degrees are awarded in a number of fields, including dentistry, ministry, law, medicine, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine. The length of study required varies for each profession.

Doctoral Degree: A doctoral degree, also known as a doctorate, is the highest educational degree you can earn. A doctoral degree indicates expertise in a specialized field. You must spend 3-5 years after completing a master's degree doing extensive research and a dissertation.

