

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017

SENIORS As the new year approaches there is one thing that comes to our minds.....FAFSA! College deadlines for the FAFSA are approaching. Students and parents are now allowed to submit their FAFSA starting OCTOBER 1st and college FAFSA deadlines have moved sooner!!!!!! You will need to have your tax information from 2015 ready. (This is a change from previous years when it didn't open up until January 1st and you had to hurry up and finish your taxes from the year that just ended.) Go to www.fafsa.gov to start your student's FAFSA. *****Please note that parents and students will need to have separate FAFSA ID's that are registered under different email addresses.

SCHOLARSHIPS Scholarships are a great way to assist in paying for college or other post secondary programs. You should never have to pay for a scholarship search! We recommend www.fastweb.com. It is a free scholarship search engine. Our career program NAVIANCE/FAMILY CONNECTIONS also has a scholarship search engine. The Naviance link can be found on the high school website under STUDENTS. In addition to the scholarship search engine on Naviance, any local or national scholarships that come through the Guidance office are also posted on NAVIANCE/FAMILY CONNECTIONS. Once a student logs into their account, click on the "COLLEGES" tab and then scroll down to the bottom section. Click on the "SCHOLARSHIP LIST" link and there will be a list of any scholarships that come to our office. Counselor's hint: Be sure to have your transcript release form filled out and signed if a transcript is needed. We cannot send a transcript without a signature; an email/phone call from the parent does not count. We need the signature!

ACT/SAT February 10th is the next ACT test. The deadline for the February test is January 12th. Please see your guidance counselor if you have any problems with this. To register go to www.actstudent.org. The next SAT is March 10th. (SAT is not offered at Harrison, you must report to another testing center) The deadline to register for this test is February 9th. To register go to www.collegeboard.org. *****Counselor's Hint: If you are not sure which test you need/should take, contact your counselor. We can help you understand the difference between the tests and which might be best for your student.

ACT PRACTICE Your students have access to a wonderful ACT practice site. Through the Naviance/Family Connections service the district provides, there is an ACT prep tool that will work with your student's individual needs and works on their weaknesses. To access this awesome resource, go to the school's website, click on "Students", click on "Naviance", log into Naviance/Family Connections, page down, and click on "Naviance Test Prep" which is located along the left-hand side of the site. Your student can then enter the test date they are planning on and take the three hour practice test so the program can discover

what your student needs to work on. This is the same type of test prep that outside companies use but charge \$400-\$2000! Be sure to set aside time every week so the prep is consistent.

JUNIOR ACT All Juniors will receive a free ACT test on February 27th DURING SCHOOL. Parents/students do NOT need to register for this specific test. Registration and payment for this test date is done through the district/state. (All other ACT test dates are on a Saturday and parents/students are responsible for registering and paying for them)

DIAMOND OAKS APPLICATIONS Diamond Oaks application deadline is February 5, 2018. Go to www.application.greatoaks.com to fill out your application. Applications are for current Sophomores and Juniors. (Juniors are admitted for their Senior year on a case by case situation)

AIR TESTS AIR retake tests begin the week of December 4th and run through December 14th. Please be sure your student gets plenty of sleep the night before and eats a well balanced breakfast the morning they are scheduled to test.

SEMESTER EXAMS Semester Exams will be held on December 12th, 13th, and 14th. Semester Exams are 20% of your student's semester average.....please be sure they adequately prepare for them.

Guidance Department Newsletter

PE EXEMPTIONS Students have the opportunity to exempt their PE

requirement by playing two seasons of any sport, marching band, or cheerleading. Students do not receive PE credit; rather they are just exempted from having to take PE classes. In order to participate in this opportunity the students must follow certain steps. The first step is to turn in a parent permission form. This form can be found in the Guidance office or can be printed off of the website. See the link below for the parent form. The other step is to have the coach or band director sign a verification form for each season of completion. These forms can be found in the Guidance Office.

http://hhs.southwestschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=171084&type=d

PSAT PSAT results will be returned to students this month. Students will be sent down as a group to meet with counselors in the media center. Counselors will explain how to interpret the results, and how to use the free tools provided by College Board that foster college planning and preparation for the SAT.

OGT The results from this fall's OGT tests will be released before Winter Break. Seniors who took them will be called down to the Guidance Office to hear their results.

AIR Any Sophomores or Juniors that need to retake an AIR test for graduation will be doing so December 5th-9th. Please make sure they get a good breakfast and plenty of sleep that during that week.

TWITTER The Guidance office is excited to announce that we have a twitter account and will be actively using it to send up to date messages and reminders. Be sure to follow us at:

WHHHSGUIDANCE

SEMESTER EXAMS Just a friendly reminder that end of quarter exams will be taken the week of December 12th. Make sure your students prepares for these exams and get a good night sleep all week long.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE WHHHS
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT!!!**