



# The Junior Journal

## Off and Running!

Well, I think it's safe to say we're steadily progressing through the Junior year! That can only mean two things:

1. summer vacation is almost here; and
2. you are rapidly approaching your senior year!

And, while you may have a hard time picturing yourself in your cap and gown, that moment will arrive before you know it. So now is the time to make sure you're prepared for what lies beyond the halls of Rising Sun High School. If you haven't already you should be starting the college search either

on-line or in one of the many college books located in the Guidance Office.

This issue of the *Junior Journal* will focus on what steps you should be taking NOW to make sure you're prepared for the next phase of your journey through life. Remember, your Junior year is one of the most important in your high school career—make it count!

As always, in addition to the newsletters I will be sending updates and reminders via email. I have added all of the email addresses for the junior class that are listed on the Grades to Go registration list. If I do not have your email or your email has changed please

send me an email and I will update my list.

If you have any questions along the way, please stop into the Guidance Office or drop me an email. Remember there are tons of great resources in the Guidance Office so take advantage of them!

Ms. Pietraniello



HSA EXAMS	JAN 7, 8, 9 & 11
HOW TO GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING & NOT GET LOST	JAN 15 6:30
EXAM WEEK	JAN 14-18
END OF 2ND MARKING PERIOD	JAN 18
NO SCHOOL (for students)	JAN 21, 22 & 23
2ND MARKING PERIOD REPORT CARDS ISSUED	JAN 31
CECIL COLLEGE READINESS ASSESSMENT	FEB 11

## New Guidance Website Unveiled

You've asked for it and we've heard your requests...the long over-due, new and improved Guidance website is up and running!

Check out the new design and updated information right from the Rising Sun High School Home Page under Parents & Students. You'll find general information from the Guidance Department on the "General Info" Page

(<http://www.ccps.org/rshs/guidinfo.html>) and you will find links to each member of the Guidance Department Staff and even each counselor's individual website on the "Staff" Page (<http://www.ccps.org/rshs/guidance.html>)

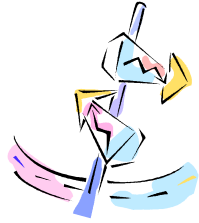
Information on each counselor's page will be updated regularly so check back often to see what's new!

### In this issue:

- New Guidance Website Unveiled
- How to Get Where You're Going and Not Get Lost
- What is a Transcript and Why is Mine Important?
- Top 10 Reasons to Continue Your Education
- Cecil Readiness Assessment

## How to Get Where You're Going and Not Get Lost!

Feeling overwhelmed with the idea of going to college? Not really sure where to start? Not sure you want to go to college or can afford it?



Juniors, come find out how to sort through the maze of college searches and applications in "Countdown to College."

Attend one session all together or split up for even more info!

DATE: Tuesday Jan 15th

TIME: 6:30 PM

PLACE: RSHS

WHO: All interested parents, guardians and students who need more information on finding a college, paying for it or just learning about how to manage your money after high school!

If you answered yes to any of these questions then you need to attend the information session being offered by the RSHS Guidance Office and find out how to get where you're going and not get lost!

Juniors and Seniors, worried about how to pay for the next stage of your education? A representative from the Cecil College Financial Aid Office will be offering a session on how to navigate the land of financial aid and scholarships. And in a separate session just for Seniors, a representative from the Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union will be providing information to graduating seniors on how to manage your money effectively.

Parents and students are welcome to attend one of three sessions in one information packed evening!

Dreams are like stars...you can't touch them but you can follow them to your destiny.

## What is a transcript and why is mine important?

Your transcript in short is a record of all of the classes you have taken in high school and what grades you received. Transcripts may vary from school to school so here are some things to remember about your transcript from RSHS:

1. Every class you have taken (whether you completed it or not) will be listed on your transcript with your grades for each marking period, mid-term, and final exam, as well
2. Your Grade Point Average (GPA) will be listed as your weighted GPA to account for any honors courses you have taken.
3. Your class rank will be listed as your position according to your weighted GPA out of the total number of students in your graduating class.
4. Every transcript from RSHS

will include a school profile which provides an overview of the types of classes offered, school community, etc.

Your transcript is a key tool for colleges and employers to assess your potential as a student and plays a major factor in the decision making for college admissions and employment. Make sure your's a true and positive representation of you as a student and potential member of your next school's community!

## TOP 10 REASONS TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION

Continuing your education beyond high school doesn't mean you have to go straight to a large four-year college or university. There are tons of options and different varieties of educational opportunities after high school including trade schools, vocational or technical schools and community colleges. If you're still not sure if continuing your education is for you, consider these top 10 reasons for continuing your education from *Peter-son's Guide to College and Career Planning (2007)*:

1. Fulfill a dream—continuing your education may be the only way to be successful in the career you want!
2. Have Fun—classes are only one part of your college experience; get out there and experience things that you might not be able to otherwise.
3. Make connections that may link you to future jobs—you never know if a professor, friend, advisor, or supervisor might be able to help get you a job someday.
4. Become part of a cultural stew—you will meet lots of people who

are NOT like you as you continue your education. And you might just find out there are people and things that you enjoy that you never even knew existed!

5. Meet new people
6. Do what you love doing and get paid for it—in the next stages of your education you get to pick the courses you take and the subjects you study and they will all lead to a career in something you LIKE to do.
7. Exercise your mind—no matter where or how you continue your education, constantly learning new skills and information is the key to being successful and productive in life.
8. Earn higher income—research has proven that on average those who continue their education earn higher salaries. On average, those with a high school diploma earn approximately \$31,000/yr. Those with some college increase their average earnings to \$37,000/yr. and even an Associates Degree (2 yrs.) will boost you up to an average of \$41,000/yr!

9. Learn critical thinking and analytical skills—education teaches you to think and no matter what profession you enter you need to be able to think and analyze situations.
10. You won't get left behind—our world is always changing, without the willingness to learn and continue your education you simply won't be able to keep up.

Some of you may be thinking, "I agree with all of that but I just CAN'T continue my education." That's not true. If it's a financial issue, there is always scholarship money and financial aid opportunities. If you're grades have not always been great, you may not get into Harvard but there are still plenty of options out there. If you just don't know how to get started stop into Guidance or get online and just start looking!

Success is the ability to better than good enough.

## Cecil College Readiness Assessment

Representatives from Cecil College will be offering the College Readiness Assessment to all Juniors at Rising Sun High School on February 11th.

The assessment will be given to all Juniors in the auditorium starting at 7:45 that morning. Students will be answering questions in the

areas of English and math to determine what level/course they are currently prepared for in each subject area at the college level.

All students intending to enroll in classes at Cecil College whether in the summer, through Senior Waiver or after graduation must take this assessment prior to registering for classes.

Upon completion of the assessment, students will be informed as to what level English and math classes they must start at as they enter Cecil College. This is a great tool to gauge how prepared you are for college level math and English regardless of whether or not you take classes at Cecil College.



**Taking  
Initiative:  
Getting  
Everything  
Ready for  
School**



**We're on the web:**  
[www.ccps.org/rshs/index.html](http://www.ccps.org/rshs/index.html)

## INTERNET RESOURCES

American College Test (ACT) Information

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

College Answer

[www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com)

College Board

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

Cecil College

[www.cecilcc.edu](http://www.cecilcc.edu)

Cecil County School of Technology

<http://ccst.ccps.org/index2.html>

Delaware Technical and Community College

[www.dtcc.edu](http://www.dtcc.edu)

FastWeb

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Harford Community College

[www.harford.edu](http://www.harford.edu)

Maryland Higher Education Commission

[www.mhec.state.md.us](http://www.mhec.state.md.us)

Maryland Mentor

[www.marylandmentor.org](http://www.marylandmentor.org)

The Princeton Review

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

[www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)

Thomson Peterson's

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

University System of Maryland (USM)

[www.usmd.edu](http://www.usmd.edu)

About.com—College Admissions

<http://collegeapps.about.com>