



The Junior Journal

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to your Junior Year! I hope you all had a fun and energizing summer because your Junior year is a very important one! This year will be filled with lots of opportunities to aid you in preparing for your future. You will be taking various tests (PSAT, SAT, ACT, AS-VAB), visiting colleges, and continuing to strengthen your academic transcript to name a few!

Throughout the year you will receive new issues of the *Junior Journal*. You will find a lot of helpful information in these newsletters so please take the time to read

through it and share it with your parents. Also during the school year I will be meeting with each of you individually to discuss your graduation requirements as well as your post-secondary plans.

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!

Here's to a great Junior Year!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

1st marking period interims issued	SEP 27
College Fair Perryville High 6-8pm	OCT 3
RSHS Get Acquainted	OCT 4
PSAT RSHS	OCT 17
End of 1st Marking period	OCT 30
Report Cards Issued	NOV 12
NO SCHOOL	OCT 19, NOV 8 & 9

Special points of interest:

- Help—I t's my Junior Year—what should I be doing?
- PSAT's—I already took them why bother?
- SAT's vs. ACT—what's the difference?
- Where should I be checking for information, updates, etc?

Cecil County Public Schools to Host College Fair

The Cecil County Public Schools will be hosting a College Fair for all interested students and parents. The evening is open to all students, and better yet, it's FREE!

Representatives from approximately 70 institutions including colleges, trade schools and the military will be available to answer questions. Sessions on financial aid and NCAA eligibility will also be offered.

This is a great time to start gathering information from several schools and programs without having to travel!

WHAT: COLLEGE FAIR
 WHERE: PERRYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
 WHEN: OCT 3 6-8 PM
 WHY: WHY NOT?

PSAT—why bother?

Many of you may be asking; "I took the PSAT last year, why take it again?" Well there are several reasons.

1. The PSAT is great practice for the SAT
2. Taking the PSAT as a Junior is the only way of qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship Competition



3. Your PSAT results provide you with valuable feedback on how to prepare for and improve your SAT scores

Juniors will be given the opportunity to take the PSAT during the school day on October 17th. The cost for Juniors is \$13.00 (cash or checks payable to RSHS).

If you are interested in taking the PSAT sign up with Mrs. Farmer in the Guidance Office. Juniors may register from September 17—October 10. Payment is required at the time of registration. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis — so don't wait!

Ok, I'm a Junior, NOW WHAT?

Even though your junior year has just begun, your senior year will be here before you know it. There are several things you can be doing throughout your junior year to maximize your post-secondary options.

1. Continue to be aware of your academic progress.

All that stands between the graduate and the top of the ladder is the ladder!

2. Be involved in sports, clubs and activities. Don't just be a member, take on a leadership role.
3. Register for and take the PSAT/NMSQT
4. Talk about college options with your parents, teachers, and/or counselor. Utilize resources from the Guidance Office, College Board and internet searches
5. Register for the SAT and/or ACT in the early Spring
6. Make college visits, attend college fairs

Where did you get your information???

Morning announcements aren't just about sports scores and weather reports. It is VERY important that you listen to the morning (and afternoon) announcements. The Guidance Office is always receiving information about scholarships, essay contests, summer programs, job opportunities

and other important events. We use the announcements as the best way to publicize important information that you need to know! Don't miss valuable opportunities simply because you didn't listen to the announcements.

I will also send out reminder emails and include important in-

formation in newsletters but the announcements are the quickest way to get your info!



SAT vs. ACT—what’s the difference???

SAT—quick facts

- 10 section exam (3 critical reading, 3 math, three writing and 1 experimental section that is masked to look like a “real section”)
 - Math tests up to geometry & algebra II
 - Critical reading includes sentence completions, short & long reading passages and reading comprehension
- 1/4 point deducted for wrong answers
- 200—800 points awarded per section for a maximum combined score of 2400
- Students can request a score report be sent to specific colleges, but the report will include the scores for every SAT taken.
- Recommended that you register for SAT 6 weeks prior to the test date
- Administered 7 times per year (4 times at RSHS)
- www.collegeboard.com

ACT—quick facts

- 5 section exam (English, math, reading, science and optional writing sections)
 - Math tests up to trigonometry
 - Science includes charts and interpretations
 - Reading includes four passages—one each of prose fiction, social science, humanities and natural science
 - English stresses grammar
 - Writing is one essay
- No penalty for wrong answers
- 1-36 points for each section, averaged together for a highest possible score of 36
- There is a score choice option where students can select both which schools receive their scores and which scores they receive.
- Recommended to register for the ACT 4 weeks prior to test date
- Given 6 times per year (often at Elkton High)
- www.ACTStudent.org

So which one do you take? The SAT is typically more widely used and accepted on the East Coast; however, many schools in the mid-west and west coast have begun leaning more toward the ACT. Some students fair better on the ACT than the SAT due to the format, but the tests are similar.

I would recommend taking both so you can maximize your options when it comes to your college applications; however, if you’re only up to taking one of the tests, take the SAT. If you’re still unsure, check with the admissions office at the schools you’re applying to and see which test they prefer.

When all is said and done, a lot more will have been said than done.

SAT & ACT registration

If you are interested in taking the SAT and/or the ACT please stop into the Guidance Office for a registration bulletin and test prep booklet. You can register for each test either by mailing in the registration form in the registration bulletin or by using online registration.

The SAT can be stressful for some stu-

dents so taking it in an environment that is familiar can be helpful. Unfortunately, the ACT is not given here, but it is given at Elkton High if you’re interested.

TEST FEES:

SAT—\$43.00

ACT—\$30 (without writing)/\$44.50 (with writing)

TEST DATES:

SAT: 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, 1/26, 3/1, 5/3, 6/7

(bold dates are given at RSHS)

ACT: 9/15, 10/27, 12/8, 2/9, 4/12, 6/14



INTERNET RESOURCES

American College Test (ACT) Information
www.actstudent.org

College Answer
www.collegeanswer.com

College Board
www.collegeboard.com

Cecil County Community College
www.cecilcc.edu

Cecil County School of Technology
<http://ccst.ccps.org/index2.html>

Delaware Technical and Community College
www.dtcc.edu

FastWeb
www.fastweb.com

Free Application for Federal Student Aid
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Harford Community College
www.harford.edu

Maryland Higher Education Commission
www.mhec.state.md.us

Maryland Mentor
www.marylandmentor.org

School Improvement in Maryland
www.mdk12.org

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Thomson Peterson's
www.petersons.com

University System of Maryland (USM)
www.usmd.edu