

School Counselor Newsletter

JUNIOR YEAR.....

By now you probably have realized junior year is intense as well as interesting! Some say, "It is the beginning of the end of the high school years." At this time, it is all about bringing focus to your future. It is the first year you are considered an "upperclassmen." You have had two years of high school, you know the ropes, and you are now being looked at as a leader within Covington High. More is expected of you as a student and a person at Covington High.

Many of you are asking, "What do I need to be doing right now to get ready for college?" I am here for you if you want to set up an appointment for us to map out your plans for your future. However, the most important task for you is to engage in your classes and develop a plan for you to academically be successful. Your high school grades are by far the most important factor when it comes to college admission. Please keep in mind that CHS offers tutoring through our Academic Clinic on Wednesday and Thursday so take advantage of this free tutoring if you find yourself struggling in your classes. Junior year grades are the last full year grades that colleges will see when you send in your applications in the Fall of 2016. **YOUR GRADES SHOULD BE STRONG!!** (Colleges will only see first semester senior grades when you apply.) Keep in mind that colleges want to see that you are challenging yourself and not taking the easy path through school. There is also still time to make up credits if you made a mistake earlier in your high school career. There is still time to commit to a club or organization if you want to. There is still time to take advantage of many things here at Covington High as well as in our community.

You will need to develop a plan for taking the ACT and/or SAT. You can pick up free copies on *Preparing for the ACT* and *Getting Ready for the SAT* in the School Counseling Office. Also, use free on-line test prep sites such as www.actstudent.org or www.collegeboard.com.

You should also be considering a teacher you would like to write you a letter of recommendation for college applications next year, so be proactive and make a good impression on your teachers! Keep in mind that people are usually judged by their character. Make sure your character is great. Having good character means that you have admirable traits as being honest, reliable and responsible. It is beneficial for you to have good character. Being honest and reliable in the way you conduct yourself in your relations with others are essential to your life. You should strive hard to insure that you have good character. Your actions determine what people think of you and establish your reputation.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me or drop by during lunch or after school. Keep in mind that there are more days of high school behind you than ahead of you. Reach out for opportunities, and try to make those memories while the time is still there. Enjoy your year!

IMPORTANT DATES

Ring Ceremony: April 12th

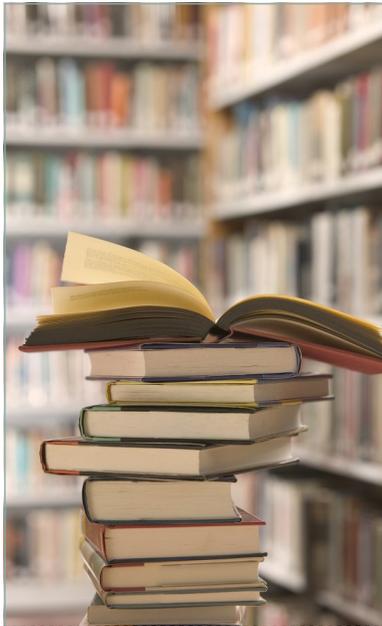
Graduation: May 4th

Final Exams begin: May 17th

Last day of School: May 23rd

FRIENDLY REMINDER

- If you haven't turned in your Personal Identifying Information (PII) Consent for to the front office, please do so as soon as possible. Keep in mind that this form will need to be signed by your parent for LOSFA to receive your academic data so it can be evaluated for TOPS eligibility your senior year.



SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

***St. Tammany Parish Youth Volunteer Program—** application deadline April 19th.

***LSU Engineering Programs:** REHAMS (Recruiting Engineering High Ability Multicultural Students) - application deadline April 20th.

***LionsCamp—**summer camp for students with special needs, diabetes, and pulmonary disorders. Apply to be a camp counselor by April 1st.

- **Louisiana Youth Seminar—**leadership camp
- **Suit up for the Future—**3 week program focusing on diversity in the legal system .
- **Pay attention to announcements and the website for other opportunities.**

“Aim to make a positive difference in someone’s life every single day...including your own.”

Doe Zantamata



LOSFA AND FAFSA.....

Two very important acronyms that you will want to know about it.

The **Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)** is a state agency and the administrative arm of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission and the Louisiana Trust Authority. Among the programs administered by LOSFA are Louisiana’s premier merit-based scholarship program, the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS); the state’s 529 college savings plan, the Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) program; and the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship program. Take some time to look over their website at www.osfa.la.gov/.

The (FAFSA) is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. If you want financial aid for college you will need to fill out the FAFSA. The application is used to determine the dollar amount you or your family will be expected to contribute towards college. All federal grant and loan awards are determined by the FAFSA, and nearly all colleges use the FAFSA as the basis for their own financial aid awards. The FAFSA is managed by the Office of Federal Student Aid, part of the Department of Higher Education. The FAFSA application should take about one hour to fill out, but this is only if you have all the necessary documents at hand to begin. You can begin to fill out the FAFSA in January 2019 of senior year. As a junior, you could visit FAFSA4caster which will help you understand your options for paying for college. Their website is www.fafsa.ed.gov/ so please go explore the site.

LION PRIDE



ACT TESTING DATES

Register at: www.actstudent.org

- If you are free or reduced lunch, you can take it twice for free—see me or Mrs. Thompson for a waiver.
- You can take the ACT as many times as you want.
- Don't forget if you are an athlete to send your scores to NCAA.
- Always choose to send your scores to the colleges you are thinking of attending.
- Bubble in the TOPS code every time you take the ACT .
- Dates remaining for this year:

June 9th

July 14

SUMMER CHECKLIST

- ⇒ Research colleges/ universities, technical, community, or trade schools that you might like to attend.
- ⇒ Make sure you are taking the required courses and/or tests for entrance into that program.
- ⇒ Volunteer and/or get involved in your community.
- ⇒ Research application and scholarship deadlines. The beginning of your Senior Year will go by very fast. I don't want you to miss deadlines.
- ⇒ Make it a point to check the CHS website.
- ⇒ If possible, visit college/ university campuses that you are interested in attending.
- ⇒ Challenge yourself to be organized for your Senior Year!

SCHEDULING NOTES

- ◆ You must schedule at least 5 periods/hours/classes.
- ◆ If you are in a sport/band/dance/activity, talk with your coach to know if you can go short day
- ◆ When choosing DE classes—make sure they fit what you are planning to do in college



“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.” Dr. Seuss

TOPS INFORMATION

*In the next couple of weeks I will come in to give you to your TOPS report. This will tell you the classes you have taken toward TOPS and your TOPS GPA—which is different than your school GPA.

If you have questions, please let me know !

