

Volume 11, Issue 3

Find our link at:

www.westhillschools.org

Guidance and Counseling Center Newsletter, February 2009

SENIORS...

MID-YEAR GRADES

Mid year grades are routinely sent to colleges that request them. Seniors who need grades mailed should inform Mrs. Walker in the Counseling Center.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Reminder: The Counseling Center processes scholarships in the same manner as college applications. Students should complete a Request for Application Processing form and meet with their counselor.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Juniors who have achieved a **cumulative academic** grade point average of an 88.0 through the second quarter are eligible to complete an Information Packet for possible selection into NHS. Packets will be automatically sent to eligible candidates in the next week. Students who are interested in continuing in this process should carefully complete the requested information and include all possible activities and accomplishments. The entire faculty is asked to review the candidates and provide input. The final step of the selection process is left to the Faculty Council, made up of five faculty members, who review each students' information carefully and make decisions regarding membership.

SCIENCE LABS

Once again, the Science Department has asked us to reiterate that there is a New York State laboratory requirement for all students enrolled in Earth Science, Living Environment, Chemistry, and Physics. In order to be eligible to take the Regents exam in June, the student must have successfully completed the laboratory requirement. Please encourage your son or daughter to keep current with his or her science labs.

Westhill High School, Syracuse, N.Y.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Seniors please remember to tell your counselor when you have been accepted to a college. After working diligently together on everything from the college search process to the application process, we would like to share in your successes! Notifying us of acceptances is the only way to have an updated map in the showcase. Stop in anytime!

FINANCIAL AID

If you have not already filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), please do so as soon as possible. Late filing may jeopardize aid. FAFSA worksheet information forms are found online along with the FAFSA form itself at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Remember that college Financial Aid counselors are available to answer your questions at www.nysfaaa.org.

Individual Highlights:

Junior Info.	2
Soph. Info.	2
Freshmen Info.	2
SAT/ACT	2

COUNSELORS:

- Mrs. Bitner
tbitner@westhillschools.org
Grade 9, A-K
Grade 11, A-K
- Ms. Fifield
kfifield@westhillschools.org
Grade 10, A-K
Grade 12, A-L
- Mrs. Jesmain
jjesmain@westhillschools.org
Grade 10, L-Z
Grade 12, M-Z
- Mr. Wickersham
jwickersham@westhillschools.org
Grade 9, L-Z
Grade 11, L-Z

2009-2010 SCHEDULING

Scheduling for the 2009-2010 school year is fast approaching. Counselors will be going into English cases the first week in March to discuss graduation requirements, diploma types, and course offerings for the upcoming year. Students should take the new course description guide home to review options with their parents. Students will then be scheduled to make their course selections for the 2009-2010 school year electronically during the second week in March.

4501 Onondaga Blvd.
Syracuse, N.Y. 13219
P - 315-426-3014
F - 315-426-3110

Office Hours:
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

CEEB: 335528

JUNIORS

JUNIOR CONFERENCES

Mr. Wickersham and Mrs. Bitner have begun meeting individually with juniors. At this time, counselors review progress toward graduation requirements, the Strong Interest Inventory results, and post high school plans. Appointments are scheduled based upon the student's availability during the school day

so as not to miss any core classes. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this conference. A letter is mailed home two weeks prior to the conference...keep an eye out for the invitation!

COLLEGE FAIR

The annual NACAC College Fair will be held on Sunday, March 15th, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the OnCenter. Over 200 colleges from across the country will be represented to provide information on their programs and campuses. Please mark your calendar!

SOPHOMORES

SOPHOMORE CONFERENCES

Mrs. Jesmain and Ms. Fifield are meeting with sophomores to touch base and review their academic program. Course selections for next year, future career aspirations, and post secondary options will also be discussed.

BOCES ORIENTATION

On January 26th and 27th, sophomores had the opportunity to attend a presentation on the Career and Technical Education programs available through BOCES. Students interested in visiting a program are encouraged to see their counselor prior to mid-March, when scheduling course work for next year will take place. All CTE programs are housed at the Thompson Road campus.

FRESHMEN

CAREER INTEREST INVENTORY

Mr. Wickersham and Mrs. Bitner recently administered a career interest inventory to freshmen via the BRIDGES software program. This is a preference-based approach to career choice. Students reviewed their 'Interest Profile' and the suggested occupations online. Students can use this program for further information on careers as well as conducting college searches. Students and parents can access this program from home at www.bridges.com. Students should stop into the Counseling Center to obtain the Westhill Site ID number and password.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TEST SCHEDULE

TEST DATE	TEST	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Saturday, March 14, 2009	SAT Only	February 10, 2009
Saturday, April 4, 2009	ACT	February 27, 2009
Saturday, May 2, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	March 31, 2009
Saturday, June 6, 2009	SAT & Subject Tests	May 5, 2009
Saturday, June 13, 2009	ACT	May 8, 2009