



WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME BACK!!

PARENT ALERT: Happy New Year

For those of us concerned about education (students, parents, educators), September is the beginning of a new year. September is an opportunity to resolve to continue to do well or to improve in areas where we were less than successful last year.

Here are some suggestions for making 2008-2009 a successful school year for you and your children.

1. Provide your sons and daughters with appropriate clothes and supplies with which to come to school each day. That includes eating a healthy breakfast!
2. Provide a place at home for studying and doing school assignments.
3. Help your children manage their time effectively and efficiently so that short and long time dates for assignments and special activities are known by all of you. A family calendar hung in a conspicuous place in your home is very helpful.
4. Be positive. Compliments for small achievements that are made along the way make the final goals (grades, skills) seem attainable.
5. Be available to your sons and daughters. Listen! Take the time. Pay attention to body language as well as what they say. Eating a meal together on a regular basis is a good way to do this. Your children will know you care.
6. If your children have special needs, medical or physical, alert the counselor and ask him/her to convey this to the teachers as soon as possible.
7. Keep in touch with the school counselor about your concerns before they become problems.
8. Family discussions about money are important. Children need to know what to expect. Will their spending money come from an allowance, will it come from chores they do around the house, or will they have to get a job? You and they need to understand the situation. Learning about how much money is available and how to budget spending will become a lifelong skill.
9. Please understand that, "The purpose of a counseling program in a school setting is to promote and enhance the learning process. To that end, the school counseling program facilitates student development in three broad areas: academic development, career development and personal/social development." *

All good wishes for a successful new year

Esther M. Bearg, Ed.D, LPC
Educational Consultant.

- This quote comes from the West Orange Curriculum Guide.

Mini college day - Tuesday, 9/23 – in the LMc - period 2, 3, 4/5
Passes available in guidance beginning Wednesday, 9/17

HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

On September 29 and October 2 and 3, the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) will be administered to: (1) seniors who are new to West Orange High School and who have not taken the HSPA, (2) seniors who failed one or more sections of last year's HSPA and (3) repeating juniors who have not passed the test and are tentative June 2008 graduates. By State law, students who entered high school in September 1999, or thereafter, must pass this test as a graduation requirement. Therefore, students will have to pass the HSPA in order to receive a high school diploma. The test will be administered over a three-day period from 7:40 – 11:00 a.m. each day. Make-up tests will be administered on October 6, 7, and 8.

Parents will receive their son's or daughter's scores in January 2009. Students must pass both sections for graduation. Those who do not will have an additional chance to retake the sections(s) they did not pass in the spring. Students are required to retake only those sections they did not pass.

P.S.A.T.

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2008 AT WOHS – 7:30 A.M.

THE COST = \$20.00 Make CHECKS payable to WOHS and put your name on the memo line.

Students can register in the Guidance Office – before or after school and during lunch ONLY

JUNIORS – between September 22nd and October 3rd

SOPHOMORES– between October 6th and 10th.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: On the day of testing you will be required to bring a **VALID PHOTO I.D.** and an **ADMISSION TICKET** which will be issued at the time of registration. **No exceptions!**

CALCULATORS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED!

SAT AND ACT TESTING DATES

WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL CEEB CODE: 311613

<u>SAT I: REASONING & SAT II: SUBJECT</u>	<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINES</u>
SAT I & SAT II	NOVEMBER 1, 2008	SEPTEMBER 26, 2008
SAT I & SAT II	DECEMBER 6, 2008	NOVEMBER 5, 2008
SAT I & SAT II	JANUARY 24, 2009	DECEMBER 26, 2008
SAT I (ONLY)	MARCH 14, 2009	FEBRUARY 10, 2009
SAT I & SAT II	MAY 2, 2009	MARCH 31, 2009
SAT I & SAT II	JUNE 6, 2009	MAY 5, 2009

REGISTER ONLINE: www.collegeboard.com. TO REGISTER ONLINE YOU MUST PAY BY CREDIT CARD.
REGISTRATION BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE TO REGISTER BY MAIL.

<u>ACT & ACT PLUS WRITING</u>	<u>TEST DATES</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINES</u>
	DECEMBER 13, 2008	NOVEMBER 7, 2008
	FEBRUARY 7, 2009	JANUARY 6, 2009
	APRIL 4, 2009	FEBRUARY 27, 2009
	JUNE 13, 2009	MAY 8, 2009

REGISTER ONLINE: www.actstudent.org. TO REGISTER ONLINE YOU MUST PAY BY VISA OR MASTERCARD. REGISTRATION PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE TO REGISTER BY MAIL.

West Orange High School will be hosting the ACT test on December 13, 2008 and February 7, 2009. We encourage students to register on-line at www.actstudent.org. If you have any questions about the exam, please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor.

THE SHOUT IT OUT SCHOLARSHIP offers five scholarship opportunities available in the amount of \$1,000 each. Apply online at www.scholarshipexperts.com/apply.htx to answer the 250 word essay question. The application deadline is September 30, 2008.

HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS target high school seniors who intend to pursue a bachelor's degree, have critical financial need, and who are involved in co-curricular and community activities. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is also required along with US citizenship or permanent residency. You may apply at www.horatioalger.org/scholarships. The deadline is October 30, 2008.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS is sponsoring the Danforth Scholars Program. This scholarship is targeting high school seniors with: personal integrity, selflessness, community service, leadership and academic excellence. Danforth Scholars may receive full or partial tuition scholarships. If you would like to be considered for nomination, sign up in guidance by September 30.

THE GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS PROGRAM is offering scholarship opportunities to minority students who have at least a 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted), have demonstrated leadership and community service traits and who meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria. All candidates must have submitted a Nominee Personal Information Form, Nominator Form and a Recommender Form by January 12, 2009 in order to be considered. Attachments to required forms and faxed copies will not be considered. Applications and supporting forms may be mailed or submitted electronically. Applications are available at www.gmsp.org.

THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS were created by the National Association of Secondary School Principals & Prudential Financial in 1995. The purpose of these awards is to call attention to the importance of youth volunteerism in their school and community. Seniors who would like to be considered, please sign up in Guidance by October 10.

THE RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM seeks to identify African American high school seniors who will make significant contributions to society. Candidates must excel academically, exhibit exceptional leadership potential, participate in community service activities and demonstrate financial need.

November 1, 2008 is the application deadline for consideration for the Ron Brown and other selected scholarships. January 9, 2009 is the deadline for the Ron Brown scholarship only. All materials must reach the program under one cover.

THE NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS is sponsoring its annual scholarship program. NJ High School seniors who plan to major in accounting are eligible. Candidates are selected based on academic standing, SAT scores and an essay. Winners will receive scholarships to the college of their choice of up to \$8,500 over a four-year period. Additional info is available at www.njscpa.org/scholarships. Completed application packet must be postmarked and mailed by the Guidance department by December 18, 2008.

Indiana University, The University of Tampa, and Davidson College are offering scholarships to students applying to their schools. Please see their websites for more information.



COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

Seniors and Juniors may visit the website for the colleges they are interested in to find out the dates and registration information for fall open house visits. Posters on the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office will also have open house information.

Seniors can pick up transcript request, teacher and counselor recommendation forms in the Guidance Office. Requests for transcripts will not be accepted until Wednesday, October 1, 2008 and must be received 15 SCHOOL DAYS prior to the application deadline. Please consider holidays and weekends when counting the 15 days. Visit www.commonapp.org to complete the Common Application.

**AN
EVENING FOR PARENTS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2008 – 7:30 P.M.
H. S. VOCAL MUSIC ROOM (1131-1133)**

**TWO GUIDANCE WORKSHOPS
(YOU CHOOSE ONE)
THE COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS
or
THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS – AN OVERVIEW**