

Guidance Newsletter

October 2007

The school year is in full swing, and we want to communicate to you the exciting things that are going on here at Madison. Sia is on maternity leave until Thanksgiving. Candace Contristan, a retired Fairfax County Guidance director, will be replacing her until that time. You can reach her by using my e-mail address of Sia.Knight@fcps.edu :

We will continue with our 35 minute "*Student Assistance Period*" each day from 8:54-9:29 am. The purpose of this is to give the students' time and support if they need extra help, do research, make up tests, work, etc. Although it is not required for the students to be with their teachers unless they are failing, teachers (and parents) can require the students to attend at any time. Periodically, this could be of great benefit to them. Teachers are also available every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school for extra help. All students are encouraged to stay after school with their teachers if they need additional help with academics. Students who have failing grades in any subject will be **required** to see those teachers for remediation during SAP

Interims will be mailed home on October 12th - Be sure to ask your student to see them. To contact a teacher with a question or concern, please go to our website, www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS, and click on staff.

PSAT's will be offered to our 9, 10, and 11th graders during the school day on October 17th - this is a "practice" test that will help get them ready for the SAT. 9th and 11th graders are charged \$17 for the test. Fairfax County Public Schools pays for all 10th graders. Please make sure that you have paid for this test. If you haven't paid, your test will not be scored.

November 2 is the end of the **first quarter**. Report cards will be mailed home on Monday, Nov.12.

Blackboard.com- there is a wealth of academic and Guidance related information on Blackboard.com and Family Connection. You can access through your student's blackboard account at <http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>.

So please login and begin surfing.

Columbus Day - Monday, October 8, there will be no school. This would be a great weekend to visit some colleges.

11th and 12th grade news

S.A.T.: Madison is offering it on Nov. 3. Seniors should have planned to take it at least once (and preferably twice) by then -for more information and to sign up, visit www.collegeboard.com. Any seniors planning on taking the SAT or SAT II in November, the late registration is due by October 12. The deadline for the December SAT/SAT II is November 2. www.collegeboard.com/reg. Juniors will take their **first SAT** in the spring, March 1 (offered at Madison) or May 3 (not at Madison).

College Fair at Fair Oaks Mall will be held on Sunday, October 14th at 7:30 p.m. (more than 400 colleges will be represented.) For a complete listing visit www.fcps.edu/ss/collegefairnight Please also plan to attend the College Fair with your junior. This is a wonderful way to gather information about colleges and speak to admissions counselors.

College Visits to JMHS

College representatives from a variety of schools come to visit students at JMHS. Juniors and Seniors are encouraged to meet with these representatives. A college pass (signed by your teacher) is required to attend these information sessions and should be picked up in the Career Center at least one day in advance of the scheduled visit.

To view the list of colleges, visit the JMHS web site www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS and click on College Visits Schedule. This list may also be viewed through your student's blackboard account at <http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Need a Counselor Recommendation?

Seniors need to complete the Self-Evaluation Packet for their counselor. The packet can be found on Blackboard or Family Connection. <http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Transcript Requests

Transcript requests for November 1st deadline are due by Friday, October 16, to the transcript secretary in guidance. Mrs. Geary, the transcript secretary, is here from 8:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. Transcript request forms can be found on Blackboard. <http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Scholarships

Local scholarships will be posted in the Madison Guidance section of Blackboard at <http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp> in the "Scholarships/Fin. Aid" section. These scholarships will be posted as they are received. For a listing of current scholarships and a variety of related information be sure to visit www.fcps.edu/ss/CareerConnections and take a look under the "Scholarship Resources" section.

Senior Dues - \$100.00 - This fee provides for the graduation ceremony, program for baccalaureate and graduation, cap and gown, diploma cover, two senior field trips (Washington, D.C. and a trip to Kings Dominion), traditional senior gift to the school, and end-of-year senior picnic. Please make your check payable to JMHS and return to Mrs. Otto in the Career Center.

Senior Field Trip – October 17, at 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Seniors will be going on a field trip to visit congress. All seniors are expected to attend the field trip. If they do not attend the field trip, students will stay in school and an alternative assignment will be completed. If you are interested in being a chaperone, please email Frank.Franz@fcps.edu.

Radford Bus trip-Radford University is offering a free bus trip to their open house for prospective freshmen on Saturday, Nov.10, 2007. The bus leaves from Marshall HS at 6:45 a.m. and returns at 9-10:00 pm that night. You can register at <http://www.radford.edu/admissions/index.html>

ASVAB Test will be given on December 6, 2007 in the Career Center at 8am. The sign up sheet and information is on the right when you walk in the Career Center,

*Bob Gambarelli
Director of Student Services
Madison HS
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