

December 2007 Guidance Newsletter

The following are some important reminders and dates for your calendar:

Holidays

Winter Break	December 22 - January 1
MLK Day	January 21
Teacher Workdays	January 25 and 28

Interims will be given out on **December 19**, in your student's third period. Be sure to ask to see them! If you have any questions or concerns, please use the "[Staff: Alpha](http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/Info/staff_alpha.html)" page on the Madison website (http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/Info/staff_alpha.html) to find the teachers name and click his or her email address to send a message. Remember that our *Student Assistance Period* of 30 minutes each day is an excellent opportunity for getting assistance from teachers, preparing for upcoming tests, and making-up missed work.

PSAT results will be given out to students during the week before winter break. Please remember this is a PRACTICE test and colleges do not see the scores. The grades a student earns and the difficulty level of the courses students choose to take are far more important to the colleges than test scores.

Sexual harassment prevention lesson will be given to the entire school on **Dec.5**. This program will talk about healthy relationships, promoting a healthy environment at school, and how to recognize various forms of sexual harassment.

Second Quarter ends on **January 24**.

Curriculum Night is on **Thursday, January 31, at Madison from 7 - 9 p.m.** Please come and explore the classes available to your student. This night will give you a chance to become exposed to all of the academic and elective offerings that Madison offers. Even though course registration for your student doesn't begin until February, it's not too early to be thinking and discussing possible options for next year's classes.

Senior news

Colleges and Transcripts- At this time of year schools are receiving a large volume of mail due to application deadlines. It takes them a minimum of two weeks to process it. If the school has contacted you about missing a transcript, check either Family Connection for the date mailed or check with your student's counselor.

College Application Deadlines- For schools that have a **January 1st application deadline**, transcript request forms should be in **by Thursday, Dec. 5**. For those schools with **January 15 deadlines**, the transcript requests are **due on December 19**. Those schools with rolling admissions should be processed immediately. Neither the counselors nor our transcript secretary will be in the office during the winter break, so please plan accordingly.

College Acceptances - Students are beginning to hear from colleges and universities. Be sure to share this information with Mrs. Geary, the transcript secretary, in the Guidance Office when you hear the good news.

Seniors dues are \$100.00. Thank you to all of the parents who have paid senior dues. This fee provides for the graduation ceremony, program for baccalaureate and graduation, cap and gown, diploma cover, two senior field trips, traditional senior gift to the school, an end-of-year picnic and expenses associated with the senior year. If you are on free or reduced lunch, you need to provide your FCPS letter of award to receive a reduced fee. **Dues must be collected by December 21, 2007. Checks need to be made payable to JMHS in the amount of \$100.00 and turned into Mrs. Barton in Room 246.**

Graduation will be held on **Thursday, June 12, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.** Graduation will be at **Robinson High School Field House**. You will receive a detailed graduation letter in the spring.

Junior Class news

College/Career Junior Units- From **January 2 through January 12**, all of the juniors will be going into the College and Career Center for an introductory session on college planning and life after graduation.

College Planning Night for Juniors and Parents - On **Wednesday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m.** representatives from The University of Virginia, Mary Washington, Radford University, and James Madison University will hold a panel discussion about various aspects of the college admissions process for juniors and their parents.

Happy Holidays!