

February 2008 Guidance Newsletter

Hi Parents! We're halfway through the school year!

Registration for all students will begin on February 4, 2008 and must be finalized by March 14, 2008. Initially, counselors will meet with your students in groups and go over the classes they need to take. They will then bring a registration form home for you to sign and return. Please discuss with them the courses they will be signing up for next year, especially if they are taking multiple honors or AP courses. Madison High School is staffed based on student's course selection so student's class selections are extremely important! Staffing occurs in April, so once course selections are in, decisions are made based on whether or not there are enough students enrolled in the class to offer it. Courses that are under enrolled are deleted and not offered! Students are then reassigned to their alternative class selection.

Changes to the student's course selection will be on a space available basis after March 14, 2008, so it is very important that you work with your son/daughter to make the most appropriate choices. You should have already received course selection materials, which were mailed home to current high school students and distributed to middle school students when the counselors visited Kilmer and Thoreau Middle School during this time. This course selection guide has information about course, FCPS regulations, graduation requirements and SOL requirements. The Course Selection Guide is also available on the Madison Web site.

Attached is the **course selection PowerPoint** presentation that counselors will be using with your students during the week of Feb. 4. This should give you a good overview of the courses selection process.

Touching Bases: This is a good opportunity for you to get a "snapshot" directly from your student's teacher about their progress. The date is **February 6**. School opens 3 hours late on that day. Parent conferences will be from 7:30 - 9:20, and then 1st period will begin at 10:20. There is no makeup snow date for this program.

Report cards for second quarter will be issued on **Tuesday, February 5th**. Please be sure to ask to see them. If you have questions and/or concerns, please [send an email to the teachers directly](#).

Academy Open Houses- Fairfax Academy for the Arts will be holding a parent/student open house on February 26, from 7:30-9:00 pm. These programs will give you a chance to see what type of classes these Academies offer.

Special presentation- Madison Pyramid Schools hosts a presentation by Rosalind Wiseman, author of *Queen Bee Moms and Kingpin Dads* on Monday, March 3, 2008 from 7-9 pm Madison High School Auditorium.

She will discuss, ***Surviving the Hive: Improving Relations with the Adults in Your Child's Life***. This interactive multi-media presentation shows how parents become involved in their child's conflicts for better or worse. Parents and educators alike will learn concrete strategies to improve their relationships with everyone in the lives of the children they work with--from their own kids to their teachers, coaches and principals. The cost is \$5 for this presentation. Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door.

10th grade information

10th grade parents and students program- Randy Doss, Vice President for enrollment at Guilford College, will present an interactive program on preparing for college on Feb. 26 at 7:00 pm in Warhawk Hall. This promises to be very informative and entertaining, so mark your calendars. Remember that this is for BOTH parents and 10th grade students.

11th grade information

The College search process

Recently, counselors have seen all juniors in the career center to give them an overview of the college selection process. Juniors should continue to research colleges throughout the spring as well as plan to visit some colleges (Spring break would be a good time to do this).

We invite you to have an **individual meeting** with your student's counselor to discuss their specific college plans. This is an important part of the college search process. Please contact your student's counselor to set up this appointment.

S.A.T. sign up

Please make sure your junior has gone to www.collegeboard.com to register for their first SAT, here at Madison on **Mar. 1**. Our **CEEB code**, which they will need for all SAT registrations and college applications, is **472278**. Please make a note of it.

12th grade information

Senior Mid Year grades

Mid-year (7th semester) grades are automatically sent to every college to whom you have submitted an application. You do not need to do an additional request. However – we will not even have them until the middle of February.

College Results Online (www.collegeresults.org) allows you to:

- Examine overall graduation rates and see how those rates have changed over time.
- Learn about universities' records graduating diverse groups of students
- Compare the graduation rates of similar institutions - colleges and universities that share many characteristics and serve similar student populations

Military Service Academy / ROTC Night - Tuesday, February 26, 2008 7:00 pm

Oakton High School Cafeteria -A panel of experts from all military academies and each branch of ROTC as well as a representative from Tom Davis's office will present information you need and want to know.

Stay Warm!