

## October 2009 Student Services Newsletter

The school year is in full swing, and we want to communicate to you the exciting things that are going on at Madison.

We will continue 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 to do research, make up tests, work, etc., or if they need extra help. 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 given out to students by their 3<sup>rd</sup> period teachers on October 15th - 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](http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS), and click on staff.

**PSAT's** will be offered to our 9, 10, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders during the school day on October 14th – this is a “practice” test that will help get them ready for the SAT. 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders are charged \$17 for the test. Fairfax County Public Schools pays for all 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Please make sure that you have paid for this test. If you haven't paid, your test **will not be scored**. Attached is a PSAT information flyer and payment slip.

**9<sup>th</sup> grade parent night**- Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 7:00 in Warhawk Hall. All 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited to what promises to be an informative and enjoyable evening for all. We will talk about the varied resources and technology (including Family Connection) that are available to you, and other “nuts and bolts” issues about high school. We will also have a panel of 12<sup>th</sup> grade parents who will offer advice (and answer questions) on how to help your student successfully navigate high school. No advance registration is required. Hope to see you then.

**October 30** is the end of the **first quarter**. Report cards will be mailed home on Friday, Nov.12.

**Columbus Day** – Monday, October 12, there will be no school. This would be a great weekend to visit some colleges.☺

**Cyberbullying** awareness and prevention training will be given to all the 9<sup>th</sup> graders Monday, Oct. 5 and Tuesday, Oct.6 during the school day.

### **Freshman Cyberbullying Pre-Survey**

Please have your freshman student complete an anonymous pre-survey by Sunday, October 4. It will provide useful information to help determine what knowledge was gained from the presentation about cyberbullying and what follow up needs to be done after the presentation. This brief pre-survey is available in Family Connection, a program that is accessible through Blackboard.

Steps for students complete the anonymous pre-survey:

1. Log onto FCPS 24-7/Blackboard at <http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>
2. Click on the link for Family Connection

3. On the left-hand side of the page, in the red, click on “Cyberbullying Pre-Survey”
4. Complete the survey

**Blackboard.com**- there is a variety of college, career and related information in Blackboard.com within the Department of Student Services section and Family Connection. You can access Blackboard and Family Connection at <http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>. Take some time to login and look at these resources.

### 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade news

**Transcript requests:** Madison’s transcript secretary is available to accept transcripts every day from 8:45am-12:45pm. The first 3 transcripts for each student are free and each transcript after that is \$5 each. Transcript request forms can be found on Blackboard.

<http://fcps.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

**Transcript requests are required to be turned in 15 school days before the application deadline.** An additional \$5 late fee per transcript will be charged for all transcript requests received less than 15 days from the deadline. Additionally, any transcript requests received less than 48 hours from the college’s deadline will not be guaranteed to be sent out by us by the deadline. For transcripts with a due date of 10-15-09 the last day to turn them in without a late fee was 9-25-09.

**Other college transcript request deadlines:**

11-1-09 college deadline – last day is 10-9-09

11-15-09 college deadline – last day is 10-23-09

12-1-09 college deadline – last day is 11-10-09

1-1-09 college deadline – last day is 12-11-09

**S.A.T.:** Madison is offering it on Oct.10 and Nov.7. Seniors should have planned to take it at least once (and preferably twice) total by then –for more information and to sign up, visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Any seniors planning on taking the SAT or SAT II in November, the late registration is due by October 10. Juniors will take their **first SAT** in the spring, March 13 (offered at Madison) or May 1 (not at Madison).

### 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>

**Senior Field Trip – October 14, 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](mailto:Frank.Franz@fcps.edu) .

### College Fair and College Night

<http://www.fcps.edu/dss/FCPSCollegeFairNight/>

College Fair: Sunday, October 18 at Fair Oaks Mall

College Night: Monday, October 19 at Hayfield Secondary School

Admission tickets can be printed from the above link (one ticket per group or family) and tickets will be available at the door.

### 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. Students should sign up on Family Connection and print out the confirmation page or pick up a pass from the Career Center.

Next, get permission and signature from your teacher at least 24 hours in advance of the visit for the class you will miss. You are responsible for missed assignments.

Finally, bring the signed pass with you to the presentation.

To view the list of colleges, visit the JMHS web site or look in Family Connection.

<http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/Guidance/CareerCenter/collegevisits.html>

**Counselors' Corner workshops** - These drop-in workshops are held Wednesdays during SAP in the Career Center. During the month of October, the workshops are intended for seniors. Upcoming dates and topics:

- *Are You Still Confused? College Application Q & A* - **Wednesday, October 7**
- *Writer's Block: Tips for Writing Your College Essays* - **Wednesday, October 21**
  
- *Paying the Bills: Scholarships/Financial Aid* - **Wednesday, October 28**
- *Beyond College: Alternatives to the 4-Year School* - **Wednesday, November 4**

**Senior Dues** - \$110.00 - This fee provides for two class field trips (Washington, D.C. and Kings Dominion), senior breakfast, senior end of year picnic, senior shirts with student names, cap and gown, diploma covers, graduation programs, graduation police/security, graduation related expenses, additional senior year expenses. Please make your check payable to JMHS and return to Mrs. Otto in the Career Center.