

COUNSELOR UPDATE

Academics | Social-Emotional Learning | Career and College

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 3/14 - End of 3rd Quarter
- ◆ 3/15 - Parent Engagement Series: Social Media, Substance Use and Teens, 6:30pm
- ◆ 3/26 - 4/02 - Spring Break
- ◆ 4/10 - SAT & PSAT Testing
- ◆ 4/12 - AP Pre-Administration Session
- ◆ 4/25 - Financial Aid Night, 7pm
- ◆ 4/26 - Parent Engagement Series: Navigating a Cultural Shift, 6:30PM
- ◆ 4/30 - 5/3 - Alcohol Awareness Week
- ◆ 5/7-5/18 - AP Testing
- ◆ 5/9 - 5/10 - Senior Exams
- ◆ 5/10 - Senior Service Hours Due
- ◆ 5/15 - Senior Honors Night
- ◆ 5/16 - Graduation
- ◆ 5/24, 5/25, & 5/29 - Semester Exams
- ◆ 5/29 - Last Day of School
- ◆



SAT[®]

Now is the Month of Testing!

On Tuesday, April 10th, Freshman, Sophomore and Junior students will be participating in SAT testing. All Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors will need to arrive to school by 8:32 am* in order to be admitted to their testing rooms. Freshmen and Sophomores will be released at 12:25 pm*. Juniors will be released at 1:30 pm*. Senior students will not be in attendance and are encouraged to complete service learning hours, college visits, or career exploration.

*Times subject to change

Both the PSAT and SAT measure skills and knowledge attained in high school as well as those deemed vital for post-secondary success. SAT scores are used in the college application process. *Each time a student takes the SAT, they can send up to four free score reports to colleges and universities of their choice.* **Be sure to remind your Junior student to utilize this option on testing day, as schools interpret this as a demonstration of interest!**

Upcoming Seminars

- ◆ 3/12-3/16: Junior Small Group College & Career Planning
- ◆ 3/19-3/23: Academic Strategies Groups
- ◆ 4/3-4/6: Junior SAT Fee Waiver Services
- ◆ 4/9-4/12: Senior Check-Ins
- ◆ 4/16-4/20: Senior Exit Survey
- ◆ 4/23-4/27: Senior Final Transcript Follow-Up
- ◆ 4/30-5/11: AP Testing/Office Hours
- ◆ 5/14-5/18: Graduation Preparation/Office Hours

Seminar iTunes U Codes

9th: ELC-NLT-TXH
 10th: EMC-PEK-BLF
 11th: EJJ-JJM-LPC
 12th: CZS-LMH-LSE

Trades & Apprenticeships

Go to [Union Apprenticeship Application Info](#) to view more information about apprenticeships in our area.

College, Career, & Military Visits

Go to goo.gl/5wdpM7 to view our visit calendar!

Service Learning Opportunities

Go to www.olchs.org/students/service-learning/ to view our Service Learning Calendar and list of Pre-Approved Sites!

GRADE	TEST	SCHEDULE	FURTHER INFORMATION
9	PSAT 8/9	8:32-12:25	This test includes reading, writing/language, and math sections.
10	PSAT 10	8:32-12:25	Aligned to the SAT. While similar to the PSAT/NMSQT, this test <u>does not</u> qualify the student for the National Merit Scholarship program.
11	SAT	8:32-1:30	This test includes reading, writing/language, math, and a short essay. This test is mandated by the State of Illinois for all Grade 11 students. SAT scores from this date CAN be used in applications to colleges and universities.

No College? No Problem!



College is not the only option for students once they graduate from high school. Students can pursue apprenticeship programs in the construction industry. There are many high-quality apprenticeships for students that would like to learn how to become electricians, carpenters, plumbers, pipe fitters, iron workers, bricklayers, painters, and many more. Apprentices learn these trades from experienced workers in these trades called journeymen. And unlike internships in college, that do not pay any money, apprentices earn money as they learn their trade.

Completing a union apprenticeship program can dramatically increase their wages out of high school.

To apply for a union apprenticeship program, students need to have some basic information. Students must be at least 18 years old (although there are some programs that will allow students to apply when they are 17). Students must show proof of a high school diploma or GED. Students will use their knowledge of basic math along with algebra in the trades. It is recommended that students take a 4th year of math while in high school to prepare them for the program. They also need to have a valid drivers license with reliable transportation, a social security card, and a birth certificate. They must be able to physically perform the work of the trade they are applying for.

To find out more information about the apprenticeship trades, [click here for Union Apprenticeship Application Info](#) on the Oak Lawn Community High School website. Students can also see their counselor to learn more.

How to Pay for College (9th-11th graders welcome)

On Wednesday, April 25th at 7pm in the Little Theater, the Student Service department will be offering parents and students an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of financial aid, as well as

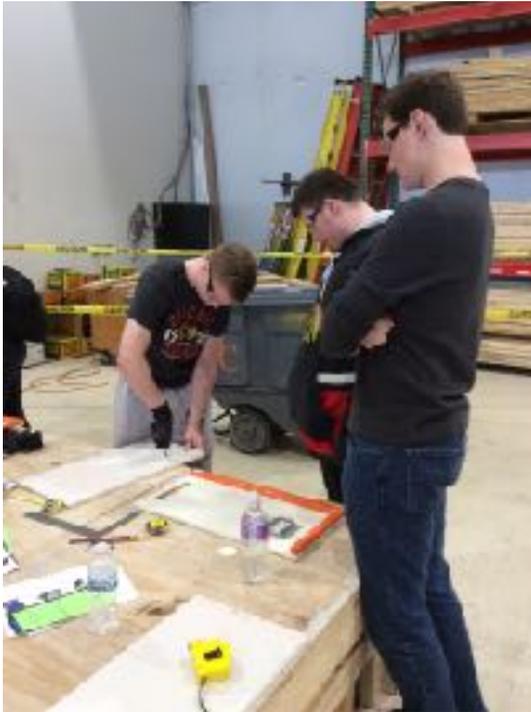
where to find money for college. As the traditional saying goes, "The early bird gets the worm."

This information is what you need to know and the earlier you are informed, the better decisions you can make about your child's future and find more money to help pay for college.



AP Testing

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses will be taking the corresponding AP exam in May. Taking the AP exam for the course is not only a requirement to pass the course, but it is also an opportunity to earn college credit. Students taking an AP exam should plan to attend a mandatory Pre-Administration session on Thursday, April 12th at 7:45 am in the Little Theater. At this session, students will bubble in important identifying information for the AP exams. Important information about test day procedures and college credit information will also be presented at this session. For a complete schedule of AP exam dates, please check the main calendar on the OLCHS website, looking specifically at the month of May. For any questions about AP exams, please contact your students' counselor.



Additional ACT and SAT Tests

Although all Juniors will take the SAT in April, all students may choose to take additional ACT or SAT tests. It's not too late to sign up for either the SAT or the ACT. OLCCHS will host the ACT on Saturday, April 14th, and the next national testing date is on June 9th. There are still seats available. Students can sign up for the test at www.actstudent.org. The next SAT will be Saturday, May 5th. OLCCHS does host 3 national SAT tests throughout the year, however the May 5th SAT is not one of them. Students can still sign up for it at www.collegeboard.org.

Khan Academy is a great site to use to prepare for the SAT. It is free and students can take actual SAT tests right on the Khan Academy website. Students can set up a schedule that will help them prepare for the SAT for as little as 15 minutes a day! www.khanacademy.org. If you are looking for more ways to prepare for the ACT or SAT, [click here](#).

Students that participate in the free lunch program can get a waiver for either the ACT or SAT. This will allow students to take the test for free. See your counselor for more information.

Spartan Plus with Student Services

During Spartan Plus, Student Services offers seminars on various academic and career topics. Counselors have office hours, and also hold various sessions for student enrichment. During the first quarter of 2018, students were able "try out" several elective courses during the Electives Open House week in preparation for course registration next year. They also had opportunities to attend Spartan Plus with a Professional, which Kelly Kenny arranges with community professionals who talk about their careers. In April, Spartan Plus with a Professional will be the Mini-Medical School event ([click here for an informational video](#)). If you would like to be featured for a future event to talk about your profession, please contact Mrs. Kenny at kkenny@olchs.org.

Career Cruising Corner

All students have an account at www.careercruising.com. While students do work on these accounts during Counseling Seminars, they can log into their account at any time to continue working on their post-secondary planning.



Freshmen - Focus on Careers:

- Students are encouraged to take an Interest and Skills Assessment which helps them identify suitable career options based on their interests and skills. Once they have completed the assessment a list of career clusters becomes available to them listing different occupations that are linked to their interests/skills. They use these clusters to help build their four-year plan of coursework here at OLCHS.

Sophomores - Career Exploration:

- Students explore thorough and up-to-date information about hundreds of different occupations, including direct links between careers and related college programs. Students are able to save careers and related colleges to their profile, which is used to invite students when colleges/professionals come visit our campus.

Juniors - Career and College Exploration:

- Students can keep track of their goals, interests, and experiences to build a plan for high school and beyond. Continued development of their high school and beyond planning, as well as continued career exploration using tools such as multimedia interviews with real people in each occupation. Special opportunity notifications when colleges/professionals come visit our campus.

Seniors - Post High School Planning:

- Students build their post-secondary path by looking through comprehensive college and university information as well as information on trades, with a number of useful search tools to help students find the post-secondary path for them. Resume builder is a feature integrated with the students' portfolio to help them format and print professional looking resumes.

Help Us Improve!

Did you enjoy receiving this newsletter? Do you have recommendations or questions for the OLCHS Counselors? Take this brief survey to help us improve our services. [Click here to take the survey!](#)

