

Junior Journal

Dear Juniors and Parents,

It is that time of year when juniors are trying to complete this school year and also planning ahead for their senior, and last, year of high school. Moving on to the 12th grade is a time of mixed emotions for most students - glad that school will finally be completed, but knowing that there are classmates, teachers and others whom they will be seeing for the last year.

Everything that takes place, starting with this summer, will be a “last”-ing experience - last band camp, last summer athletic conditioning, last homecomings as a student, last prom, last year in clubs, etc. However, it is also a time of many firsts for many - first college visits and applications, first voting experience for most, signing up for Selective Service for males, first senior activities, and others.

The purpose of this second edition of the Junior Journal is to help students get ready for that senior year and what will follow. While some of the information is a repeat of the February Journal, some items bear repeating. Please read through these pages carefully. Pay special attention to deadlines and requirements. If you have questions, stop in the Guidance Office, or call (740)756-4317 or 614(837-6230) during school hours. You can also contact me by e-mail at dgaulke@bloomcarroll.org.

Sincerely,

Dick Gaulke

“True friends are those who really know you, but love you anyway” - Edna Buchanan, author

Winter Junior Journal

All of the following topics were covered in the February newsletter that you received. If you would like to go over it again, and cannot find your newsletter, there are still copies available in the Guidance office, and it is also available on the district website.

- ACT Benchmark scores – what do the scores mean and how do colleges use them, should you re-test, etc.
- Scheduling considerations – College Core Curriculum, scheduling options, and policies on schedule changes, etc.
- Really preparing for college – why you should take the most demanding courses as a senior, how it effects your college and scholarship possibilities.
- Things to do now to prepare for the senior year – shadowing/mentoring, letters of recommendation, military options.
- College and scholarship searches – questions to consider, scholarship search engines, financial aid (need-based)
- Summer opportunities – websites that can be used to search for summer programs, building an academic resume that will help you

“Boldness has genius, power and magic in it” – Goethe, German writer, scientist and mathematician

College Credit Plus

Remember, if you plan on taking CCP courses, either on a college campus or through a class at BCHS, you must have a qualifying placement score for the courses you take. For many of you, this will be your ACT subject area scores. However, if you do not have a sufficient score, you will either have to take a placement test through the college, or you will need to take the ACT again before registration for the courses in the fall.

Congratulations!!!

Congratulations are in order for all of the following juniors and their accomplishments.

Darren Feeney has been selected to attend Buckeye Boys' State this summer. This is a program run by the American Legion in which students learn about government by participating in mock elections to run a "state" government.

Hunter Nessley had artwork selected to compete at the state level of the Governor's Youth Art Exhibition.

Madison Simms has been selected as a Queen candidate to represent BCHS in the 2017 Millersport Sweet Corn Festival.

Ross Eggleston has been selected as the BCHS nominee for the Better Business Bureau Student of Integrity Award. Each Central Ohio high school may nominate one student, and the final 10 scholarship winners will be announced in the fall.

Several of our Career-Technical Center students have earned recognition for their accomplishments through their related clubs and organizations. Bryce Fryman earned the Ohio Business Professionals of America Torch Award for his activities in leadership, service, cooperation, knowledge, friendship, love, hope, faith and professionalism. He also attended the BPA National Conference in Orlando, FL for his success in Prepared Speech and on the Start-Up Enterprise Team. His team won "Best in Show", and placed 7th nationally in Start Up Enterprise.

Kevin Benson was selected as an officer in the SkillsUSA chapter at Eastland.

McKenzie Bussert competed in the Community Service component at the state SkillsUSA championships in April.

"So go ahead, fall down. The world looks different from the ground" - Oprah Winfrey

Test Options for Some Colleges

There is a trend among a few private liberal arts colleges nationwide to give students the option as to whether to include ACT or SAT scores as part of their applications. Students sometimes best present themselves using only their high school academic record, while others may supplement that with standardized test scores. This gives each applicant the opportunity to choose the combination which they believe suits them best. To see if your potential college uses this policy, contact the admissions office, or check their website or application. Since your test scores are on your transcript, you will need to notify us when sending transcripts if you do *not* want them included.

"A wish changes nothing. A decision changes everything" - Unknown

Cost of Attendance Information is available

The National Center for Education Statistics can provide you quick information to find the data needed to satisfy the new federal mandate those colleges must make cost information readily available. Go to the website <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>, and enter the name of the college(s) that you are interested in. This will immediately give you the information that you need.

ACT and SAT Testing Dates

Some of you have already taken at least one of these tests, while others plan on taking the June tests. If you plan to go to college, and have not already done so, you should take the ACT no later than the October test dates. Those planning to attend out-of-state or in-state schools with selective admissions should be taking the tests prior to that. Some schools will also use scores for placement. Don't know which one to take? Take both at first opportunity, compare percentile scores, then focus on the higher one for re-takes. Test dates for next school year are listed below. "Late Registration" requires an additional fee.

BCHS SCHOOL CODE IS 360-815

Please include this code number when you register so that BCHS receives your test scores

SAT Test Date Schedule 2017-18

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>
August 26	July 28	August 8
October 7	September 8	September 19
November 4	October 5	October 17
December 2	November 2	November 14
March 10	February 9	February 20
May 5	April 6	April 17
June 2	May 3	May 15

For 2017-18 (deadlines to be determined)

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>
September 9	August 4	August 18
October 28	September 22	October 6
December 9	November 3	November 17
February 10	January 12	January 19
April 14	March 9	March 23
June 9	May 4	May 18

We are given no "hard-copy" registration forms in the Guidance Office. However, it is easier to register on-line. We do receive an ample supply of the preparation materials. To register for the ACT, go to www.actstudent.org. For the SAT, go to www.collegeboard.com.

"Your mind is like a muscle - the more you use it, the more powerful it becomes" - Brian Tracy, business and motivational speaker

Preparing for the ACT or SAT

Some reminders from the College Board to assist you in having the greatest chance of success on these tests include:

- The day before the test, gather everything you will need for the next morning, including **photo ID**, your **admission** ticket, several sharpened **No. 2 pencils**, and an **approved** calculator. Make sure you know the directions to the test center.
- Make sure you set two alarms, one in your room and one in the room of someone who can check to make certain you are up and getting ready to go.
- The morning of the test, if there is bad weather, make certain that the test center will be open. Make sure you arrive early, even if the weather is fine. You may not be able to take the test if you are as little as one minute late.
- Do easy questions first, then do the hard ones. Make efficient use of time, using all that is necessary. Just because others around you may be done, you do not have to stop until time is called.
- Stay positive and focused. Keep your mind on your work, not your score.

“Your future depends on many things, but mostly on you” – Frank Tyger, editorial cartoonist, columnist and humorist

Military Academy Appointments and ROTC Scholarships

Branches of the military are beginning to compile application information for ROTC scholarships and academy appointments. The coordinators for these programs ask that interested juniors begin working toward this process now. This will increase the likelihood of qualifying students receiving these scholarships and appointments. We have already had people into the school this year to discuss these possibilities with interested students.

If you are interested, please contact the appropriate military branch or the Guidance Office as soon as possible. Other points of contact include your Congressman’s office, the offices of Ohio’s two U.S. Senators, military recruiters, and college ROTC offices. There are currently 2 information seminars scheduled for Central Ohio in May for academy appointment information.

“Vision is not enough; it must be combined with venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps; we must step up the stairs” – Vaclav Havel, Czech President, playwright and poet

Scholarship Opportunities

Listings appear each month in the Senior Bulletins. It is up to the student and parent to check the description, see if the student is eligible, then either apply online or pick up an application from Mr. Gaulke

Wendy’s High School Heisman - Any eligible student-athlete can register. Students must be in the class of 2018, have at least a “B” average (3.0), and participate in one of 27 sports listed on the WSHS website. Apply online at www.wendysheisman.com. Application deadline is **October 2.**

AES Engineers Scholarship - \$500 scholarship available to students in the class of 2018. Requires submitting an essay. Topic question and details can be found at www.aesengineers.com, click on the “Scholarships” link on the left. Application deadline is **October 6.**

Preparing for Life After BCHS

There are a few reminders that will help make the senior year better for students and assist in preparing them for life after high school.

1. Students have to take responsibility for getting prepared. Listen to announcements and watch Senior Bulletins for college, scholarship and job opportunities. Make contact with colleges and employers. Do not sit and wait for others to come to you - it may be a very long wait.
2. Meet deadlines and requirements, complete all requests, dot the i's and cross the t's. Those who review and make the decisions about college and scholarship applications and job offers often have more than enough qualified people to choose from, so they are looking for anything to separate the applicants. Don't put yourself in a position to give them a reason to eliminate you from consideration.
3. The best things about Bloom-Carroll can become the worst things about Bloom-Carroll. We have a wonderful school with a terrific student population and community support. However, because it is small, we have some of the "personal touches" that students and parents have come to appreciate. This will probably not be the case at college or on the job. Please learn to stand on your merits, and not expect someone else to come to you with information and opportunities.

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on" - Franklin D. Roosevelt

ACT News You Can Use

ACT does quite a bit of research so that they are aware of current trends in colleges and the workplace. In monthly newsletters, they share this information. Some of it also comes from a CBS News survey of employers.

Skills employers want - Some of the most sought job skills are not taught in school, but students can take subjects which can assist in developing those skills. Some of the top skills one needs to succeed in the modern workplace, in addition to any computer, technical and knowledge requirements for the job, include;

- Communication skills, both verbal and written – 85%
- Ethical judgment and decision making – 81%
- Analytical skills – 81%
- Teamwork skills – 83%
- Applying knowledge to real-world settings – 80%

Many future jobs require strong math skills - Strong math skills will help get a job, many high-paying. In the list of fastest growing occupations from the U.S. Department of Labor, math-related jobs include:

- physician assistants
- computer software engineers, systems and database administrators
- physical therapists
- veterinary technologists and technicians
- medical scientists and technologists
- biomedical and environmental engineers.

Even if you select a career in which math does not seem to be required to do a lot of your daily work, you will still need math skills. For example, news reporters need to understand statistics to report on many stories.

“Millions long for immortality who do not know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon” - Susan Ertz, British novelist

School/Community Activities Reminder

Often, students relax during their senior year, not participating in activities they did in the past. For those who are considering college and scholarships, this is **NOT** a good idea. Stay active in some of the activities, or add some new ones. Keep track of activities you have been involved in since 9th grade. This helps earn scholarships, and is useful when developing a student resume for admissions, scholarships or in seeking work. However, keep in mind, most are looking for depth (level of involvement) not breadth (number of activities). Equate it to a sport – number of hours in a year should be roughly equivalent to the number of hours you would give to practices and games for a sport for one season. Examples of things on a good student resume may include:

School Activities (Extracurricular)

Sports and clubs
Competitions (Science Fair, etc.)

School Honors

Honor Roll
Academic Awards

Community Involvement

Scouting, 4-H, etc
Church Youth Group
Organized Recreational Sports Leagues

Co-curricular Activities

Band, Chorus, Chamber Singers
School plays
FFA

Work Experiences

Employers
Work Skills
Unpaid Skill-Building

Leadership Positions

Offices and organizational positions held
in both community and school
activities

“Pride is tasteless, colorless and sizeless. Yet it is the hardest thing to swallow” - Liz Carpenter, writer and feminist

IS AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS?

(Summarized from ACT's "News You Can Use")

Instead of only thinking of college as a 4-year experience, for some students an associate's degree from a community college or technical school, such as Columbus State, Hocking College, or COTC, is a better option. These programs can help you start a career after just two years, with training for some fast growing and well paid jobs. It can also offer a start to a four-year degree, completing about half of the bachelor degree requirements.

Benefits can include:

- Courses that cover the basics, but also applied principles
- More hands-on learning
- Lower tuition and other expenses. Since many do not have dorms, you may also be able to live at home
- Often, more personal attention from instructors
- Focus on occupations and career exploration that can help make an easier decision on a major if you do transfer to a 4-year institution
- Many 4-year schools offer numerous scholarships that are reserved for students who transfer from 2-year schools

“Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn” - Harriet Beecher Stowe

IS COLLEGE NOT IN YOUR IMMEDIATE FUTURE?

Many students do not intend to go to college upon graduation from high school. College is not meant for everyone, and some students have no interest in careers which require an immediate need for further education. Finances, family situations and other factors can also play an important role in this decision. So, what is there for those of you who do not choose the college route?

Military – All branches of the military, including regular, Reserves and National Guard, are actively recruiting qualified candidates. There are several advantages to pursuing this option. They include training, veteran’s benefits, earning college tuition credits and time to decide what you wish to do. Military recruiters routinely come to BCHS to talk to students about these opportunities. Listen for announcements about their scheduled visits or see the Guidance Office for contact information.

Apprenticeships – Many occupations, usually skilled trades, provide apprenticeship opportunities. These include plumbers, electricians, heavy-equipment operators and others. Some pay as much as \$15.00 an hour to start, and after 4-5 years, licensed workers can be making up to \$25.00 per hour and more. Some of them are announced through the school, or you can contact local unions or the phone book to seek these opportunities.

Certification/Licensure Programs – These usually require some schooling, but it takes 6-12 months, and you take classes only in those areas that pertain to your work, not the broad range required for a college degree. You may be working in your field within a year after graduation. Most do require passing a state licensure test. These areas include HVAC, cosmetology and barbering, some medical assistance programs and others. **WARNING** – this is a field notorious for scam artists. Make sure that any school you choose is licensed, and always check them out through the local Better Business Bureau.

Entry-level work – Many employers offer the chance to get on-the-job training, and will hire potential workers right out of high school. Many have decent starting salaries, benefits and opportunities for advancement and training. These include most advertisers in the Want Ads of the local newspapers. They usually use your past work history, personal and school references, and seek high school attendance, discipline and coursework information. We occasionally get notices of openings, so listen to the announcements and watch for postings.

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning”
– Albert Einstein

7 Things to Consider When Choosing a College

According to CollegeXpress.com, the top 7 things to consider when making your college choice

1. Academics – Majors, backup majors, reputation of the school and faculty, facilities
2. Selectivity – Academic profile, holistic approach to admissions
3. Affordability – Average financial aid package, student loan debt, and years to graduate
4. Support – Services available to students and graduates in tutoring, career planning, etc.
5. Enrichment – Extracurricular activities, internships, co-ops, opportunities for volunteering on and around campus
6. Location – Relationship with the town, employment opportunities for graduates, safety
7. Community – Social scene, living on and off campus

“The impossible is often the untried” – Jim Goodwin, outdoorsman and writer

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN SEEKING A JOB

1. **PAY** - Not only starting salary, but what is the potential for earnings in the future? While some jobs pay reasonably well to begin with, there is only seasonal work or everyone makes the same, with minimal pay raises for employment tenure and experience.
2. **BENEFITS** - When we are young, we are all invincible. However, it may be worth making a little bit less now for a job that provides medical and dental benefits, retirement security or chances for advancement and education.
3. **ENJOYMENT** - No, I don't mean spending half of your workday doing nothing. But, you may be doing this work for the next 40 to 50 years. Can you put up with it for that long, 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, and 50 weeks a year? Most of you will find that you are willing to make some minor financial sacrifices for career enjoyment.
4. **OPPORTUNITIES** - Once you have worked your way into a career, are there chances to advance into supervision or management positions? What about internal transfers to other departments within the company? If your employer goes out of business, can you find employment in this field with other companies?
5. **SECURITY** - How long will this field of work be needed, and how many workers will be needed, both now and in the foreseeable future? Many people thought that the dot.com companies were the wave of the future, but most of them are no longer in existence. Check out the possibilities for this career before you invest too much time, energy and education in it.

The time to prepare for a post-high school career is now!!!! Would you rather make plans to do what you want, or do nothing now and take what is left over???

“Life is a blank page. Each person holds their pen and writes their own story” - Natasha Bedingfield,
singer/songwriter