

## CHS Counseling Dept.

100 N. Cardinal Drive, Clarinda, Iowa 51632

W: [www.clarinda.k12.ia.us](http://www.clarinda.k12.ia.us) T: 712.542.5167

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

In an effort to provide better communication, a counseling newsletter will accompany all grade reports. The counseling newsletter will include important dates, scholarship information, ACT information, etc.

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### **ACT Test Information**

The ACT writing assessment is an optional test with an additional test fee. Not all colleges/universities require the writing exam. It is suggested that students research the admissions criteria for their desired post high school institution to know whether they should take this additional exam. Score reports are normally mailed within 4-7 weeks after the test date. If you take the ACT Plus Writing, your report will be mailed when all your scores, including Writing, are available.

Students that have qualified for school free or reduced lunch program can ask to have test fees waived. Qualifying students need to see Mrs. Almellen for a fee waiver form.

Students can find a full set of sample test questions, along with complete answer explanations, test-taking strategies, and detailed analyses of each section of the ACT Assessment - all in ACT's Student Site at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Other practice sites are: [www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov](http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov), [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com) and [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com)

### **ACT & Parents**

College planning can be difficult, not only for students but for parents as well. For parents who need tips on sorting through the ins and outs of college planning, ACT offers [www.actparent.org](http://www.actparent.org) as an online guide to understanding the process. Parents can sign up on the website in order to receive an ACT parent newsletter.

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **September 27**

Registration deadline for ACT test on October 26

### **October 3**

- IWCC Recruiter @ CHS @ 10:30 am
- Registration Deadline for SAT test on Nov. 2

### **October 8**

Peru State Recruiter @ CHS @ 10:30 am

### **October 11**

Iowa Central Recruiter @ CHS @ 9:00 am

### **October 17**

Simpson Recruiter @ CHS @ 10:30 am

### **October 22**

- U. of Iowa Recruiter @ CHS @ 9:00 am
- Central College Recruiter @ CHS @ 11:00 am

### **October 23**

NWMSU Recruiter @ CHS @ 8:30 am

### **October 26**

ACT Test

### **November 5**

Iowa State U. Recruiter @ CHS @ 9:30 a.m.

### **November 6**

UNO Recruiter @ CHS @ 9:15 a.m.

### **November 8**

- Registration Deadline for SAT test on Dec. 7
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**PARENTS: Do not forget to ask your employers if they offer scholarships!**

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### **PSAT/NMSQT Test Date**

The PSAT/NMSQT, or National Merit Test, is a pre-SAT test given to juniors and sophomores to assess knowledge and skills developed through years of study in a wide range of courses. There is a scholarship competition included with this test. Information has been given to all qualifying students through our school announcements. This year the National Merit Test will be given October 16, 2013.

### **Senior Interviews**

The Clarinda High School Counselor will begin interviewing the seniors about their plans for after they graduate. They will receive information about colleges, how to locate scholarships, and the application process.

### **Scholarship Website**

Where can I find Scholarships??? Sign on to the school's website [www.clarinda.k12.ia.us](http://www.clarinda.k12.ia.us) > Select "High School" > on the drop down menu select "Scholarships." Scholarships will be updated throughout the year, but if they are not up dated feel free to gather information by using an internet browser. Other sites to use for scholarship searches are also listed on the school's scholarships web page.

**For more information on college grants, scholarships, and Countdown to College Calendar check out [www.icansucceed.org](http://www.icansucceed.org)**

## **Scholarship Info**

### **Due in October**

- All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship
- Wendy's High School Heisman Award Program
- Outstanding Students of America
- Ak-Sar-Ben – Horatio Alger Association State Scholarship
- Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation
- High School Christian Student Athlete All-American Program

### **Due in November**

- Prudential Spirit of Community Award
- The University of Iowa and the Stayer-Rairden Scholarship
- Voice of Democracy Scholarship
- Foundation for Individual Rights in Education FIRE
- American Association on Health and Disability Scholarship Organization
- Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
- PCI Academy Scholarship
- Hagan Scholarship Foundation

### **I Applied...Now What?**

Ok. So, you've applied to college and that's great, but what happens now?

Applying is one of the first steps on your path to attending to college. Keep in mind that it may take a couple of months for the college or university to get back to you. Here's a step-by-step guide for what to do in the meantime:

Once you've submitted your application, make sure that you've turned in everything you need in order for the college to consider you as a potential student. Have you:

- Submitted your application fee (if the college charges a fee)?
- Asked your high school counselor to send your transcript to the college?
- Submitted your letters of recommendation (if required by the college)?
- Submitted your essay (if required by the college)?
- Sent any college transcripts you might have (from dual-credit courses)?
- Sent your AP scores (if you have taken AP courses)?

Even after you're accepted to a college, there's still a lot of work to do to make your final decision and get ready. You'll want to consider what financial aid is available to you at the colleges you're considering, and you'll want to decide if you want to live on campus or commute. Of course, once you decide on a college, you'll need to register as a new student and enroll in classes.