



# Elder High School Guidance Department

August 2009

[www.elderhs.org/guidanceweb](http://www.elderhs.org/guidanceweb)

Junior Newsletter



**HERE WE GO!**



**TESTING**

## **Your Junior Year**

Each year at Elder it is very important to work hard and aim for high grades, but this year it is especially important. This time next year, you will begin the college process, and part of that process is sending in your high school transcript. Your transcript has a listing of your GPA, class rank, absences, and all of the classes that you have taken in the last 3 years and the grade achieved, plus the classes that you are currently taking as a senior. You will not have many senior year grades to show because applications are usually sent in before the semester ends, so the last thing college admissions offices have to “see you” are your junior year final grades. You want to make a good impression, you want to be well prepared – so make this year the best! If you want to know your current GPA and class rank, see your counselor or check PrepHQ.

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## **COLLEGE FAIRS**

### **The National College Fair**

The National College Fair will be held at the Duke Energy Center on Sunday, October 11 from 1-4 PM. It is FREE and open to the public. This is an excellent opportunity for any college bound junior and their parents. DON'T MISS IT!

### **COLLEGE FAIR 2009**

Miami University Hamilton Campus will host a college fair on Tuesday, October 13 in the gymnasium from 6:30-8PM. A Financial Aid Workshop will be conducted prior to the fair from 6-6:30PM in the Parrish Auditorium.

## **PSAT/NMSQT**

### **Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test**

All juniors will take this test at Elder on Wednesday, October 14. This test is both a practice for the SAT, as well as being the qualifying test for National Merit Scholarships. Any student who earns Semifinalist status on this test will receive a \$1000 cash award as part of Elder's National Merit Incentive Program. This test measures developed verbal, math and writing skills, generally associated with academic achievement in college. It is an ability or aptitude test rather than an achievement test. Each student will be given an information packet and a complete practice test to assist in preparation for the test. Many of the teachers at Elder use this practice material in their classes, so make sure that you keep your practice test. **DON'T LOOSE IT! ONE COPY PER STUDENT!**

## **OHIO GRADUATION TEST**

Any student who still needs to pass any section of the Ohio Graduation Test will have the opportunity the week of October 26. As a reminder, a student must pass all five tests in order to graduate from high school. If you have any questions, you should see your counselor.



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## **GRADUATION & COLLEGE**

### **Course Requirements for Juniors**

Students need to earn a minimum of 16 credits by the end of the junior year, and a minimum of 4 credits must be earned during this school year. The following are required: 2 Religion Courses, English, Math, American History, and if you are taking any of the following courses: Biology, Health, Computer Programming or Software Use. You are also reminded of the state requirement in science; Biology is a required course.

## College Entrance Requirements

In general, for direct entry to most colleges, you are expected to rank in the top half of your class. In addition, you are expected to have earned the following credits:

- 4 Credits of English
- 3 Credits of College-Prep Math
- 2 Credits of a Foreign Language
- 3 Credits of Science
- 3 Credits of Social Studies
- 1 Credit of Fine Arts

For competitive colleges and college majors, both a higher rank and additional college-prep credits are required. A 4<sup>th</sup> year of math is recommended. See you counselor or check Prep HQ if you have any questions or want to know your GPA and Class Rank.

## College Visits

Students and parents are encouraged to visit colleges before making a decision. Most colleges welcome your visit which can be arranged with a simple phone call. Because regular attendance in school is so important, it is recommended that you visit on non-school days, e.g., October 8-9. If you need to make a college visit on a school day, refer to the school handbook for procedures.

## College Visitations to Elder

College visitations to Elder will be posted on [PrepHQ](#). If you are interested in attending the presentation, sign up **at least one day in advance**. by going to the College link on Prep HQ.

## Elder Athletic Eligibility

Each academic quarter a student must pass five (5) courses (Phys. Ed. excluded). If a student fails one (1) course and passes five (5), he is eligible. If a student fails two (2) courses and passes five (5), he is eligible BUT must complete weekly progress reports with the athletic department.

## NCAA Eligibility Requirements

If you are interested in playing a collegiate sport at a Division I or Division II school, there are certain requirements that you must meet in order to be eligible.

- Grade Point Average: Minimum 2.0/4.0
- 16 Academic Core Course taken during 9-12 (mainly English, College-Prep Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language)
- Earn a sum of scores on your SAT and ACT depending on your current GPA (to

determine what you need – see your counselor)

The grades you have earned in the core courses during your freshmen and sophomore years are already a part of your record. Take your education seriously and work hard to earn A's and B's because C's and D's won't cut it.

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## NEED HELP!?

### Tutors

Tutoring is usually done before or after school, and you will meet 2-3 times per week for about ½ hour. We need tutors in ALL areas. This is a great way to get involved and earn some community service time. If you have time and are willing to make a commitment to help another student, please sign up to be a tutor. If you need a tutor, see your counselor.

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### PrepHQ

PrepHQ is the newest online resource for students and their parents. PrepHQ provides students and parents will up-to-date GPA & Class Rank, Test Scores, college updates & announcements, updated and complete scholarship listings, and more. **If you are not registered, please do so now.**

Parents should ask their son for their username and password.

### OCIS

#### Ohio Career Information System

Again, the Guidance Department has purchased an excellent resource on careers and colleges for students, teachers, and parents. The Ohio Career Information System is available on ANY computer. This year the site also contains a source to pair your interests with careers called IDEAS. Visit the guidance web site, Click on OCIS and type in the user name and password.

**USERNAME: ElderHS**

**PASSWORD: ohiocis03**

### Military Information

If you are considering enlisting in one of the branches of the military, you will have the opportunity to talk with the recruiters during the school year. If you are interested in becoming an officer, representatives from both ROTC and the military academies will be visiting Elder.

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