



Elder High School Guidance Department

September 2009

www.elderhs.org/guidanceweb

Sophomore Newsletter

Welcome back for another exciting school year.

The counselors are eager to work with you throughout the upcoming year.

Who is your counselor?

A-F Mr. Driehaus G-L Mrs. Graham
M-R Miss Klenk S-Z Mr. Sovern

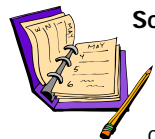
To make an appointment with your counselor, fill out an appointment slip found just inside the door of the Guidance Resource Center or send an email via the guidance web site.

Responsibility

Elder will provide you with an opportunity do quality work in school – it's your choice to do your best. Make your learning exciting, you should not only use what you learn but improve on it.

Services Offered by the Guidance Department

Personal Counseling
College and Technical School Guidance
Occupational and Career Guidance
Information on How to Study
Tutoring Service
Part-Time Job Information
Military Guidance
Test Information (OGT, PSAT/NMSQT, SAT /ACT)



Scheduling

Counselors are responsible for helping students plan their schedules each year and for making any necessary changes. Friday, September 11, 2009, is the last day to make a schedule change for year long and first semester courses. If you need to make a change for a second semester course, see your counselor in January.



Ohio Graduation Test

All sophomores will take the OGT the week of March 15-19. There are five tests, they include Math, Writing, Science, Social Studies, and Reading. Give your best effort because a student **MUST** pass all five sections of the test to be awarded a high school diploma. If you fail a section, you will be retested in that subject area during the next scheduled testing date.



Tutors

If you are having a problem with a particular class, and if you are trying your BEST and still find it difficult, tutoring *might* help you out. We have volunteer tutors who work either before or after school with students who are having study problems. **If you think that you need a tutor, see your counselor as soon as possible.** The counseling department can always use good volunteer tutors, we encourage strong academic students, including sophomores, to consider tutoring. Usually, tutoring takes place twice a week for about a half hour each time.

Who to See for What

Drivers Education	Mr. Ruffing
Good Student Drivers Disc.	Your Counselor (B avg.)
Bus Passes	Mr. Menkhaus
Work Permits	Secretary (main office)
Part-Time Jobs	Guidance Resource Center & Web Page
Getting a Tutor	Your Counselor & Web Pg.
Study Problems	Your Counselor
Personal Problems	Your Counselor
Discipline Problems	Mr. Ruffing
College Information	Guidance Resource Center Web Page & PrepHQ
Career Information	Guidance Resource Center Web Page & PrepHQ



Course Requirements for the Sophomore Year

In order to advance to the junior year, you must have a minimum of 10½ credits. You must also pass the following required subjects: Both Religion courses, English, Math, World Cultures, Biology, Physical Education, Health & any computer elective (if you are taking either this year). If you fail any required courses or if you don't earn 10½ credits, you must make up any deficiencies in summer school. In addition, it is very important that you are aware of the academic policy which states that a minimum of 3½ credits must be passed during the sophomore year in order to return to Elder the following year.

OCIS: Ohio Career Information System

The Ohio Career Information System is available on ANY computer. This site will allow you to thoroughly investigate careers and colleges. You can also conduct an assessment to further examine how your interests and skills relate to various career clusters. Visit the guidance web site, click on OCIS and type in the user name and password:

USERNAME: ElderHS

PASSWORD: ohiocis03



Rank-In-Class and Scholastic Average

The most important thing for students to do is to work hard, learn, and earn good grades which will be reflected in their overall average and rank in class.

Acceptance to college will be based primarily on student achievement during the first three years of high school. Your rank in class and scholastic average are the most important factors for admission to college. Most four-year colleges expect students to rank in the upper one half of their class and there are some selective colleges and programs (i.e. engineering, medicine, architecture) that expect students to rank in the upper one-fourth of their class or higher. Counselors have both your scholastic average and your rank in class for the freshman year or you can check the **PrepHQ** site for this information.



State Universities and What They Want

The state universities in Ohio want high school students to have completed the "minimum core" for college preparation:

- English – 4 credits
- Math – 3 credits
- Social Studies – 3 credits
- Science – 3 credits
- Same Foreign Language – 2 credits
- Fine Art – 1 credit

Some programs may require more extensive preparation in specific areas (i.e. engineering = 4 years of college prep math, chemistry & physics). Check with your counselor and the university of your Choice for additional information. Most private universities have similar requirements.

NCAA Eligibility Requirements for Division I and Division II Colleges

- Graduate from high school
- For **Division I**: based on GPA and ACT/SAT sliding scale; **earn** a 2.0 GPA in 16 academic core courses.
- For **Division II**: earn a 2.0 GPA in 14 academic core courses
- Core courses: English, math, social studies, science, and foreign language.

Elder Athletic Eligibility

Each academic quarter a student must pass five courses (Phys. Ed. excluded). If a student fails 1 course and passes 5 he is eligible. If a student fails 2 courses and passes 5, he is eligible.

Prayer

Take time to give thanks and praise! Communion service is available prior to each lunch period.



Upcoming College Fairs

National College Fair

Sunday, October 11, 2009

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Duke Energy Convention Center

College Fair 2006

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2009

6:00-8:30 PM

Miami University **Hamilton** Gym

ACT: PLAN TEST

All sophomores will take the PLAN on Wednesday, October 14. The PLAN is a great way to get familiar with and prepare for the ACT. PLAN contains four multiple-choice tests-English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science measuring curriculum-related knowledge and the complex cognitive skills important for future education and careers. It also contains an interest inventory that when correlated to the academic assessment will help students explore relevant career options.



Do you PrepHQ?

PrepHQ is an 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. Students should update information about their career and college plans. Parents should ask their student for the username and password. If you have forgotten your user name or password, see your counselor.