

GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

OCEANSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT



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Calendar

January 5:

Curriculum Night

7pm-7:45pm: Grades 9-10
8pm-8:45pm: Grade 11

January 24 - 27:

Mid-Year Exams

January 31:

- Second Semester Begins
- Night School Begins

February 10:

Career Forum, Period 2
11th Grade Students only

February 13:

Spring Club Fair
2:35 pm, HS Cafeteria

February 29:

Getting into College Night
7:30 pm, HS auditorium

SAT Test Dates:

*1/28/12, Deadline Past
*3/10/12, 2/10/12 Deadline
5/5/12, 4/6/12 Deadline
6/2/12, 5/8/12 Deadline

*OHS is not a test site for these
SAT test dates

ACT Test Dates*:

4/14/12, 3/9/12 Deadline
6/9/12, 5/4/12 Deadline

*OHS is not a test site
for ACT



Course Selection 2012-2013: Course Offering Guides for the 2012-2013 school year will be available shortly. In an effort to reduce the amount of paper that is used to copy this document, we will make it available online. Should you want a hard copy of the Course Book, we will mail one to the households that request one. Details regarding this will be mailed out soon. Parents are invited to an evening program on 1/5/12 to meet with their child's guidance counselor to review and discuss the selection of appropriate courses according to their child's grade level. Students and parents should review the course guide thoroughly and select electives carefully to ensure appropriate placement and space availability for next year. Students will not be able to make changes to their schedules once the new school year begins; therefore it is imperative that students give *serious* consideration to the electives they choose. Every student (Grades 9-11) will be assigned an appointment time to meet with his/her counselor to review graduation requirements and to select courses for next year. These meetings will take place beginning in January and will continue into February. Following the meeting, parents should review and sign their child's course selection form and have their child return it to their counselor no later than 2/17/12. Changes *may* not be possible after that date.

PSAT Scores: PSAT scores along with the exam booklet have been mailed home to juniors and sophomores who took the exam in October, 2011. Please contact your child's guidance counselor if they have not yet been received. The PSAT score report is a valuable resource to help students with their future test-taking endeavors. If students have questions or need assistance interpreting their scores, they should make an appointment to meet with their counselor.

HOMEBOUND POLICY: When a student is absent for more than three consecutive days, a doctor's note should be brought to the Counseling Department. Homebound tutoring services may be available if the student is absent for more than three consecutive days due to a documented medical condition.

EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT: Students are reminded about the importance of participating in extracurricular activities. Why not join a club or get involved in community service? It is never too late! A spring club fair will be held on 2/13/12 after school in the cafeteria. The winter sports season is in full swing. The spring sports season begins in March. See your counselor or go to the Office of Student Activities to obtain a list of clubs and organizations and their meeting times.

SUMMER PROGRAMS: Many colleges offer summer programs for high school students. These include college credit programs, enrichment courses in specific areas of interest and SAT preparation. Counselors are available to assist students with obtaining information about these programs.

JANUARY 2012

CLASS NOTES

TWELFTH GRADE NEWS

Graduation Requirements: Remember that all graduation requirements must be completed prior to the announced date in June for students to be eligible to participate in the commencement ceremony. Students who have questions should meet with their counselor to review high school graduation requirements.

College Applications: **REMINDER:** Students should obtain and submit all of their college applications via the internet or by mail. If students are submitting paper applications, please remember to provide the Registrar with a **10x13 envelope with 4 first class stamps**, as well as a college tracking form (pink sheet), along with each application. Stamped, addressed envelopes also need to be submitted for colleges that do NOT accept electronic submission of academic records or if students apply to Common Application schools but use the college's own institutional application. Do not put a return address on the application envelope - the high school address will be printed on the envelope. It is recommended that pink sheets (for both on-line and/or paper applications) be given to the Registrar at least two weeks prior to any college deadlines.

As students receive decisions from colleges (accept, deny, wait list, defer), a copy of each letter **must** be given to his/her counselor. When students make their final decision regarding the college they will attend, they must send a deposit and notify the other colleges to which they have applied. Students who are accepted under *Early Decision* must notify all other colleges to which they have applied and withdraw their applications accordingly.

Remember, the remainder of senior year is important. Many college acceptances are conditional upon the satisfactory completion of senior courses as listed on the transcript. **If a college requests mid-year grades, students must ask the Registrar's office to send the grades. They are not automatically sent to all colleges to which you have applied.** Students are required to complete a request form that will be available in the Registrar's Office. Mid-year grades will be sent electronically to schools that accept electronic submission of records. If you originally provided a 10x13 envelope to have your records sent to a college, you must also provide the Registrar with an additional standard size 10 addressed envelope (1 stamp) for mid-year grades to be sent.

Those students who have not yet applied to any colleges should see their counselor immediately.

Scholarships: Procedures have been outlined for those interested in applying for the **Oceanside District Scholarship**. This scholarship is based on need only, not on academic merit. Students should obtain an application from Mrs. Aiello in S-103A in February. Anyone filing a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is eligible to apply for this scholarship. Senior Award Night Scholarship Applications are due by January 13, 2012. For other scholarships, please review the monthly Scholarship Bulletins that are posted on the guidance department's web page and on Naviance. Printed Scholarship Bulletins are also available in the guidance office and are posted on the kiosk in the south wing near the Office of Student Activities.

Financial Aid: The FAFSA should be completed as soon after January 1, 2012 as possible. The various Financial Aid Offices at local colleges can be utilized as a resource for families with questions about the form and/or the application process. The FAFSA can be found on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You will also find links to additional resources on this website. Remember, you may also need to complete the C.S.S. Profile if the colleges you applied to require it. You can access this form at the College Board's web site: www.collegeboard.com.

Other important items:

- Diploma order forms must be returned to the Registrar's Office by February 17, 2012.
- The second semester begins on January 31, 2012. All seniors must have a minimum of 5 credit-bearing classes plus Physical Education (as well as Personal Finance if it was not taken already).
- Night school classes will begin on January 31, 2012.

ELEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Junior Groups: Counselors met with each junior in small groups from December 5th - 9th. Counselors reviewed how to interpret PSAT scores and how to prepare for the SAT and/or ACT, which most students will take for the first time in the spring of Junior year. In addition, vital information was discussed concerning a Personality Type Inventory, a College Search Worksheet and Resume found in Naviance, a computer based college and career planning resource, that **must be completed** prior to setting up individualized Junior Conferences in the Spring. Students were also encouraged to participate in our annual "Career Forum", to be held on 2/10/12. (Any parent who would like to share their career choice with a group of 11th Grade students from 8:30-9:30am on 2/10/12 can contact Mrs. Melillo at #678-7540). Please discuss the above meeting with your child. **Any student who missed this important meeting should see their counselor immediately to obtain login information and their passwords to the above website.**