

GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER 2015

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Calendar of Events

October 16
End of first nine week

October 25
ACT Testing

October 28
Parent/Teacher Conf.

October 30-31
Secondary Retreat

November 3
Parent/Teacher Conf.

November 26-28
Thanksgiving Break

December 17-19
Semester Exams

December 19
End of Second Nine Weeks

December 23-Jan. 4
Christmas Vacation

January 5
School Resumes

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FAIR ~ SEPTEMBER 15

The North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals will be hosting the National Christian College Fair at The Church at Polaris Tuesday, September 15 from 6:30-8:30. The event is free and open to all students looking to attend a Christian University. Over 30 universities and colleges will be in attendance. Pre-registration isn't required. The Church at Polaris is located at 1250 Gemini Place, Columbus, Ohio 43240

COLLEGE PLANNING CONFERENCE HELD BY "COLLEGE LIFTOFF"

Education is one of the largest and most rewarding purchases a family will make. Too many students successfully graduate only to shoulder debt payments as big as a house. Paying for college can be a challenge largely due to the lack of understanding about financial aid and funding options. College Liftoff will be at Delaware Christian School in the Sanctuary on Monday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m.. They will help students and their families measure the financial and career impact of preparing at one college versus the next and how to make sure they are not overpaying for a degree that will not have a positive return on investment. Please view the quick video (about 1:45 minutes) on the College Liftoff process which features Mary Ellen Tobin and David Tobin. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFVsbcdRrPKc>. All parents with 9-12 graders are encouraged to attend!

PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST (PSAT)

This is an optional test for juniors given at DCS on **OCTOBER 14**. The cost is \$15; checks made out to DCS. Please have your student register with Mrs. Ruminski by October 2. PSAT is a preliminary SAT indicating a student's preparedness for taking the college entrance exam. **It is also the qualifier for the National Merit Scholarship Program.** Students must place in the 98th/99th percentile to become a national merit scholarship semi-finalist. It is also the basis for determining recipients of the \$1,500 per year PPG Scholarship given in Delaware County. Top academic sophomores may take this test to prepare them for the PSAT as a junior. A study booklet will be given to students taking the test. Previous test booklets are also available for review.

ACT/SAT TEST

Colleges require one of these tests before an application will be processed. These college entrance exams now have an additional writing component. The basic ACT evaluates reading, science reasoning, math, and English skills. The basic SAT-I evaluates only English and math skills. Eastern schools typically require the SAT while those in the Mid-west most often require the ACT. Check with the college admissions to be sure which test is required and if they want the writing component. We highly recommend the ACT. DCS students consistently score higher on the ACT. Registration applications and test study guides are available in our office. The ACT costs \$39.50 for the basic ACT (no writing) and \$56.50 with the writing. The SAT-I costs \$54.50. The tests can be taken more than once and colleges recognize the highest scores. These are used not only for admissions but also scholarships. The tests should be taken either during the junior year or early in the senior year. Delaware Christian is an ACT test site, so take advantage of our familiar environment! You must register on-line or by paper application. DCS cannot process any applications!

ACT		SAT	
Registration	Test Date	Registration	Test Date
09/18/15	10/24/15	09/09/15	10/03/15
11/06/15	12/12/15	10/09/15	11/07/15
01/08/16	02/06/16	11/05/15	12/05/15
03/04/16	04/09/16	12/28/15	01/23/16
05/06/16	06/11/16	02/05/16	03/05/16
		05/05/16	06/04/16

FREE! ACT/SAT/CLEP PRACTICE TESTS THROUGH DELAWARE CO. LIBRARY.

Go to www.delaware.lib.oh.us; click "research links"; scroll to bottom under "testing and exams". Click "Learning Express Library". This is a comprehensive, interactive platform of practice tests and tutorials. You'll create your own account to track progress; all at no cost!

ACT PREPARATION SERVICES – Dan Morrison, who teaches test preparation classes here, also offers private coaching and instruction for the ACT tests. For more information call Mr. Morrison at 740-362-1495 or email at morrisoncgd@yahoo.com.

ACT/SAT TEST PREP PROGRAMS OFFERED THROUGH OHSAA

Professional athletes have donated enough funds to provide "eKnowledge" test prep programs to all students of Ohio member schools. On-line access or DVD formats are available at a nominal cost (0-\$20). Each program includes more than 11 hours of video instruction and 3000 files of supplemental test prep material, thousands of interactive diagnostic tools, sample questions, and practice tests. Students select the training they need and study at their own pace. Order at: www.eKnowledge.com/OHSAA.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship information that comes to DCS will be given to qualifying senior students. Most local scholarships become available in late winter or spring. Contrary to popular belief, there are not a lot of scholarships just waiting for someone to apply. Scholarship applications generally require extensive written applications. We encourage you not to pay for a scholarship search service without researching the company first. Many of these services duplicate free services provided by the government or college. In most cases, the best scholarship source is the college or university that you want to attend.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SOURCES:

www.HighFiveScholarships.com Claims to be the largest collection of scholarships assembled, free, also has free ACT/SAT practice test.

www.dcschool.org Go to "Secondary", then "Downloads", then Financial Aid Resources, "Resources to Help You Find Financial Aid", Twenty Things You Need to Know About Financing College" and more. 26 pages of sources and practical help courtesy of Chuck Kittrell, Bob Jones University. We also have hard copies to loan in Mr. McDonald's office.

www.legion.org/needalift Very complete sourcebook provided by the American Legion.

EDUCATION INSTITUTION SCHOLARSHIPS

Each college/university has extensive financial aid and scholarship programs. The key is to apply early and then the school will talk seriously with you about scholarships of all kinds. Seniors interested in scholarships should be applying now. **Don't be afraid to tell one school what another has offered you.** Scholarships and aid can be negotiated! If you are willing to shop for a school, opportunity for institutional scholarships increases considerably.

COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION OF PROFICIENCY (CLEP TESTS)

Perhaps the best opportunity for every DCS student to save college tuition money will be to take CLEP tests at the college or university that you are attending. **DCS students have been well educated in all of your basic courses and consistently score high on these tests.** It is a nationally recognized test given at most colleges costing approximately \$80/test. Passing the test at an established proficiency level makes it possible to receive credit for a class without actually taking the class. Example: A \$80 World Literature CLEP test is worth five semester hours at a private college which costs \$1500. Passing the test will allow students to receive 5 semester hours, start at the next level class, and **save \$1425.** A typical college allows students to CLEP 20-30 hours, a **potentially saving \$8500.** **Inquire at the college/university you will be attending.** We are recommending students pursue this avenue instead of offering several AP classes. Students who do well at DCS consistently receive college credit when taking appropriate CLEP tests in college.

FAFSA APPLICATION – ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR ANY FINANCIAL AID

Almost all colleges/universities require parents to submit the Free Application for Financial Student Aid if you are requesting any institutional or governmental grants, loans, or scholarships. This document becomes the basis of all need based financial aid. Paper forms are available in the DCS office in December or you may file on-line <www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Obtain a US Dept. of Ed. PIN at www.pin.ed.gov that will be needed to "sign" and access the FAFSA. Detailed financial information will be required from your 2015 1040 federal tax form. (The 2015 form may be estimated and revised later if necessary.) **The FAFSA should be filed as soon after January 1 as possible.** Do not procrastinate on this if you wish to be considered for many forms of financial aid.

HONOR DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

The student who completes the high school Academic Pathway must meet at least **seven** of the following eight criteria:

Earn four units of English;

Earn at least four units of mathematics which shall include Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and another higher level course, or a four-year sequence of courses which contains equivalent content;

Earn at least four units of science including one unit of Physics and one unit of Chemistry;

Earn four units of Social Studies;

Earn three units of Foreign Languages (must include no less than two units for which credit is sought), i.e., three units of one world language or two units of two different languages;

Earn one unit of Fine Arts; (band, choir or art)

Maintain an overall high school grade point average of at least 3.5 on a four-point scale **up to the last grading period of the senior year**;

Obtain a composite score of 27 on the American College Testing services' ACT assessment (excluding the optional writing test) or a combined score of 1210 on the College Board's SAT verbal and mathematics sections (excluding the required writing section).

OSU MAIN CAMPUS ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted by November 1, 2015 for consideration for top scholarships and honors programs at the OSU Main Campus. Admittance to Marion or Delaware campus OSU does not require early application.

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

Cedarville and other selective admission institutions require their applications to be submitted prior to Christmas vacation. Cedarville University will be waiving their application fee until November 1, 2015; check with the colleges you are applying to, to see if they are waiving their application fee.

COLLEGE VISITS

College visits are encouraged for juniors and seniors. Please make arrangements through the college and then obtain a pre-excused absence slip from the school office. Students who are pre-excused and bring a note of participation will not be counted absent at DCS for the visit day.

COLLEGE ADMISSION STAFF VISITING DCS

Students and parents are encouraged to take advantage of admission personnel being available here at school. If you have a special interest in any of these schools, it is encouraged that you pre-schedule a personal conference while the representative is here.

Tuesday, September 15	11:30-12:10	Huntington University
Wednesday, September 16	11:30-12:10	Cedarville University
Tuesday, September 22	11:30-12:10	Marion Technical College
Wednesday, September 30	11:30-12:10	Malone University
Thursday, October 1	11:45-12:30	Ohio Christian University
Wednesday, October 7	11:30-12:10	OSU

RECRUITMENT FOR ARMED SERVICES

According to federal law, schools must release to military recruiters the names, addresses, and phone numbers of juniors and seniors. Parents may request names not be given. Please notify DCS immediately if you do not want your student's name given to recruiters.

DRAFT REGISTRATION

Eighteen year old men are required to register for the draft. This is not only required by law, but essential to participate in government loans and scholarship programs. Registration cards are available at our school or any post office or you may register on line at www.sss.gov.