

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Junior Year and Standardized Testing
- Zero Hour

## Counselors

Mr. Dave Raiche  
Mrs. Monica Nugent

## DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

PSAT Testing	10/15
Quarter 1 Ends	10/21
ACT Testing	10/22
Parent/ Teacher Conferences	11/3

## Senior Year and the College Application

Senior year is filled with excitement as students complete one chapter of their lives and move on to the next. As we move into the senior year of high school it is important to think about the age old question of "what do I want to be when I grow up?" For most, if not all of you, it will involve post-secondary education. This could be 2 year, 4 year or vocational education. There are many things to think about as you navigate the waters of the application process.

Hopefully you have already started to think about, research and make decisions about where you are interested in attending. Some of the factors to keep in mind include: location, majors available, size of the school, average class size, cost and extracurricular activities offered. If you haven't made a list and evaluated, NOW is the time. Once you have some options laid before you it is time to visit the campus, take a tour, meet with admissions counselors, meet students and decide if it is a match for you and if you can see yourself spending the next couple years of your life living and learning at this place.

When you have a list of potential schools it is time to apply.

Look at the requirements for the application online.

Complete the application completely without blanks.

Decide if there is any supplemental information required for application including artifacts and/or recommendations.

Come to the Guidance Office to request an official Transcript be sent to the school you are applying to. Remember the 1<sup>st</sup> is free and any additional cost \$2 to send. The Guidance Office will not know to send a transcript unless you inform them that you completed an online application.

As you work on applications, be mindful of what the deadlines are. Some things to keep in mind:

Early Admission and Early Action Deadlines

Scholarships available through the university or college (many of these tie in with early application)

Many schools have deadlines in October and November for early action

Each school will have their own dates and deadlines that do not waiver. If they say they want information by October 15<sup>th</sup>, then it needs to be in by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you request ACT Scores and Transcripts to be sent *at least*, 1 week prior to a deadline to ensure they make it on time.

Some Websites that may be of interest

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/the-application/23626.html>

<http://www.petersons.com/college-search.aspx>

<http://www.knowhow2go.org/>

<http://www.college.gov/>

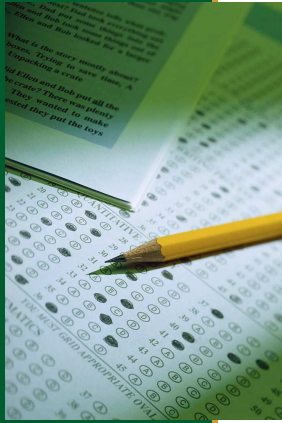
<http://www.colleges.com/>

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Be on the lookout for updated scholarship postings in the next week.

Go to [www.bishopmac.com](http://www.bishopmac.com)  
Click Current Students  
Click Guidance Office  
Click Scholarship News





### Upcoming ACT Test Dates

October 22, 2011

December 10, 2011

February 11, 2012

April 14, 2012

June 9, 2012

## Junior Year and Standardized Testing

PSAT testing will be offered on Saturday, October 15, 2011 for any interested Junior students. It will be from 8:30 - 11:30AM and the cost is \$15. The PSAT is a test that is a preparation for the SAT (college entrance exam) and enters students into the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for recognition and/or scholarships. Information will be provided to all Junior students next week. Interested students will need to sign up in the Guidance Office

by October 7, 2011. For more information about the PSAT, please visit the following website

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

Junior Year is also the time to take the ACT college entrance examination. It is recommended that any junior student that is interested in attending college take the ACT

in the spring of their junior year of high school. The college application process starts the first 3 months of the senior year. You don't want to miss the important deadlines in the application process by waiting to take your ACT your senior year. For more information on the ACT please visit <http://www.actstudent.org/>

ACT Prep Class Information available in the Guidance Office.

## Zero Hour - What is it?

Zero hour is the time prior to the start of the regular school day. Every morning all McNamara students have the ability to receive additional help with their schoolwork from their teachers.

From 7:45AM to 8:35 AM students are able to work with their teachers to receive the additional help, instruction and guidance that they may need in

that particular subject area. There is no need to make an appointment. This time has been specifically designed to meet the individual needs that each of our students may have. This is an opportunity for teachers to work with students to cover topics they may not understand, questions with homework or to gain understanding for a day a student may have been absent.

Teachers want to meet with ALL STUDENTS to help them in their academic pursuits. All of our students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity!

## The Guidance Office

For the 2011-2012 school year, the Guidance Office is a team of 3. Mrs. Madonna Larson is the Guidance Secretary. Mr. Dave Raiche will be working with the seniors and sophomores and Mrs. Monica Nugent will be working with the freshman and junior students.

What is the Guidance Office?

The guidance office works with students to help all students be successful academically, socially, emotionally and vocationally. This includes, but is not limited to, college and career planning, academic support, social/emotional support and service plans.

Throughout the school year the Guidance Office will be publishing the Guidance Gazette to inform students and their families about important topics and information pertaining to the guidance office, college preparation, testing, etc.