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HSPA INFORMATION FOR JUNIORS

ALL 11th grade students must take the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) on March 6, 7, and 8. This assessment tests proficiency in math and language arts literacy and is the state mandated test for graduation for every public high school student in New Jersey.

Students who do not pass the HSPA or who are absent for the test in March will be placed in an AHSA (Alternate High School Assessment) course beginning in September. They will test again in October but must remain in the AHSA for the fall semester. If students do not pass the October test, they must continue in remediation through the Spring.

It is extremely important that students take these tests seriously and do their best. The first day of testing is the math portion so students should come to school with at least 2 #2 pencils and a calculator. All other testing days students should come to school with at least 2 #2 pencils.

Testing will begin at 7:45 AM each day and conclude at about 10:45. **LATE ARRIVALS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO TEST.** Please encourage your child to get to school on time and be well rested and prepared for the tests. Unless otherwise assigned, students must report to homeroom on each of these days. **The remainder of these school days (March 6, 7, and 8) regular classes will be in session.**

All 9th grade and 10th grade students will also report to homeroom at 7:45 to take the pre-HSPA S-Test. This test will predict the need for remediation in math and/or language arts during the 2012-2013 school year. On March 6, 7, and 8 seniors will report to school at 10:30 a.m. each day. Buses will pick students up for a 10:30 a.m. arrival.

PEER TUTORING PROGRAM

The PHS Peer Tutoring Program is in full swing! Volunteer student tutors at all grade levels are available to assist students who need help in any academic subject area. All students are eligible for this program. Do not wait until the last minute to “cram”. Prepare well on an ongoing basis. See Mrs. Mattushik (Room 422) if you wish to sign up with a tutor for a specific subject or if you would like to become a tutor.

PARAMUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Paramus Public Schools is to develop all students as open-minded, life-long learners, who pursue their dreams and add value to the world.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

High school is filled with many new challenges for students and their families. While these challenges can be exciting, figuring out the best ways to cope is not always easy. The Student Assistance Program has poured its focus into fostering and promoting a positive learning environment in order to help.

In order to deal with this challenge, we turned to “Rachel’s Challenge” one of the top motivational school programs in the country. The events in October and November have been *the* difference makers in this area. It has started a “chain reaction” of positive acts of kindness throughout the student body. It has also led to creation of the “Friends of Rachel” or “F.O.R.” Club, which has spear headed different projects to help bring unity to the student body. The “F.O.R.” club includes 10 faculty and over 50 students and has been a welcome addition to student life.

Soon, there will also be creation of a “SAC” web page, used as an online resource for students, parents, and faculty. It will include mental health tips and links, a “Parent’s Corner”, video links, and upcoming “F.O.R.” Club announcements and events.

For further information about these programs, or if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. Joe Traina, Student Assistance Counselor at ext. 3083. Your call will be kept confidential.

COURSE SELECTION 2012-2013

School counselors have completed visitations to classrooms to discuss course electives and the course selection process. All students received a course directory and a course selection sheet.

Presently counselors are meeting with students individually to choose elective courses for next year. Students are placed in academic courses based upon recommendations made by this year’s teachers and according to prerequisites stated in the course directory. When your child meets with his/her counselor, they will be asked to bring the list of courses home for their parents to see. Parents should either sign indicating their approval or write a question(s) for the school counselor. Please be sure your child **returns this form to the Guidance Office**. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact your child’s counselor. Communication is key to creating the best possible academic program for your child.

School counselors are meeting individually with students as follows:

Grade 11	February 7 – February 15
Grade 10	February 16 – March 5
Grade 9	March 6 – March 16

A schedule of student appointments is posted in the Commons and outside the Guidance Office the week prior to the grade being scheduled. On the day of the appointment, students receive a pass in their first block class which acts as a reminder and as a pass for returning to class following the meeting with the counselor. **It is very important that students come to the Guidance Office at the assigned time!**

Summer Programs

Is your child looking for meaningful summer activities??...

A list of summer enrichment programs is available in the Guidance Office and on the Guidance page of the PHS website and on NAVIANCE.

Students with IEP's or 504 Accommodation Plans who wish to apply for extended time on college entrance tests should see their school counselor or case manager as soon as possible since the process of applying for test modifications can take up to two months.

SAT and ACT Testing Information

National Test Dates	Test	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
April 14	ACT	March 9	March 10 – March 23
May 5	SAT I and SAT II	April 6	April 7 – April 20
June 2	SAT I and SAT II	May 5	May 6– May 22
June 9	ACT	May 4	May 5– May 18

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATION REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Students taking one or more Advanced Placement Examinations are required to pay a fee of \$87.00 for each test they plan to take.

Advanced Placement teachers will distribute registration forms. Students are directed to take these forms home to complete with their parents. **One** Registration Form listing **All** AP examinations to be taken and a check for the **total cost**, made payable to Paramus High School, should be returned to Mrs. Torsland or Mrs. Lai in the Guidance Center (room 412) **no later than March 23, 2012.**

<u>ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST DATES</u>		
TEST DATE	TEST	TIME
Monday, May 7	Chemistry	7:45 a.m.
Monday, May 7	Environmental Science	7:45 a.m.
Monday, May 7	Psychology	12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 8	Computer Science A	7:45 a.m.
Tuesday, May 8	Spanish Language	7:45 a.m.
Tuesday, May 8	Art History	12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 9	Calculus AB	7:45 a.m.
Wednesday, May 9	Calculus BC	7:45 a.m.
Thursday, May 10	English Literature & Composition	7:45 a.m.
Friday, May 11	German Language	7:45 a.m.
Friday, May 11	United States History	7:45 a.m.
Friday, May 11	European History	12:00 p.m.
Monday, May 14	Biology	7:45 a.m.
Monday, May 14	Music Theory	7:45 a.m.
Monday, May 14	Physics C Mechanics	12:00 p.m.
Monday, May 14	Physics C Electricity & Magnetism	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 15	U.S. Government & Politics	7:45 a.m.
Wednesday, May 16	English Language & Composition	7:45 a.m.
Wednesday, May 16	Statistics	12:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 17	Macroeconomics	7:45 a.m.
Thursday, May 17	Microeconomics	12:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL (VHS)

Virtual High School (VHS) is a collaborative of more than 200 high schools from across the country and even around the world. VHS offers an opportunity to experience learning in a whole new way – via the Internet. VHS offers an opportunity to pursue an area of particular interest, one that is not covered by PHS curriculum.

This opportunity is open to 25 tenth, eleventh or twelfth graders each semester. Students must be self-motivated and self-disciplined. There is an application process which includes recommendations and a review of past academic achievement including patterns of meeting academic responsibilities.

Students who may be interested in participating in VHS for the 2012-2013 school year should see the school counselor for further information.

NOTES TO STUDENTS:

Grade 12: As you receive responses from colleges, put these results into Naviance and also input your final decision. **All seniors must complete the Senior Survey in Naviance by May 15 to ensure your college receives your final transcript.** If you are planning to attend college and have not filed applications, you should see your counselor as soon as possible to complete this process... If you are planning to enter the world of work or the military after high school graduation, you should notify your counselor of your plans and complete the Senior Survey in Naviance. If you are having difficulty making post-secondary plans, your school counselor is here to guide you through the maze of possibilities.

Grade 11: Be sure to register for the appropriate college tests as soon as possible... Remember, the passing of the HSPA is required for graduation and a score of “Advanced Proficient” is an indicator of academic expertise. Begin thinking seriously about your post-secondary plans. Begin to explore college choices in Naviance and visit the Career Center for additional college choice information. Set up an individual appointment for you and your parent(s) to meet with your school counselor in March or April.

Grade 10: With almost half of your high school experience behind you, you are aware of the importance of maintaining excellent grades. Your high school transcript which includes all of your final grades will be sent to the colleges you apply to in grade 12. It is important to keep working hard and seeking assistance whenever necessary.... In addition to developing your “academic self”, you should be developing your “social self” by getting involved in school and/or community activities. The trick is to not just stand on the sidelines.... **GET INVOLVED!** You can meet new and interesting people, get ideas about future careers, and see the world from a different perspective. Whatever you do, do it well! Don’t scatter yourself in too many different directions. Savor what you do and enjoy the experience. Above all, don’t be a couch potato. Colleges are looking for interesting, involved students who are looking for new challenges and experiences. Use the academic results of the PLAN which will be given in school on April 10 (registration deadline March 27) to consider your post-secondary options.

Grade 9: By now you should have adjusted to the differences between the middle school and the high school. High School is a time of adapting, growing, and becoming more individually responsible for your own academic and career objectives. Although college seems to be in the distant future, you have already begun to develop the record which will be sent to the colleges you choose. Your high school transcript which includes all your final grades (INCLUDING GRADE 9!) will be sent. Additionally, a record of your school and/or community activities will be sent. Time passes quickly, and colleges want to see a student who has shown consistent involvement.... **GET INVOLVED!**

Sophomores and Juniors!!

College Panel ... May 3, 2012 at PHS ... 7:00 p.m.

Have your questions answered by a panel of college admission experts.



A MESSAGE TO PARENTS OF JUNIORS

It's time for the parents of junior students to begin thinking about your child's post-secondary school plans. Whether considering a 2-year, 4-year or technical college, it is time to begin learning about the college search and application process.

For those of you who are new to this process, helping your son or daughter select a school that meets his or her needs is a complex, yet rewarding task. It can be a positive experience for the whole family or a time of tension and anxiety.

Some of the confusion and anxiety of trying to reach the right decision can be relieved with early planning and a clear understanding of the admission process.

Your son or daughter is fortunate to have the opportunity to take challenging courses at Paramus High School that will provide a good foundation for any type of college. They can also take many elective courses that will strengthen and broaden their academic backgrounds.

Your child's counselor is an excellent resource for all the planning that will need to be done. Please utilize the services of both the Guidance Department and the Career Center over the next several months. Communication is important for the research and admissions process to be positive and rewarding for both you and your child.

Take advantage of opportunities for you and your child to learn about the college choice and application process. We encourage all Juniors and their parents to:

1. Call your child's school counselor to set up an individual meeting for you and your child regarding post-secondary plans. These meetings will take place throughout March and April.
2. Encourage your child to make an appointment in the Career Center during March or April. This will give him/her the opportunity to enhance his college research.
3. Parents and students should use **Naviance** to start the college choice process.
4. Plan to attend the COLLEGE FAIR at PHS on April 12.

Never hesitate to call your child's school counselor (201-261-7800 EXT. 3086).

ATTENTION: JUNIORS THE "SENIOR EXPERIENCE" OPTION

While it is not for everyone, the Senior Experience is an option that can be exciting for many seniors!

Paramus High School is one of several schools in the state exploring opportunities for seniors through programs called the Senior Experience. Each high school is developing a variety of programs they feel best fit the needs and desires of their students.

In Paramus High School, seniors are able to take college courses for credit at Bergen Community College or possibly other colleges of their choice. Students may also arrange internship or apprenticeship opportunities to experience firsthand what it's like to work in a career of their choice.

If you think this sounds like something your child might be interested in doing next year, please have your child speak to their counselor.

Got Naviance???

The Paramus High School Guidance Department is extremely pleased and excited with the success of Naviance, our web based program designed especially for students and parents. *Family Connection* is linked with *Counselor's Office*, a service that counselors use to track and analyze data about colleges, providing up-to-date information that's specific to our school. Counselors are now able to email students with relevant information and important dates.

Family Connection allows you and your child to:

Research colleges - Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and have been admitted in the past.

Sign up for college visits - Find out which colleges are visiting Paramus High School and sign up to attend information sessions (seniors only).

Scholarship Opportunities – Search for scholarships, download forms, and visit websites for more information.

Summer Enrichment Programs – Learn about many summer programs for high school students

Career Search – Research careers (salary, education level required, job description), complete interest and personality inventory, link results with possible career path. This is done in grades 9 and 10 so that information gained can be used in the college search and choice process.

All juniors have been registered on Naviance and should be using this program to research colleges, access college websites, save prospective colleges.

All sophomores have been registered in Naviance and have been asked to complete the Interest Inventory and the Personality Inventory prior to meeting with their school counselor for next year's course selection. The information gained will be useful in making appropriate elective choices.

All freshmen will be registered on Naviance in the coming weeks and will begin the Interest Inventory in the career section.

If parents would like to register on Naviance and have their own accounts, please call the guidance office at x3086 and Mrs. Mattushik will give you your personal access code. The Naviance website is www.connection.naviance.com/paramus

Who: 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students with IEP's and 504's and their parents

When: March 27, 2012 7:00 p.m.

Where: PHS Cafeteria

What: From High School to College for Students with IEP's and 504's

Who: A panel of college admission representatives

JUNIORS: A resume can be an important part of your college application. Sign up in the Guidance Office to participate in the Resume Building Workshops which will take place in early April.

COLLEGE FAIR

SPONSORED BY PHS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

OVER 80 COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

PHS MAIN GYMNASIUM

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012

7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

PARAMUS HIGH SCHOOL
E. 99 Century Road
Paramus, N.J. 07652

Return Service Requested

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