

GUIDANCE GAZETTE

Mt. Vernon Township
High School

mvths.org

September, 2009

Welcome to MVTHS for the 2009-10 school year! Our Student Services Staff has been hard at work this past summer getting ready for your return, and we hope that this will be a challenging and enjoyable school year for you.

The members of the Student Services staff are available to assist you whenever you need help. Each student has been assigned a counselor whose primary concern is your welfare while you are a student at Mt. Vernon High. We are here to help guide you through the many transitions which you will encounter while you progress through high school. Our ultimate goal is to help you develop the skills and attitudes which will prepare you for the “real” world of work, or college, or whatever you may choose to do after high school. Members of our staff include:

Mrs. Melanie Gulley, *Director of Student Services*
Mrs. Kara Andrews, *Junior/Senior Counselor*
Mrs. Jena Allen, *Junior/Senior Counselor*
Mrs. Lee Ann Schuette, *Sophomore Counselor*
Mrs. Sarah Watts, *Freshman Counselor*
Ms. Tami Lovin, *Guidance Secretary*
Mrs. Christine Renth, *Social Worker*



New Places & New Faces

Mt. Vernon Township High School welcomes the following staff members to campus this year: David Edwards, Spanish; Courtney Denton and Katelyn Kombrink, P.E.; Jan Catron, Andrea Felty, and Christy Julius in Special Education; and Travis McCollum, Science.

Student Athletes Take Note:

If you are planning to participate in a sport in college, you must meet the NCAA guidelines. For the latest updates on these guidelines, go to ncaa.org. On the right side of their home page under “My Links” click on “Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.” Watch this newsletter for further updates from month to month.

Consumer Education Proficiency Test

The Consumer Education Proficiency Test will be given to registered students on Tuesday, September 29. No graduation credit is given for passing the test; however, the state requirement for passing consumer education is fulfilled. Students interested in signing up to take this test should do so in the Guidance Office. Sign up dates will be given during the daily announcements.

News for Seniors

ACT FOR SENIORS: Seniors may wish to retake the ACT test this fall to improve their score. The next ACT test date is OCTOBER 24, 2009. How can you sign up?

⇒ Register online (www.actstudent.org) or mail in the registration folder by **September 18**. The fee is \$32 for ACT with NO Writing or \$47 for ACT Plus Writing.

The Illinois State Board of Education has discontinued the October voucher retake of the ACT. Any student interested in taking the ACT in October will be required to pay the registration fee. All ACT registration materials are available in the Guidance Office in A Building.

SENIOR MEETINGS: The PSAE test scores should arrive in early fall. The counselors will then meet with all seniors to share and explain the test results.

Permission to Place ACT/SAT Test Scores on Transcript

ACT and SAT test scores may not be placed on a student’s transcript unless the student and parent give written permission to the school. If the student/parent decide not to place scores on the transcript, it becomes the responsibility of the student to see that their scores are sent to the college(s) of their choice.

Seniors will be given a *Permission to Place Test Scores on Transcript* form by their counselor or they may pick one up in the Guidance Office. Parents are asked to sign the form and make sure their student returns it to the Guidance Office as soon as possible. This policy also includes scores from AP tests.

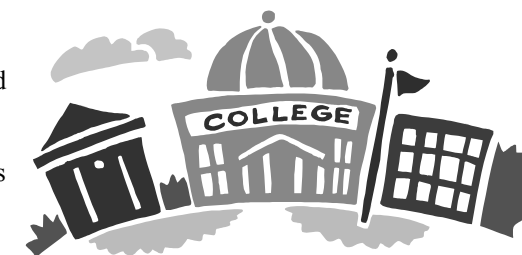
Scholarship Information

Be sure to check this newsletter each month for scholarship eligibility requirements and due dates. Scholarship information is also posted on the daily announcements and on a bulletin board in the Guidance Office. **It is the student’s responsibility to pick up scholarship applications and turn in completed applications and any required materials by the deadline.** Applications will be available in the Guidance Office and should be returned to the Guidance Office when completed. Two scholarship opportunities are already available:

- **Wendy’s Heisman Scholarship Program:** Senior athletes may apply online at www.wendysheisman.com. Deadline: October 1.
- **Dr. Seuss’s *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!* Scholarship Program:** This is an essay competition for seniors based on the Dr. Seuss book. Due: February 5, 2010.

College Day Request Forms

Students who plan to visit a prospective college on a school day must complete a *College Day Request Form* and return it to the Guidance Office at least one week prior to the scheduled visit. Forms require the signatures of the student, parent, and the student’s teachers. If the procedures listed on the form are not followed, the absence may be unexcused.



News for Juniors

PSAT TEST DATE: The PSAT test (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) will be given to interested juniors on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. This is not a college entrance exam, however like the SAT, the PSAT has been redesigned to be more closely aligned with high school curricula and college skills. Taking this test is excellent preparation for those who want to take the SAT during the senior year of high school. See your counselor for sign-up information.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS:

Most colleges and universities require an entrance exam; those most commonly required are the ACT and/or the SAT. Currently, both the SAT and the ACT tests include a writing component and/or subject area testing. Students need to check with the colleges/universities to determine which test is required, and if the writing or subject area element is also required for admission and placement. The cost will increase an additional \$14.50 - \$20 over the basic test fee.

PSAE: Juniors in Illinois will again be required to take the Prairie State Achievement Examination in April.

The PSAE is a graduation requirement. It includes the ACT test as part of that exam; that score is accepted by colleges and universities for admission purposes. The Writing Assessment will be included this year.

ACT & SAT: It is recommended that students register for either test online; a credit card is required for all on-line registrations. It is still possible to register by mail. See your counselor for registration materials.

| ACT Assessment | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACT National Test Dates for 2009-2010 | | |
| Test Date | Regular Registration | Late Registration (additional fee) |
| 9/12/09 | 8/7/09 | 8/8-21/09 |
| 10/24/09 | 9/18/09 | 9/19-10/2/09 |
| 12/12/09 | 11/6/09 | 11/7-20/09 |
| 2/6/10 | 1/5/10 | 1/6-15/10 |
| 4/10/10 | 3/5/10 | 3/6-19/10 |
| *6/12/10 | 5/7/10 | 5/8-21/10 |

* Not given at Mt. Vernon High School

| SAT Assessment—2009-2010 Test Dates | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Test Date | Regular Registration | Late Registration (additional fee) |
| 10/10/09 | 9/9/09 | 9/23/09 |
| 11/7/09 | 10/1/09 | 10/15/09 |
| 12/5/09 | 10/30/09 | 11/12/09 |
| 1/23/10 | 12/15/09 | 12/30/09 |
| 3/13/10 | 2/4/10 | 2/18/10 |
| 5/1/10 | 3/25/10 | 4/8/10 |
| 6/5/10 | 4/29/10 | 5/13/10 |

Given in Carbondale

ACT online registration: www.actstudent.org; SAT online registration: www.collegeboard.com

ACT Preparation Suggestions: Check out the following resources for study help.

Websites: www.petersons.com (go to Quick Test Prep Search on the left)
www.edinformatics.com (sample questions in all tested areas)
www.4tests.com (sample questions for ACT, SAT, etc.)
www.number2.com (link on the MVTHS website under *Resources*)

ACTive Prep: The official electronic guide to the ACT assessment.

School library: Check for ACT prep books, i.e. *ACT for Dummies*.



News for Sophomores & Freshmen


This year all freshmen and sophomore students will have access to two tests that are excellent career planning and test-taking opportunities. The **EXPLORE** test is designed for ninth graders and it will be given to our freshmen. The **PLAN** test is designed for tenth graders, and it will be given to our sophomores. Both tests will be administered this fall. There will be no cost to our students.

What's the benefit to the students?

- ◆ Both tests provide helpful career planning information.
- ◆ Both tests give information that can help students make sound course selections while in high school.
- ◆ Both tests allow students to become exposed to the kinds of test questions that are part of the 11th grade ACT test.
- ◆ Both tests will be given in a format similar to eventual ACT testing.

P.S. for Sophomores

Sophomores were assigned to either first or second semester Safety Education (Drivers Education) based on two eligibility requirements: 1) date of birth; 2) passing at least eight courses during the two semesters prior to taking Safety Ed. Students who failed to meet the eight-course requirement were placed in Safety Ed for second semester, allowing them time to pass the necessary course work.



Illinois College Exposition will be held on the Rend Lake College campus on Tuesday, September 22, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Representatives from over 40 colleges will be on hand to answer questions and provide students with registration materials. Students are encouraged to bring their parents to the event.

College Representative Visits

Throughout the school year, college representatives from a variety of public and private colleges and universities schedule time to visit MVTHS to speak to interested students. Upcoming visits are posted on a bulletin board in the Guidance Office in A Building, they are listed on daily announcements, and will be a regular feature of *Guidance Gazette*. The representatives are on campus in the Career Center *after school*, and students may stop by to speak with them. This is recommended for all students in all grades. The following schools will visit in September:

September 21 **University of Illinois –Urbana-Champaign**
 September 22 **St. Louis University**
 September 23 **Murray State University**

NOTE: As of press time these were the only schools to call and schedule a visit, however, more are expected to be here from the 21st through 23rd as the representatives will be in town for the ICE fair at Rend Lake College. Check in the Guidance Office later in the month for an updated list.