



# GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

December 2016/January 2017

Hopatcong High School, 2A Windsor Avenue, P.O. Box 1029, Hopatcong, New Jersey 07843 Phone 973-398-8803 Fax 973-398-9048

## From the Director's Chair



The Guidance Office has been a very busy place over the past few months. Many students have been in the office to talk to their counselors about scholarships, post-secondary plans, academic progress, and our college and career program: *Naviance*.

Seniors interested in exploring a potential career path may do so by participating in our Career Internship Program. Program Advisor, Mrs. Kalemba, will work with interested students in job placement. After school options are available for course credit.

As a reminder to students in grades 9-11, please be sure to work on satisfying your required community service hours. Each student must complete 10 hours each year in order to graduate.

As always, counselors are here to help students and parents/guardians with anything they might need. Please call us anytime! We pride ourselves on individual counseling and the open lines of communication we have with students, staff and parents.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

*Jaime Walker*

## College Planning Calendar January – March

- Complete college applications and request that transcripts be sent by December 19, so they may be sent out before the winter break.
- Schedule interviews (if applicable) before the new year.
- Take SAT Subject Tests if they are required by any of the colleges to which you are applying if you haven't already. The next test date is January 21, 2017.
- Review the scholarships available in *Naviance*.
- If you have not already done so, submit the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA) online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as possible. **The portal to apply opened on October 1, 2016.**
- Check on the status of your admission and financial aid applications as needed through each college's website.
- All juniors and families are invited to attend our evening college planning workshop on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the HHS Auditorium. A college admissions representative from Ramapo College of NJ will be the guest speaker.

## Instant Decision Days

Sussex County Community College (SCCC) and County College of Morris (CCM) will be conducting their instant decision days at HHS on December 6<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Students who are interested in attending one of these colleges are encouraged to submit their application(s) and advise their guidance counselor. Any senior who misses these dates, but would still like to apply, should make an appointment to see his/her guidance counselor for directions on how to apply. There is no application fee to apply to SCCC; please see your counselor for assistance. The application fee for CCM is \$30. Students eligible for free/reduced lunch are eligible for an application fee waiver. Please see your counselor as soon as possible for assistance.

## Scheduling

Scheduling for next school year will run during the months of January and February. Counselors will meet with juniors, sophomores and freshmen. Course selection sheets will be sent home for parents to review and sign. Please discuss the chosen courses with your child before you sign and return the form, as this will be your child's schedule for next year.

In addition, STEAM Academy and Future Teachers Academy programs are offered. Feel free to call your child's counselor if you have any questions. The Guidance website contains more information about the Academy programs.

Links to all of the popular websites on careers, colleges, information for athletes, scholarships

- <http://www.hopatcongsschools.org/hs:naviance.familyconnectioncareers>



*"Success is where preparation and opportunity meet."*

*Bobby Unser*

*Be sure to follow us on social media:*



*"What you do today can improve all your tomorrows."*

*Ralph Marston*



*"It always seems impossible until it's done."*  
**Nelson Mandela**



**Contact Information & Student Assignments**

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## ASVAB

Any student interested in the military, or who is unsure about a career path, can register for the ASVAB. This test is being offered at HHS on Friday, January 13, 2017. The ASVAB Career Exploration Program can help you take steps now toward finding a career that's right for you. The program is designed to help you learn more about yourself, and to help you explore occupations in line with your career interests and skills. If you are interested, please sign up in the guidance office to register for the ASVAB. *It's free!* Some seniors have been automatically enrolled for this test as a result of receiving partially proficient scores on the spring 2016 PARCC assessments. These students have been notified.

## PSAT/SAT

PSAT scores will be distributed in **January** for the students who took the PSAT in October. Counselors will help students assess particular strengths and weaknesses, and offer suggestions to help them improve their scores. Juniors should then **strongly** consider taking the SAT's on one of the following dates:

- March 11, 2017
  - May 6, 2017
  - June 3, 2017\* Offered at HHS!
- Register at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## Scholarship Bulletin

The Scholarship Bulletin is a running list of national, state and county scholarships that are available on *Naviance*. Go to "Scholarships" in Family Connection, <http://connection.naviance.com/hopatcong>.

Seniors are encouraged to apply for all applicable scholarships. Applications for scholarships can be obtained through *Naviance*. Please see the description of each scholarship for directions on how to apply. Please contact your guidance counselor with any questions.

In addition, information about local scholarships will be available in March to all seniors. For more information, check [www.hopatcongschools.org](http://www.hopatcongschools.org).

## PARCC Update

Presently, according to the New Jersey Department of Education, **successful completion of the PARCC assessment will be a graduation requirement for the class of 2020. However, all students currently enrolled in high school will need to demonstrate proficiency with regard to Common Core standards as outlined in our curricula.** Students may demonstrate proficiency by meeting state guidelines for successful PARCC completion or by a variety of other means outlined in the table below. Students **MUST** meet *one* of the criteria in the chart for ELA and *one* for Mathematics at some point between grades 9-11 in order to earn a New Jersey high school diploma. At this time, students who do not achieve adequate scores for the PARCC assessment or do not participate in the PARCC assessment will need to either meet the minimum scores for one of the alternative standardized assessments in the chart or complete an extensive portfolio review process.

Last fall, the NJDOE announced that high school juniors currently enrolled in an Advanced Placement English class may be exempt from taking the PARCC ELA 11 assessment.

### Revised Graduation Requirements for High School Classes of 2017-2020 effective May 24, 2016

English Language Arts	Mathematics
PARCC ELA Grade 9 $\geq$ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	PARCC Algebra I $\geq$ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>
PARCC ELA Grade 10 $\geq$ 750 (Level 4) <i>or</i>	PARCC Geometry $\geq$ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>
PARCC ELA Grade 11 $\geq$ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>	PARCC Algebra II $\geq$ 725 (Level 3) <i>or</i>
<b>Prior to 3/1/16 SAT Critical Reading <math>\geq</math> 400 <i>or</i></b>	<b>Prior to 3/1/16 SAT Math <math>\geq</math> 400 <i>or</i></b>
<b>3/1/16 or later SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section <math>\geq</math> 450 OR SAT Reading Test <math>\geq</math> 22</b>	<b>3/1/16 or later SAT Math Section <math>\geq</math> 440 OR SAT Math Test <math>\geq</math> 22</b>
ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading $\geq$ 16 <i>or</i>	ACT or ACT PLAN Math $\geq$ 16 <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer $\geq$ 6 <i>or</i>	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra $\geq$ 76 <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer ESL $\geq$ 4 <i>or</i>	
PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading* $\geq$ 40 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading** $\geq$ 22 <i>or</i>	PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math* $\geq$ 40 <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math** $\geq$ 22 <i>or</i>
ACT Aspire Reading $\geq$ 422 <i>or</i>	ACT Aspire Math $\geq$ 422 <i>or</i>
ASVAB-AFQT Composite $\geq$ 31 <i>or</i>	ASVAB-AFQT Composite $\geq$ 31 <i>or</i>
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

NOTE: \*PSAT taken prior to October 2015; \*\* PSAT taken after October 2015.