

## **Freshman**

Because guidance services are important during your student's time at Alter, we meet with them as soon as possible during the first semester. We first meet with freshmen in groups to introduce them to the Taylor College Resource Center (TCRC), a great test preparation and college/career research opportunity. We then meet with students individually to discuss how to succeed in high school and to help them with any transitional concerns they have. Finally, we meet with them a third official time in the Taylor College Resource Center to continue emphasizing its many opportunities for them. This meeting occurs during Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) week, when they also take practice OGT tests. Although we only have three official visits with freshmen, your student is welcome to stop by Guidance any time they have questions or concerns.

The bulletin board and wall, located outside the Guidance Office, provides college, part-time work, and educational enrichment information throughout the year. This area is constantly updated, so your student should look at it often for new opportunities.

Athletes desiring to play NCAA Division I or II sports in college must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center during their junior year at <http://eligibilitycenter.org>. It is best to become acquainted now with NCAA requirements, including which high school classes they approve/deny. For further information regarding the NCAA, please contact the Guidance Office.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have regarding your student's freshman year!

## **Sophomores**

Sophomores take the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) in spring. They are required to pass all five sections of this test before graduation. Sophomores also take the PSAT in October as preparation and practice for their junior year PSAT, which is a competition for the National Merit Scholarship. Sophomores can prepare for the OGT and PSAT in the Taylor College Resource Center. We meet with sophomores during the second semester to discuss their transcripts, activities, careers, and other school-related issues.

The bulletin board and wall, located outside the Guidance Office, provides part-time work and educational enrichment information throughout the year. This area is constantly updated, so your student should look at it often for new opportunities.

Athletes desiring to play NCAA Division I or II sports in college must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center during their junior year at <http://eligibilitycenter.org>. It is best to become acquainted now with NCAA requirements, including which high school classes they approve/deny. For further information regarding the NCAA, please contact the Guidance Office.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have regarding your student's sophomore year!

## Juniors

A primary focus for juniors is career information and college planning. We will assist juniors in getting information about careers, college options, military service, or employment. Another related guidance service offered to all junior and their parents is a college information program in late spring. All juniors take the PSAT in October, which allows students to compete in the National Merit Scholarship competition and acts as a practice test for the SAT.

Most four-year colleges and universities review ACT/SAT scores during the admissions process and these tests are also required for many scholarship opportunities. We strongly encourage juniors to take one or both of these tests for the first time in spring of their junior year. The test dates are available at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) (ACT) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (SAT). Also, any student who has not passed one or more sections of the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) will retake that portion of the OGT in the fall of their junior year.

Throughout the first semester, college and university representatives will visit Alter to inform students about what their institution has to offer. Your junior will have opportunities to meet these representatives during the school day in order to gather information and ask questions. Please refer to the calendar on Parents Web for a current listing of schools and dates. Also, your student can take a total of three scheduled college visits during junior/senior years (please see guidelines in the student planner/handbook on pages 22-23).

We will meet with all juniors individually during the beginning of the second semester to discuss senior schedules, credits, GPA, course requirement for graduation, college, and career plans. Information on college visits and the college search will be available to your junior at this time.

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Athletes desiring to play NCAA Division I or II sports in college must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at <http://eligibilitycenter.org>. As part of this process, your student must print off the NCAA Transcript Release Form and bring it to the Guidance Office in order for us to send high school transcripts. Prospective college athletes must also arrange to have their ACT/SAT scores sent directly from the testing service. For further information regarding the NCAA, please contact the Guidance Office.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have regarding your student's junior year!

## Seniors

Senior year is the capstone of your student's high school education and a time of transition as your senior completes plans for the post-high school years. During the fall, we will meet with your senior to review high school credits and discuss post-high school plans.

Throughout the first semester, college and university representatives will visit Alter to inform students about what their institution has to offer. Your senior will have opportunities to meet these college representatives during the school day in order to gather information and ask questions. Please refer to the calendar on Parents Web for a current listing of schools and dates. Also, your student can take a total of three scheduled college visits during junior/senior years (please see guidelines in the student planner/handbook on pages 22-23).

Information regarding the college application process is located in the *College Application Guide* available on the Alter website and in the Guidance Office. The information contained within the Guide is presented and distributed to every senior in early fall. Please ask your senior to share this information with you. Also, please be aware of college application deadlines listed below and outlined in the Guide.

- The Guidance Office requires at least **two weeks** to process and mail your application packet
  - Keep in mind we process an estimated 700 college applications on a **first-come, first-serve basis**
  - **DEADLINE EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE 2-WEEK RULE:**
    - *APPLICATIONS WITH A DECEMBER 1 DEADLINE MUST BE IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29*
    - *APPLICATIONS TO BE MAILED BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK MUST BE IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5*

The bulletin board, located outside the Guidance Office, provides college and educational enrichment information throughout the year and the scholarship wall (also located outside the Guidance Office) posts a variety of local, state, and national scholarship opportunities. The wall is constantly updated, so your student should look at it weekly for new opportunities. Families who plan to file the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) should do so as early in 2011 as possible. Help with filing the form can be found at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

The Internet is now the primary source for college information. Your student was offered a list of pertinent websites during the junior conference and again in the early fall class meetings. They can utilize the Taylor College Resource Center for all their college and scholarship Internet research.

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Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have regarding your student's senior year!