

# **SENIOR NEWS**

**September 2006**

## **Guidance Department Bristol Plymouth Technical High School**

**SENIOR NEWS** is written for seniors and mailed home so students and parents can take the opportunity to review information together. Since there is a great deal of information about planning for after high school (career decisions and college/vocational school information), it is felt that it would be best to communicate these important matters through a newsletter. Seniors should read the information carefully.

**PERSONAL FOLDER:** It is highly recommended that seniors obtain a folder for the purpose of keeping important information (newsletters, test scores, resume, post-secondary school information, military information, calendar of dates, job-search techniques) that will be referred to and used during the year.

**PERSONAL INTERVIEWS:** Each senior will have at least one individual appointment scheduled by the Guidance Office before the end of the first semester. The student as needed may schedule (additional appointment.) The focus of this session is to assist the student in career exploration and plans for after high school. Evaluation of academic background, interests, skills and abilities will be conducted.

**POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS:** Seniors are reminded that they should be in the process of conducting college searches, visiting schools, and obtaining school applications.

In order to help you during this time in regards to submitting your applications. If you are interested in having the Guidance office submit your application, you will need to fill out an Application Checklist form. Completed applications may be brought to the Guidance Office with every item on the checklist checked, such as: a resume, letter(s) of recommendation, and the appropriate application fee (checks) attached. Students who complete an online application should submit transcript request form at the Guidance Office, so that a transcript of grades may be sent to the appropriate school in a timely fashion.

**TESTING:** The SAT Reasoning Test requires a fee of \$41.50, Test dates and registration deadlines are as follows:

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINES	
	Regular	Late (additional fee)
Oct 14	Sept. 12	Sept. 20
Nov. 4	Sept. 29	Oct. 11
Dec. 2	Nov. 1	Nov. 9
Jan 27	Dec 20	Jan 4
March 10	Feb 2	Feb. 14
May 5	March 29	April 11
June 2	April 27	May 9

Students may register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) this is a very useful site as it also contains test prep questions, college search information and a senior action plan. Paper registration forms are available at the Guidance Office.

The same registration dates apply for the SAT Special Subject Test, which may be required by some colleges. Students should check the admissions requirements of each school! Bristol Plymouth school code # is **222125**

The ACT is a test that is another standardized test that is suppose to measure the skills students have learned throughout their years in high school. This test covers English, Reading, Math, Science, and a Writing section that is voluntary.

The ACT Assessment dates and registration deadlines are as follows:

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINES	
	Regular	Late (additional fee)
Sept 16	Aug 18	Aug. 19-25
Oct 28	Sept 22	Sept 23-Oct. 6
Dec 9	Nov 3	Nov 4-16
Feb 10	Jan 5	Jan 6-19
April 14	March 9	March 10-23
June 9	May 4	May 5-18

Students may register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

**Seniors should make sure to select the colleges they are applying to for them to receive the official scores of the test during registration.**

**FINANCIAL AID:** The filing of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by students and parents for federal government financial aid is required by all colleges, universities and technical schools. The 2006 – 2007 FAFSA is due to arrive in the guidance office in December. It cannot be submitted before. We will be hosting a Financial Aid night in December and more information will be coming in relation to this. There is also a College Goal Sunday (not sponsored by BP) in which assistance will be given to help fill out the application. This day is scheduled for Sunday January 28, 2007 at 2pm. There are 13 locations across the state: Boston, Brockton, Cape Cod, Charlestown, Chelsea, Chestnut Hill, Fall River, Fitchburg, Framingham, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Malden, Pittsfield, Springfield, Waltham and Worcester, more information about this will be given during our financial aid night.

About 750 colleges and universities in the country also require the CSS Financial Aid Profile. If schools that you are applying to are not listed in the bulletin, then the Profile does not have to be completed. Students may register for the CSS profile online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

**COLLEGE/MILITARY CAREER FAIR:** Bristol-Plymouth will host a college fair on Tuesday November 21, 2006 from 12:45 – 2:15pm in the Cafeteria. Representatives from a number of colleges, technical schools and the military will be in attendance. The fair affords parents, as well as students, the opportunity to speak directly with recruiters and college admissions representatives concerning programs, costs, facilities and financial aide at their institutions. It allows students an opportunity to obtain school catalogs and applications.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** The Bristol-Plymouth General scholarship application is distributed to students in their English classes. It is also available in the Guidance Office along with a number of other scholarship applications that will arrive throughout the year. Students are encouraged to review the list of scholarships weekly (either on the BP website or in the guidance office) and to pick up scholarship applications (from the guidance office). Scholarship applications should be submitted to the sponsoring organizations by the deadline.

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Students seriously considering pursuing the military after graduation may contact the Guidance Office for assistance in reaching the military recruiters. Military Career Day will be held simultaneously on Tuesday November 21, 2006 from 12:45 – 2:15 in the Cafeteria. The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) will be administered at Bristol Plymouth on Wednesday Oct. 25, 2006. Students may register to take the test in the Guidance Office.

**ATTENDANCE/ ACADEMIC GRADES:** Students should be paying very close attention to shop and academic attendance. This can stop you from graduating with your class. Don't wait till it's too late! If you think you are over your time, coming close to being over or simple don't know come see me in guidance. Grades are also extremely important! you need to pass all of your classes each semester in order to have enough credit to graduate. If you fail a subject during the fall semester you will have to go to winter school. If you fail a subject in the spring semester you will not be able to graduate with your class and will have to go to summer school, pass the class before you are awarded your high school diploma.

**BULLETIN BOARDS:** Students should check the bulletin boards outside the Guidance Office for information on schools, "Open House" dates, dates for college visits and financial aid information. We are planning on having a Senior Center Bulletin board in Guidance at some point during the fall or winter and you should be checking that board for additional information also.

**TIP OF THE MONTH: \*\***

- Contact schools you are interested in applying to and ask them to send you an application packet.
  - Complete applications and essays- watch deadlines carefully.
  - If you are applying under rolling admission, getting your application in early to the college may improve your chances.
  - Remember neatness matters! Photocopy each application. Fill it out, make corrections, then copy everything neatly onto the original. Be sure you've answered everything completely and accurately.
  - If you don't understand a question, don't leave it blank. Ask your counselor for help. Be sincere in your essays. Consider asking a teacher to read your essay(s) and offer suggestions. Be sure the essays express your own ideas in language that is true to you. Put drafts of essays aside for a few days before you start revising. Look over everything carefully for spelling, grammar, and neatness.
  - Whether interviewing with a college representative or for a job, make the best possible impression. Think about what you might be asked. Dress neatly. Listen to questions carefully. Answer fully (not just yes or no). After an interview, send a thank you letter.
- \*\* Taken from Planning for College – A senior year calendar.\*\***