

COUNSELOR UPDATE

Academics | Social-Emotional Learning | Career and College

Upcoming Events

- ✦ 1/22 - Incoming Freshmen Curriculum Night, 7pm
- ✦ 1/21-2/18 - ACCESS Testing for ELL Students
- ✦ 1/27-1/31 - Class of 2021 Course Selection
- ✦ 2/3-2/7 - Class of 2022 Course Selection
- ✦ 2/5 - Incoming Freshmen Course Selection, Student Cafeteria, 3:30 PM-8 PM
- ✦ 2/6 - Quarter 3 Midterm Ends
- ✦ 2/10-2/14 - Class of 2023 Course Selection
- ✦ 2/18 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:30 PM-8:30 PM
- ✦ 3/12 - End of 3rd Quarter
- ✦ 3/14 - Optional SAT Test
- ✦ 3/23-3/27 - Spring Break
- ✦ 4/4 - Optional ACT Test
- ✦ 4/14 - All School Testing
- ✦ 4/21 - Financial Aid Night Presentation, 7 PM
- ✦ 4/23 - AP Pre-Administration Session
- ✦ 4/22 - College & Career Fair



Next Year Course Selection

Over the next few weeks, the counselors will be meeting with students to begin the process for next year course selection. It is important for you and your child to discuss course selections together and be aware of upcoming deadlines.

Pre-Course Selection Seminars: At the beginning of 2nd Semester, the counselors meet with each class to hand out the course selection form, summer school brochure, and explain how to request courses for next school year. Course selection forms and all related forms are due the Friday of the week following this seminar in the Counseling Office.

Class of 2021 - Week of 1/6; Forms due by 1/17

Class of 2022 - Week of 1/13; Forms due by 1/24

Upcoming Seminars

- ◆ 1/6-1/10 Class of 2021 Pre-Course Selection
- ◆ 1/13-1/17 Class of 2022 Pre-Course Selection
- ◆ 1/20-1/24 Class of 2023 Pre-Course Selection
- ◆ 1/27-2/21 - Office Hours and Course Selection
- ◆ 2/24-2/28 Junior Seminar - Post High School Planning Part 1
- ◆ 3/3-3/6 Junior Seminar -Post High School Planning Part 2
- ◆ 3/9-3/13 Junior Small Groups - Post High School Planning
- ◆ 3/16 - 3/20 Small Groups - 3rd Quarter Academic Check-Ins

Class of 2023 - Week of 1/20; Forms due by 1/31

Course Selection Meetings: During the following weeks, students will be called down during their Physical Education classes to meet with their counselor and review their course selections. Students not enrolled in a PE class will be called down individually by their counselor.

Class of 2021 - Week of 1/27

Class of 2022 - Week of 2/3

Class of 2023 - Week of 2/10

Course Change Requests: Course availability and number of sections are determined based on student requests after their course selection meetings. Therefore, it is important for students to think carefully when choosing their classes to best ensure a spot in their desired classes. OLCHS will work to provide students with their top or alternative course selections, but counselors will contact students if this is not possible. Since the master school schedule is completed at this time, students may not be able to change courses after **March 12th, 2020**. Change requests past this date will be honored only if there is adequate enrollment space in the requested new course. Schedule change requests will not be honored after the second week of each semester.

ACCESS Testing WIDA™

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is an English language proficiency assessment for students who are English Language Learners. The four sections of the test are Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. All identified English Language Learners must be tested each year until he or she achieves a "proficient" score. A proficient score is 4.8 on the overall test. Students who are proficient are no longer required to take the ACCESS test, and may no longer require ESL support. OLCHS will be giving students this state-

Trades & Apprenticeships

Go to [Union Apprenticeship Application Info](#) to view more information about apprenticeships in our area.

College, Career, & Military Visits

Go to goo.gl/5wdpM7 to view our visit calendar!

Service Learning Opportunities

Go to www.olchs.org/students/service-learning/ to view our Service Learning Calendar and list of Pre-Approved Sites!

Scholarships

Click [HERE](#) to view the OLCHS Scholarship Bulletin. Check often for updates!

required language proficiency test called ACCESS anytime during the window of January 21st through February 18th.

New this year, the students will be taking the ACCESS test on their iPad.

If you have any questions about the ACCESS test, please contact:

Mary Kerrigan (708) 741-5662 mkerrigan@olchs.org

Samantha Razik (708) 741-5643 srazik@olchs.org

2nd Semester Parent-Teacher Conferences Approach

Mark your calendars now. Second Semester Parent-Teacher conferences will be held at OLCHS on Tuesday, February 18 from 5 - 8:30 PM. As in the fall, teachers will be available for brief conferences in the Spartan and Auditorium Gyms located on the south end of the school building. In addition, your counselors will be on hand in the Student Services Office 117 to answer any questions or concerns you might have about your child's current progress or preparations for their future. Be sure to bring a copy of your student's schedule and teachers to help expedite your conversations once you arrive. We highly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to connect with our staff! Representatives from the Business Office will also be available to collect fees, place lunch money on Student ID cards, and to answer any and all questions regarding PACE bus routes, Ventra Cards, and free lunch/fee waivers. See you on February 18th!



Spartan+ Highlights

This month counselors and teachers are

providing information about course selection for next year, including an “Electives Open House Week.” During this week, students can sign up for certain Spartan Plus sections so they can get a feel for these elective courses before making a decision for next year’s schedule. These sections will include Painting, Clay, Photography, AP Art History, Computer Science, Technology, Culinary, Child Development, Foreign Language, and Anatomy, as well as dual-credit programs with Moraine Valley (CNA, HVAC, Welding, and EMT).

Additionally, this semester NHS peer tutors are available in most of the core academic Spartan Plus sections (math, English, science, and social studies.) Students can work with their teachers to arrange time with a peer tutor when needed. Spartan Plus updates can be found posted in the Message Center in Skyward Family Access.

All School Testing In April - Be Prepared!

On Tuesday, April 14th, Freshman, Sophomore and Junior students will be participating in PSAT or SAT testing. Senior students will not be in attendance and are encouraged to complete service learning hours, college visits, or career exploration.

Both the PSAT and SAT measure skills and knowledge attained in high school as well as those deemed vital for post-secondary success. Each test is now mandated by the state of Illinois, while the SAT is a graduation requirement.

Most importantly for Juniors, SAT scores are used in the college application process. *Each time a student takes the SAT, they can send up to four free score reports to colleges and universities of their choice.* **Be sure to remind your Junior student to utilize this option on testing day, as schools interpret this as a demonstration of interest!** As the testing day approaches, students should utilize the online Khan Academy, which offers students free practice tests and the capability to build a personalized practice progression from PSAT results.

Grade	Test	Schedule (Times Subject to Change)	Further Information
9	PSAT 8/9	8:32-12:25	This test includes reading, writing/language, and math sections.
10	PSAT 10	8:32-12:25	Aligned to the SAT. While similar to the PSAT/NMSQT, this test <u>does not</u> qualify the student for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

11	SAT	8:32-1:30	This test includes reading, writing/language, math, and a short essay. This test is mandated by the State of Illinois for all Grade 11 students. SAT scores from this date CAN be used in applications to colleges and universities.
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SAT Success Boot Camp

OLCHS, in partnership with the Academic Tutoring Center, is offering 4 hours of test prep and resources for Juniors to prepare for the SAT. The boot camp will focus on:

- Maximizing SAT® Scores 100 to 300 points in 4 hours!
- Learning Tips, Tricks, & Strategies the Test Creators Don't Want You to Know
- Receiving information from a Highly Experienced Presenter (A Nationally Recognized Author & Company Owner)
- Completing a resource packet that is yours to keep!

This boot camp will take place Thursday, February 27th from 8:30AM-12:30PM in the Spartan Gym. Permission slips are available in the Main Office, and registration is \$20. Space is limited, so sign up fast. Contact Assistant Principal Lauren May at lmay@olchs.org or (708) 424-5200 for more information.

SAT vs. ACT - What is the Difference?

The state of Illinois requires all juniors in public high school to take the SAT as part of state testing. Parents often say "when I was in high school the school made us take the ACT". Is there a difference between the two tests? Both tests generally test the same things (such as reading and math) in slightly different ways. Colleges accept both tests as part of the admission process. So which one should your junior student take?

Juniors have to take the SAT as part of state testing in April. This test is free to them. They can prepare for the test by logging on to Khan Academy, at www.khanacademy.org, to prepare for the test (this prep program is free of charge). If Juniors are not happy with their score from the April SAT test, they can always take it again June 6th or in the fall of senior year. To register for an additional SAT test, students will need to pay a fee and register at www.collegeboard.org. Students can sign up on the College Board website at www.collegeboard.org. Junior students that participate in the free lunch program can see their counselor for a fee waiver for this test.

Juniors that want to take the ACT can also sign up for the June 14 test on the ACT website at www.act.org. If a student is looking for free test prep material for this test, they can find it at www.academy.act.org. Again, students that participate in the free lunch program at OLCHS can see their counselor for a fee waiver for this test.

If you have any questions about testing, or test dates, email or call your student's school counselor. They can help you with this information.

AP Students - Save the Date!

To prepare for AP exams, students in AP courses will attend a mandatory Pre-Administration session during Spartan Plus in April. During this session, students will receive a copy of their testing schedule, complete identifying information on exam forms, and review testing policies and procedures.

All students enrolled in an AP course during the 2019-20 school year will attend on Thursday, April 23. Students will see this session appear on their schedule automatically that week.

Help Us Improve!

Did you enjoy receiving this newsletter? Do you have recommendations or questions for the OLCHS Counselors? Take this brief survey to help us improve our services. [Click here to take the survey!](#)