**Spring Junior Career Coach Info Meeting**

**BEORE YOU SENIOR YEAR**

1. Most importantly, start thinking about and planning for what you are going to do after high school.
* Apprenticeships: Construction trades, Electricians, Masons, Heavy Equipment Operators, HVAC. Go to [www.ohiomenasjobs.com](http://www.ohiomenasjobs.com) for additional information.
* Certificated Programs: generally offered as an adult education program at area vocational high schools. For example, Pioneer offers CNC, STNA, Welding Tech, Blueprint Reading, Medical Assisting.
* Military: Careers can be offered in many areas; talk with a recruiter.
* Associate Degree: North Central State College and Marion Technical College are two local community colleges offering two year degrees. They generally have an open enrollment policy. The Compass Test is required to determine placement in math and English courses.
* Bachelors Degree: This four year degree is offered at any public or private university. Universities require either the ACT (most common in Ohio) or the SAT. Additional entrance requirements can be found at the specific college website.
1. If you are planning on attending a four year university, plan on taking the ACT twice, with the first time in **April or June of JUNIOR** year. Watch the deadline dates for registration.
2. Narrow down the list of colleges/universities you are considering. Visit the schools that interest you. Visitation times are often posted on the school’s website or can be obtained by calling the school’s admissions office. When considering a college or university, in addition to having the program or degree you want, you should consider size, distance from home, and cost. Remember, any indebtedness is your responsibility until it is paid off. See [www.collegenavigator.gov](http://www.collegenavigator.gov) to compare schools.
3. What can you do if you are not certain what you want to do after high school?
* Take interest surveys to determine careers that might match your interests. Go to [www.ohiomeansjobs.com](http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com). Be sure to set up an account and create a backpack to save information.
* Job shadow someone in a career of interest
* Career information can be found at [www.ohiomeansjobs.com](http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com). First go to “Explore It” then “Occupation Search.” Information provided includes work activities, necessary skills, educational requirements, pay, future job openings, and educational/training opportunities available here in Ohio.
* The US Bureau of Labor and Statistics website is [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov). Under “Student Resources” are career job descriptions, educational requirements, and projected opportunities.

**FALL OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR**

1. Plan on registering to take the ACT a second time in September or October. If you have not taken the ACT, register as soon as possible. The test is usually given in September, October, December, February, April, and June, with registration deadline 5-6 weeks prior to the test date. Completion of ACT testing should be as early as possible. Ideally, all ACT testing should be completed by October.
2. Have all university and college application submitted by Christmas vacation. Prepare your application carefully and accurately. Follow all instructions. PLAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINE DATES.
3. Well before your application deadlines, ask your counselors and teachers to submit required documents (transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.) to the colleges to which you have applied.
4. Use the FAFSA4caster at [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov) to find out if you may be eligible for any federal aid.

**DEVELOP A PLAN AND START EARLY SO YOU WON’T BE STRESSED OUT!**