



August-October 2011

Counselors' Beeline

C.W. Baker High School

Dear Parents:

This issue of the Counselors' Beeline is part of a continuing series of newsletters to keep you updated on services provided through the Baker High School Guidance and Counseling Department.

As September and the opening of school approaches, it is important to share information which will be beneficial to you. We have attempted to include items relevant to all grade levels.

All of us look forward to meeting the new sophomores and reconnecting with our returning upperclassmen.

The Guidance and Counseling Department

Calendar of Events

- August 26th**
Schedules Mailed Home
- September 7th**
First Day of School
- September 12th**
Add/drop period begins
- September 13th**
Senior Parent Night
- September 16th**
Transfer Student Pizza Party
- September 22nd**
Open House
- September 23rd**
1/2 Day for students
- October 10th & 11th**
Columbus Day (No School)
- October 14th**
5-week Progress Reports
- October 15th**
PSAT offered at Baker
- October 22nd**
ACT offered at Baker
- November 11th**
1st Marking Period Ends

Student Assignments 2011-2012

Mr. Mancini

(dmancini@bville.org)

Grade 10 A—Carz

Grade 11 A-Conz

Grade 12 A-Cars

Mr. Hollenbeck

(jhollenbeck@bville.org)

Grade 10 Jonf—Mi

Grade 11 Kunf—Parks

Grade 12 La - Neq

Miss Ambrose

(mambrose@bville.org)

Grade 10 CAs _ Funz

Grade 11 Coo—Goi

Grade 12 Cart— Fz

Mrs. Pascale

(cpascale@bville.org)

Grade 10 Mj—Se

Grade 11 Parl—Spau

Grade 12 Ner-Shz

Mrs. Foote

(kfoote@bville.org)

Grade 10 Fuo—Jones

Grade 11 Ga -Kune

Grade 12 Grao-Kz

Mrs. Dixon

(bdixon@bville.org)

Grade 10 Sf-Z

Grade 11 Spav-Z

Grade 12 Si-Z

Appointments with guidance counselors can be arranged by phone, email or in person through the Guidance Secretaries.

Mrs. Weaver

638-6028; kweaver@bville.org

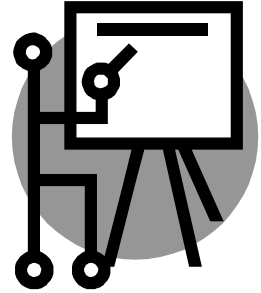
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Homework Procedure

Whenever absences occur, students are encouraged to check the teacher's website or with classmates to make up homework assignments. Students who are absent for two or more days may request homework.

When calling attendance (638-6003) to report your child's absence, you may request homework. **You must call before 9:30 am to request homework.** It is the student's or parent's responsibility to pick up the homework. Assignments will be available in the Guidance office. After 3pm, the pick up area is in front of the Guidance office window until 5 pm.



Interim Reports and Report Cards-Mark These Dates on Your Calendar!!!!!!

It is possible you may receive a report that does not have comments or grades from some teachers. Should you have concerns you wish to address about a specific course, teachers can be reached through their email at www.bville.org, through the main office at 638-6003 or 638-6004 or you can call your child's counselor.

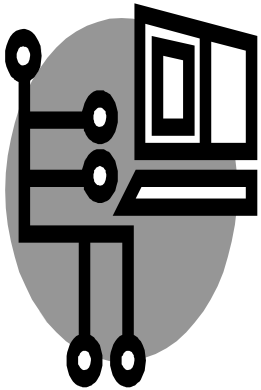
The following is a schedule of dates for 5 week reports and report cards. We would recommend that you post this schedule so you will be aware of these dates during the year.

- Interim Reports: On or about October 14, 2011; December 23, 2011; March 2, 2012; and May 12, 2012.
- Report Cards: On or about November 18, 2011; January 27, 2012; April 10, 2012; and June 27, 2012.

HOW CAN A COUNSELOR HELP?



- **By Listening** - When you lose someone close, make a big mistake, are faced with an important decision, feel confused about drugs, are not getting along with someone special, or feel down without knowing why.
- **By Advising** - When you are selecting courses, choosing a career, looking for training or a job after high school, trying to find tips for improving your schoolwork.
- **By Interpreting** - When you receive scores from tests like the ASVAB, PSAT, SAT, ACT or when you want to review your cumulative school file.
- **By Informing** - When you need facts about graduation requirements, future careers, college admission, student rights and responsibilities.
- **By Mediating** - When you need a third person with an objective view to help you resolve a problem with a friend, teacher, brother or sister, parent, or employer.
- **By Referring** - When you need assistance from an agency in the community.



The Career Resource Center

The Career Resource Center (CRC), which is located next to the guidance office, provides information on various occupations and colleges for all students. Resources available include college catalogs and guides, print and video materials on career opportunities, occupational briefs, test preparation books, and computer terminals which provide access to a variety of college search engines. Materials related to military careers are also available. Books and catalogs may be signed out for use outside of the Center. Additionally, all college and scholarship applications are processed through the Career Resource Center. The Center is open 7:15 - 2:45 and is available to students during lunch and study hall periods.

MILITARY RECRUITERS

Every branch of the Military is given the opportunity to make visits to the high school and to meet with interested students. Baker WILL release names and/or phone numbers to the military per Federal Law, unless not authorized by the parent. (See notice from the Principal mailed with schedules.)

How to Seek Extra Help

If your student is struggling with a subject or would like some extra help, there are many ways to get it! Many teachers stay after school to assist students and to provide them with individual help. However, there are several services that students can also utilize throughout the day:

- **The Academic Help Lab**

This lab, located in room 1210, is staffed by Baker HS Teachers from various subject areas during all periods of the school day. Students can come from lunch or study hall with a pass.

- **Peer Tutoring**

Students who are members of National Honor Society and the Peer Counseling program volunteer their time to provide students with tutoring in various subject areas. If a student would like to work with a peer tutor, he/she should see their counselor. Students can meet with tutors after school or, if feasible, during free periods during the school day.

Dates to Remember

September 6th

Sophomore Orientation

September 23rd

Day 1 Sophomore Seminar
(1/2 Day for students)

Sophomore Orientation

In a continued effort to help create a more welcoming environment for incoming sophomores, the Baker Transition Team (BTT) will be hosting a sophomore orientation on the afternoon of September 6th, as well as, conducting various activities throughout the school year. The BTT consists of Baker High School faculty and student ambassadors who are committed to easing the transition of 10th graders to Baker. Further information regarding the orientation was sent with schedules.

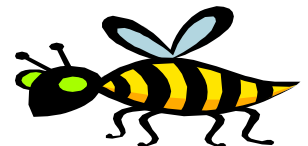
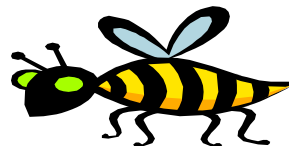
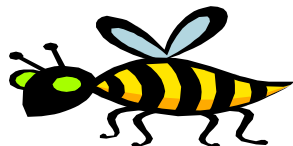
Sophomore Parents

- ⇒ Baker teachers do not have team meetings as the Ray and Durgee staffs do. However, you may contact individual teachers with concerns via email or voice mail. Should you desire a meeting with all of your child's teachers, please contact the assigned counselor to make arrangements.
- ⇒ Counselors cannot honor requests for specific teachers.
- ⇒ If a student feels he or she has an extenuating reason not to be in a course, this can be discussed with the counselor only after attending the class for a minimum of three school days.

Sophomore Seminar

Students at C.W. Baker are required to attend guidance seminars each year during high school. Seminars focus on self-knowledge, career exploration, and the college admissions process or transition to employment. Sophomore Seminar is a two day seminar that focuses on career exploration and high school planning. The sophomore class will complete Part 1 of Seminar on September 23rd. At this time, Sophomores will meet with their counselors to complete a career plan and assignments for career exploration.

Day 2 of Sophomore Seminar will take place in December and will allow students to meet with their counselor in small groups to discuss high school planning, career resources, and discuss career options. Students will also need to complete an assignments to help them understand and explore career choices.



What Should My Sophomore Be Doing This Year?

The sophomore year should be a year of personal growth. In addition to working hard in school and being involved in a variety of activities, sophomores need to try to identify their personal abilities, aptitudes, and interests. They should also be looking for ways to further develop their talents and skills.

Continue to monitor academic progress. Students should take the most rigorous schedule they can be successful in.

Continue to encourage your son or daughter to be involved in activities and to develop leadership skills.

Help children to add/develop time management and study skills for High School and College.

Start to explore and discuss college options. Gather information, go to college fairs, and make informal visits to colleges. Discuss your son or daughter's aptitudes, interests, and abilities with him/her, and begin to view these in terms of possible college majors and/or career options. Encourage them to do research in the Career Resource Center.

Help students set realistic goals and achieve them.

Select appropriate courses for the 11th grade. In the spring, review your son or daughter's prospective schedule, and make sure that he/she selects the most appropriate courses for his/her junior year.

Plan summer activities. Help your son or daughter choose meaningful activities for the summer months. If possible, look for activities that relate to a career or career field that he/she is considering.

Dates to Remember**October 5th & 6th**

PSAT/ASVAB Registration

(during all lunches)

October 15th

PSAT @ Baker

November 5th

ASVAB @ Baker

PSAT Registration

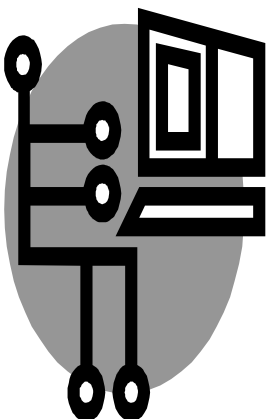
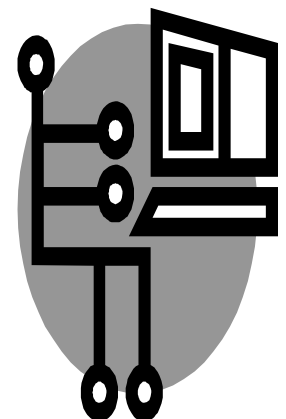
The PSAT is a practice test for the SAT and is taken by Juniors and some Sophomores who are planning on attending college after high school. The test will be administered this year on Saturday, October 15th. **Sign ups will take place on October 5th & 6th only** outside the Baker cafeteria during lunch periods. Please mark these dates on your calendar. More information will be sent to you at the end of September. You can visit www.collegeboard.com for further information regarding the PSAT format and help with preparing for the test.

ASVAB Registration

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) will again be given this year to all interested Juniors or Seniors on November 5th. This free test can be very helpful, especially for students who are undecided about what career path to choose after high school. Mark your calendars now and see your counselor if you would like more information. **Registration will take place at the same time as PSAT registration on October 5th and 6th outside the Baker cafeteria during lunch periods.** Additional information regarding the ASVAB and preparing for the exam can be found at www.asvabprogram.com

Junior Seminar

The three-session 11th grade seminar, which occurs in the spring, places a strong emphasis on presentation of college search information with additional occupational interest exploration. Topics covered include the college search and admissions process, college visits, letters of recommendation, personal statements, standardized testing, financial aid, etc. For those students not considering college, military and vocational information is also presented. More information on this seminar will be presented in subsequent newsletters.

**College Search/Info on the Web**www.petersons.comwww.collegeboard.com<http://admissionsadvice.com>www.ucan-network.org<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

Dates to Remember**September 13th**

Senior Parent Night

September 20st

Day 1 Senior Seminar

September 21st

Senior Interviews Begin

September 27th

Day 2 Senior Seminar

Senior Parent Night

On **September 13th**, the Counseling Department would like to invite senior parents to Senior Parent Night from **6:30PM- 8PM** in the Baker High School Auditorium. A continuation of Junior Parent Night, Senior Parent Night will explore the college application process in depth. Topics of discussion will include the different types of applications available, early decision/early action, application components (letters of rec, transcripts, personal statements, etc.) and common mistakes made when applying. The specific policies and procedures used by Baker High School to process college applications will also be reviewed.

Senior Seminar

On **September 20th** and **27th** seniors will be involved in a group seminar designed to provide them with valuable information regarding applying to colleges, searching for scholarships, military and employment issues. Parents are encouraged to review and discuss this information with their child. ***Official high school transcripts with rank will be available in October.***

In addition to Senior Seminar, counselors will be meeting with their students on an individual basis beginning late September and running through October. Specific issues regarding post-secondary plans as well as checking graduation requirements will be discussed during the appointment. Students should come prepared with their goals and questions.

When, Where and How Do I Turn in Applications?

The application process can appear overwhelming, but if you follow these tips, it will proceed smoothly.

- All applications must be turned in **BY THE STUDENT**.
- All applications are turned in to Mrs. Hamm and/or Mrs. Lamb in the Career Resource Center.
- All applications require a processing form available in the Career Resource Center.
- The use of Naviance to submit applications electronically has greatly reduced the need for stamps and envelopes but please provide these when your child submits an application request. The CRC will determine if all applications materials can be submitted electronically.
- Remember to proofread all applications and essays, double checking deadlines, legibility and completeness.
- After the application is received in the CRC, it will go to your counselor for them to complete and submit.
- On-line applications still require a processing form to release your transcript.

SAT/ACT Dates for 1st Semester

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Test Given</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
October 1, 2011	SATI & II	September 9, 2011	September 21, 2011
October 22, 2011**	ACT	September 16, 2011	September 17 – September 30 2011
November 5, 2011	SATI & II	October 7, 2011	October 21, 2011
December 3, 2011	SATI & II	November 8, 2011	November 21, 2011
December 10, 2011	ACT	November 4, 2011	November 5 - 18, 2011

**Will be administered at Baker High School.

Please Note:

1. You can register on-line at www.collegeboard.com for SATs and www.act.org for ACTs.
2. SATI and SATII tests cannot be taken on the same day as they are given at the same time.
3. Registration forms for above tests may be picked up in the Counseling Office or Career Resource Center. The 6-digit school code required for these forms is 330300.
4. Do not register to take the exam at Baldwin High School. This school is located on Long Island.
5. Students with disabilities must register through their Resource teacher. Students with 504 Accommodations must register through their counselor.

You're a September Senior.....

what should you be doing?

- Begin collecting applications required for college admission and financial aid. Write, phone, use the internet to request this information, and meet with college representatives in the Career Resource Center.
- Check on application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. They may vary and it is essential to meet all deadlines!
- Register for the October/November SAT I and/or SAT Subject Test or September/October ACT.
- Ask appropriate people to write letters of recommendation on your behalf. Give teachers, employers and coaches plenty of notice before the due date. Provide recommendation forms and any special instructions. Be thoughtful!! Write thank you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions.
- Plan visits to colleges and set up interviews. Talk with current students and professors.
- Attend senior seminar and senior interview with your counselor.

Attention Class of 2012!

Please be aware that in order to be able to participate in the graduation ceremony, students must successfully complete all required courses. If a senior does not fulfill ALL requirements, they will not be able to participate in the June graduation ceremony.

SENIORITIS

The symptoms show up every year. High school seniors try to balance extracurricular activities, a social life, college admission, and perhaps a part-time job. Somewhere along the way, homework begins to seem less important. Then they get accepted to college, and after that, high school seems even less important. School work begins to slide-and so do their grades. The diagnosis? Senioritis.

Senioritis is easy to catch and hard to get rid of. It can also be dangerous to your plans for the future. Every year, colleges rescind their offers of admission, put students on academic probation, or change financial aid packages because of it.

A less obvious consequence of slacking off senior year is being less prepared for the challenges of college. Freshman year can be tough, even for students who kept up with their course work throughout high school. Imagine entering college with rusty study skills. The habits one forms early in life are often carried over into later stages of life, be it college or the professional world. Motivation and hard work will always win out over basic intelligence. Regardless of the consequences, it is still tempting to let school work slide. After all, seniors are busy people. To help you fight that temptation, read on for some ways to avoid senioritis.

Plan ahead. You probably already know what activities you'll stay involved in this year. And you know that college applications are coming up fast. Plus you want to make the most of your time with friends and family. Fitting all of it in without pulling your hair out (or pulling your grades down) is the goal. The best tool is a calendar or day planner. Write down all of your deadlines-for applications, papers, tests, and so on. Then note your other activities-your sports schedule, drama or band rehearsals, SAT or ACT day, college visits. Then look at what you have. To complete that English paper, when do you have to start working on it? If the big game is the night before the due date, plan to finish the paper a few days ahead of time. You don't have time to get it done the night before because you'll be leading the team to victory!

Don't obsess. It's easy to get caught up in the college admission process and forget about the here and now. "Don't spend the whole senior year obsessing about college admission," says Paul Marthers, director of admission at Oberlin College. "Going about the business of being a good student and good citizen, making choices for the betterment of your brain, body, and spirit, often offers more benefit for college admission than some plan crafted to impress college admission officers." So don't get involved in some activity just to impress colleges. You don't have time for that. Instead, do the things you love-and drop activities that you're just not that committed to. (That doesn't include academics, though!)

Talk about it. Senior year can be sad and exhilarating at the same time. You and your friends catalog all the "lasts"-the last first day of school, the last football game, the last prom. But you're also looking forward to graduating and starting college.

Have fun. "I always encourage seniors to celebrate their senior year," says Joyce Luy, director of admissions at Westmont College (CA). "They have worked a long time to get to this point and should do all they can to enjoy it."