

# Wise Notes



**BAHS Guidance Newsletter**

**February, March,  
April 2011**

**Volume III Issue 1**

## Dates to Remember

### March

**4** - ACT registration deadline for April 9 test date  
**9** - Early Dismissal Day  
**10** - End of 4th marking period  
**12** - SAT I test date  
**15-17** - Grade 11 PSSA Reading and Math  
**15** - Junior Parents Night, 6:30 p.m., room 232  
**17** - Report cards distributed  
**18** - ACT late registration deadline for April 9 test date  
**22-24** - Grade 11 PSSA Reading and Math

**28-April 1st** - Grade 11 PSSA Writing  
**30** - Penn York College Night, St. Bonaventure University, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### April

**1** - Grade 12 Graduation Project Deadline  
**4-8** - Grade 11 PSSA Science  
**4** - 5th marking period progress reports mailed  
**8** - SAT I/II regular registration deadline for May 7 test date  
**9** - ACT test date  
**21-25** - Spring Break—No School

**22** - Financial Aid Night #2, 6:30 p.m., room 232

**22** - SAT I/II **late** registration deadline for May 7 test date

**26** - End of 5th Marking Period

### May

**4** - Report cards distributed  
**6** - SAT I/II regular registration deadline for June 4 test date  
**6** - ACT registration deadline for June 11 test date  
**7** - SAT I/II testing

## Junior Parents' Night and Financial Aid Night for College Loans

**There will be a Junior Parents' Night on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 6:30 pm in rooms 232-236 of BAHS for parents of current juniors.** The purpose of this meeting is to explain college selection, applications, visitations and other concerns as students enter their senior year.  
**Financial Aid Night for College Loans**

At a second financial aid night on Tuesday, March 22 at 6:30pm in rooms 232-236, you will become familiar with the Student Aid Report (SAR) from FAFSA financial aid packages and student loans.

**\* Direct loans for both the Stafford and Plus Loans now come directly from the Federal Govern-**

**ment. A financial aid advisor from the University of Pittsburgh Bradford will explain the process. Additionally, a representative from Mountain Laurel Federal Credit Union will identify other sources of financial aid.**

## Update on Graduation Project and Scheduling for 2011-2012

The due date for the written portion of the final graduation project is due on **April 1st**. The oral presentation is due on **May 13th**. To be eligible for an advanced rating, the student must meet both deadlines. Scheduling for next year was completed at the end of February. The counselors are encouraging parents to take the opportunity to review the Registration Guide with their children as there are a number of new core course offerings in math.

*As you prepare your child for their future and make decisions about the scheduling of their electives, please note that our Guidance Department has increased their efforts in the Career Development arena by exposing students to various career batteries including pacareerzone, ASVAB testing, and career inventory sessions.*

## Local Scholarships Round #1

A number of local scholarships were made available in the Guidance Office in **mid-February**. These include:

- Amanda Sue Pearce Memorial
- American Association of University Women
- Bradford Instrumental Music
- Bradford Lions Club
- Bradford Township Lion's Club
- Bradford Rotary Vocational
- Eastern Star Bradford Chapter 61
- Harry Lasky
- Jon B. Abbey Memorial
- LeRoy G. Erickson Memorial
- Masonic Union Lodge #334
- Orak Grotto
- Wilhelm Vaughn Potkovich Memorial
- Zonta Club of Bradford

## IMPORTANT PSSA UPDATE

**All public school students in Grade 11 are required to participate in the state's assessments covering writing, reading, math and science.**

*Each assessment has its own testing window.*

**PSSA Writing-February 9-20**

**PSSA Reading and Math-March 15-27**

**PSSA Science-April 27-May 8**

**The parent information flyer for the first two PSSA assessments are included in this newsletter. The PSSA parent letter for Science will be given to juniors during home-room two weeks prior to April 27.**

## Local Scholarships Round #2

The second round of local scholarships will be made available through the guidance office at the **end of March** (due to later deadlines, we separate the local scholarships into two rounds so that students can more easily prioritize based upon application deadlines) These will include:

- Andrus Family of Good Citizenship
- BAEA (Bradford Area Educators Association)
- BAHS Alumni Association
- Brenda Ambrose Memorial
- Brian Lechner Memorial
- Ernest Tanner Memorial
- Fraternal Order of Eagles
- June A. Howard Nursing
- Key Club
- Kiwanis Vo-Tech
- Mary Mottey Memorial
- Mariam Barcroft Blaisdell Memorial
- R. L. Wheeler Memorial
- Samuel Heffner Sr. Memorial
- Student Council
- Zachary Vigliotta Memorial

Be aware of the extensive requirements and closing dates for completing the forms involved. The financial awards can be quite substantial.

## Career and Technical Education Corner

While all faculty at BAHS have been making sacrifices to support the PSSA's, the Career and Technical Education teachers have been instrumental in not only sacrificing their student's hands-on portion of their class time but have made it clear that academics come first. For the past couple months, CT teachers have taken the time

to review student data by using eschoolbook and weekly communication sheets with students and teachers to ensure that students are focused on their core subjects and perform better in these classes. In other words, when and only when a student is up-to-date with all of their core subject area homework, they can

fully participate in their 3 period CT classroom experience. Core subject area teachers appreciate CT teachers' support and have noted an increase in student performance, attitude and work ethic. All in all, teachers from every department are working together to improve student performance.

# College Boards (SAT I) for Juniors

Juniors planning to attend a four-year college should take the Scholastic Aptitude Test I (SAT I) on **March 12th**, **May 7th** (with a regular registration deadline of April 8th and late registration deadline of April 22nd), and on **June 4, 2011**.

Students can pick up the registration bulletin in the Guidance Office. The fee for regular registration of the SAT I is **\$47.00**. Late registration is assessed an additional **\$24.00** fee. The student mails both the fee and registration form to College Board SAT Program.

Guidance Counselors recommend the **May 7th** or **June 4th** test date because students would have had more math by that time.

Students can also register online at **www.collegeboard.com**. A credit card will be required for this registration.

## Which Test for College Admissions – ACT or SAT?

When the time comes to decide which test to take for college admissions, there are two tests from which to choose: ACT and SAT I. Almost all four-year colleges and universities accept ACT and SAT I scores equally.

Both tests have the same goal – to help colleges predict your chances of success during the freshman year. These tests, along with your high school grades, are quite accurate predictors of freshman success. You should be aware, however, that ACT and SAT I differ from each other and many students earn higher scores on one than on the other.

You may choose to take both tests. In most cases, when college applicants submit scores from both tests, colleges will use the highest of the two scores, ACT or SAT I, for purposes of admissions, scholarships, and

athletic eligibility. So taking both tests will probably increase your chances of getting into your first choice college.

No matter which test (or tests) you choose, it is very important that you use the free practice tests available in your Guidance Office. When taking the practice test, try to simulate as closely as possible the time and other conditions you will experience on test day. This will help you pace yourself and become familiar with the test. **GOOD LUCK!!**

*Bradford Area High School is only a test center for the SAT. If you wish to take the ACT, you will have to utilize Olean or another test center. However, the Guidance Office has registration forms and practice tests for both the ACT and SAT.*

# Planning Calendar

## SENIORS:

- Pay attention to reply date for schools offering admission.
- Make deposits when requested.
- Watch financial aid application deadlines (for both the institution you'll attend and PHEAA).
- Watch scholarship application deadlines.

## JUNIORS:

- Review your interests, abilities, individual needs.
- Begin to determine the kind of education you want and the kind of institution you want to attend.
- Don't think you have to choose a major field or career path before you choose a college. College

should be a place to learn more about your interests and abilities.

- Attend Penn-York College Night at St. Bonaventure University.
- Attend Junior Parents' Night.
- Register for the SAT I.
- Attend UPB's Open House Events.

## SOPHOMORES:

- Review the first 1-1/2 years at the high school and determine your academic strengths and weaknesses in relation to your career goals.
- Talk with parents about college and other training beyond high school. Do not decide on or rule out any path at this point.

- Attend Penn-York College Night at St. Bonaventure University
- Attend UPB's Open House Events.

## FRESHMEN:

- Review your first semester grades. Are you earning the grades needed to take the program you want next year? Don't assume *Seventeen* or *Sports Illustrated* are among the "classics" that colleges talk about.
- Review pacareerzone interest profiles with your guidance and/or career and technical education counselor to assist you in your selection of elective coursework.

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"No member of our team is more important than the students we serve"



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## TOUR TOUR TOUR TOUR

You could tour until you drop because hunting for the right college, technical or business school can be exhausting, time consuming, expensive and nearly impossible. Why drive hundreds of miles and still not cover all the schools you wish to visit? Our suggestion is . . . **DON'T**.

We have a much simpler and easier answer. Attend **PENN-YORK COLLEGE NIGHT, Tuesday, March 30, 2011** from **6:30-8:30 p.m.** at the Reilly Center of St. Bonaventure University. Representatives from over a hundred different colleges, universities, and business and technical schools will be there to greet and answer questions from our local students. Get your name on their mailing list so you can be informed of various dates, requirements, scholarships etc. **Be a wise OWL.** Mark this date on your calendar and attend. If you would like more information, please stop in and talk to your Guidance Counselor.

## Registering for the Selective Service

### It's the LAW and Your Future

Every male in America must register with Selective Service within 30 days of his 18th birthday. However, the Selective Service System now accepts early submission of registration information and automatically enters it into the system when they turn 18. You can register online at: **[www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)** or by going to the post office and completing a registration form. If you fail to register, you cannot qualify for federal student loans and grants, job training benefits, many state and federal jobs, and in most states, renewal of your driver's license.

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