

THE JUNIOR JOURNEY



Volume 1, Issue 1
October, 2009

MAVERICKS GALLOPING TO GRADUATION 2011!

Your counselors congratulate you and your parents for the accomplishments that have brought you to your junior year. It may seem as if you were a brand new freshman just yesterday. Imagine then how quickly this year will pass! We want to be sure that in October of 2010, we are able to congratulate you on your SENIOR status.

This newsletter is our way of communicating with all of you to answer questions and disseminate information.

As you probably know by now, our counselors are organized by alphabet instead of by grade level this year. As a reminder:

Beth Evans Lead Counselor (Elizabeth for email)

Dolly Markel A-D

Ann Cook E-La (Margaret for email)

Shannon Garris Le-Ra

Sharon Ottinger Re-Z

Lyndsay Watkins—Transition



“Where are you going to college?”

“What are you going to study?” This is the year of questions. How will you find the answers? When you began high school, all your paths were pretty similar. You all took English, math, science and social studies. Now you will be going on diverse trails along your personal path, and now is the time to explore the possibilities.

Stay tuned: Junior Conferences (November) and Junior Parent Night (November 12) coming soon.



This year’s juniors who entered 9th grade in 2007-2008 will need 26 credits to graduate on the Recommended or Distinguished plan, and 22 credits to graduate on the minimum plan.

The best way to eliminate senior year stress and ensure a smooth graduation is to work hard and PASS ALL OF YOUR CLASSES this year.

IMPORTANT DATES!

October 14	PSAT
October 17	College and Career Fair
October 29	Mini College Fair at PMHS
October 30	SAT registration deadline (Dec. test)
November 6	ACT registration deadline (Dec. test)
November 13	End of 2nd Six-Weeks
November 17	Academic Excellence Awards
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 1	College Night—Sam Rayburn H.S.
December 21—January 1	Winter Holiday
December 26	Registration Deadline for January SAT exam
January 5	ACT registration deadline (Feb. Test)
January 14	End of first semester

Juniors should take ACT or SAT by spring of junior year.

Defining college: education after high school. It may be a technical school, a certificate program, an apprenticeship, a military program, a community college, a university—whatever program meets the goals of the individual.

For suggestions for Junior Journey volume 2, please email Ann Cook at mcook@pasadenaisd.org.

FINANCIAL AID, STEP ONE...

Most students will qualify for some sort of financial aid, whether it's in the form of grants (free money) or low-interest student loans. The [FAFSA4caster](#) is a great way to get an early estimate of how much financial aid you might expect to receive from the government. It also provides information about other sources of financial aid such as scholarships.

To access [FAFSA4caster](#), go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov, click on the [LEARN ABOUT FASA4caster](#) link at the top right-hand corner of the web page and complete the application. For more information, you may also call 1-800-4-FED-AID.

The FAFSA is the entry point for any financial aid for education. FAFSA cannot be submitted until January of your senior year, and you should send it in at least by February of your senior year.

THE SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS...

You should never pay any service to help you find a scholarship. Many of these 'services' are scams, and the scholarships they guarantee are the same scholarships the counseling office will receive and list in Senior Bulletins next year for NO CHARGE!

Here is a list of excellent web sites that have scholarship search engines for free! All you need to do is sign up with

NCAA Clearinghouse

Students who are planning to play college athletics must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse at this web address: <https://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net>.

Counselors' Corner

By now you may have accessed "The Counselors' Corner" at our school's web site: www.pasadenaisd.org/pmhs/.

If you haven't done so yet, please visit the counselor's web page and click on the [Career Information](#) link. Having an interesting career in mind will help you make decisions about your post-high school plans.

(There is a separate application for students who don't have a social security number. See your counselor.)



LOOKING FOR COLLEGES? TRY THESE ADDRESSES:

www.collegeboard.com

www.campuscompare.com

www.collegefortexans.com

www.sjcd.edu

the website and, based on the information you provide about yourself, they will notify you anytime there is a scholarship opportunity for which you are eligible.

www.scholarships.com

www.scholarshipexperts.com

www.fastweb.com

www.studentaidontheweb.com

Texas A&M University

Texas A&M University has an admissions center in Houston located at 1225 North Loop West, suite 200. Call 713-454-1990 for information.

We're Almost There!



COLLEGE 101

The "Every Chance, Every Texan" website offers clear, easy-to-understand information to help students and their families feel more comfortable and informed in moving toward their college goals. The content on the website flows from learning why to go to college, to applying for college, and from planning and saving for college, to specific financial aid and scholarship sources. The information is offered in English as well as Spanish. The web address is www.everychanceeverytexan.org

Pasadena Memorial High

School Code - 445773

The CEEB (school code) is a school identification number assigned to schools by the College Board. You will need Pasadena Memorial's CEEB # when you register for college entrance exams.

Military Academies

Students who want to attend military academies should apply early for admission. It is highly recommended to take the SAT or ACT early in the junior year. Students must also procure a recommendation from a Texas U.S. Senator or Representative. See the military academy websites for further details.

Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO: www.usafa.af.mil/

Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD: www.usna.edu/

West Point (Army) in West Point, NY: <http://www.usma.edu/>

Coast Guard at New London, CT www.cga.edu

Merchant Marine at Kings Point, NY www.usmma.edu

University of Texas UT has an admissions center in Houston located at 7000 Fannin, Suite 110. Call 713-500-2386 for information. **CHANGE: Beginning 2011, only the top 8% of the graduating class will have automatic admission to UT-Austin.**