

REDCOAT COUNSELOR

COMMENTS

MARCH 2014

The BHS School Counseling Dept. supports the high school's mission to help all students **ACHIEVE.**

The following events will take place in March:

- **February 28 - March 13th** — registration for the 2014-2015 school year is in progress
- **March 8-21, 2014** - late registration dates for the April 12th ACT exams administered at BHS
- **March 13 & 14, 2014** CAPT Science testing for grades 9-11
- **March 24 - 28, 2014**— SBAC Testing to take place for grade 11 students.
- **April 4, 2014** - deadline to register for the May 3rd SATs offered at BHS.

Important Events For Grades 8-11

2014-2015 Course Registration

From February 28 - March 13th, students in grades 8-11 should be registering for their course requests online through Power School.

Teachers have made recommendations for students based on common assessments, performance in class,



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and understanding and skill with regard to subject

CAPT and SBAC Testing

In order to receive a Berlin High School diploma all students must show mastery in Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science. One way for students to demonstrate mastery in Science is by scoring a level of "Goal" or "Advanced" on the Science CAPT. On Thursday, March 13th and Friday, March 14th, all 9th grade students will be given the practice Science CAPT, which will be scored and analyzed by our Science teachers, and all 10th grade students will be given the live Science CAPT.

11th grade students who scored Below Basic, Basic or Proficient on the Science CAPT during the 2012-2013 school year will be retested; these students have already been notified.

During the week of March 24th, all juniors will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium test, or SBAC, which is a state-led assessment for English language arts/literacy and mathematics aligned to the Common Core State Standards, which has been designed to measure the college and career readiness of our students. A schedule will be provided.

matter. If students and their parents are not in agreement with the teacher's recommendation, an override form can be submitted once a consultation with the teacher takes place. Override Forms must be submitted before April 12th. If students experience difficulty registering for their courses, they should contact their counselor for assistance.

Important Messages

Seniors:

As we approach the end of the 3rd Marking Period and begin the 4th Marking period, it is very important to refrain from falling into the trap of Senioritis. Senioritis is defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as, “**an ebbing of motivation and effort by high school seniors as evidenced by tardiness, absences, and lower grades.**” College acceptance letters have been coming in and many of you will begin to think about the transition you will make as a college student. Senioritis can jeopardize this future opportunity! College acceptances are not set in stone and there have been occasions when colleges have denied acceptances due to students who have allowed their grades to slip. Don't let this happen to you! Continue to work hard and keep up your grades through the 4th Marking Period!

Additionally, please pay very close attention to your attendance! You can be denied credit due to absences if you go over the limit.

Juniors: Things to Think About -

- Am I giving my best to Junior course work?
- Am I taking courses that lead to my post high school plans?
- With which teachers have I established a strong rapport? (Potential college/job letters of recommendation).
- Which talents or strengths might I want to further develop through college studies or post high school plans?
- Which activities will I highlight on my college/job application?
- Have I reviewed my senior course schedule with both my parents and my counselor?

Make sure to see your counselor if you have any questions or concerns regarding your senior year at Berlin HS.

Sophomores: Things to Think About -

- In which subjects did I excel?
- Am I taking courses that lead to my post high school plans?
- Am I giving my best to sophomore courses?
- Of my unique talents and strengths, which would I most like to develop?
- Am I involved in at least one extra-curricular activity or community service?
- What potential career/post high school option have I considered?

Make sure to see your counselor if you have any questions or concerns regarding your junior year at Berlin HS.

Freshmen: Things to Think About -

- What are my talents and strengths?
- Am I taking courses that lead to my post high school plans?
- In which courses am I particularly strong?
- In what areas do I need to build more skills?

Make sure to see your counselor if you have any questions or concerns regarding your sophomore year at Berlin HS.

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Department**

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Attention Seniors: Local scholarship packets will be distributed to seniors during Advisory on March 19th. Students are asked to look through the packet and return their application to Mrs. Dennis or Mrs. Ramirez. The recipients of these scholarships will be honored at the Scholarship evening held in June 2014.

Additionally, please make sure to let your counselor know of those colleges/universities that you have been accepted to and/or let your counselor know where you will attend school next fall; you should also be putting this information on Naviance.

Attention Sophomores and Juniors: On Thursday, April 3rd from 6:30-8:30pm the National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC) will host its annual College Fair at the Connecticut Convention Center. For more information go to www.nacacnet.org/ncfstudent.