

# Junior Newsletter, September 2008



Welcome back! You are finally upperclassmen! Your counselors are excited about this upcoming year and we are planning some great events for you to help you prepare for life after high school. Frequently, you will be receiving email reminders about college visits, scholarship opportunities, PSAT/SAT/ACT testing, etc. Please keep your email address updated with your counselor. In addition, visit the FMHS counseling website often for information. Our address is: <http://fmhs.lisd.net/counseling>. Information about requesting transcripts, earning extra credits, careers, scholarships, college, etc. can be found on this site. Be sure to review the Junior/Senior handbook often. The answers to almost every question can be found in that book!

## September Timeline

- Review high school coursework and activity plans. Remember, colleges are looking for challenging coursework, strong g.p.a, class rank & test scores, and extracurricular involvement & leadership. Start creating your personal resume.
- Study & register for the PSAT. Cost is \$13. Due in Rm. 1640 from Sept. 15—19.
- Register for the Princeton Review PSAT or SAT Practice Tests on Sept. 13th.
- Attend NorTex College Fair on Sept. 23rd, 6:30—8:30 at UNT Coliseum.
- Start preparing a list of 10 colleges to research. Begin narrowing down your choices throughout the yr.
- Attend the FMHS College Visit sessions throughout the year. Explore all college options—compare and contrast by visiting all types of institutions—public, private, large, small, etc. You may be surprised at which option best fits you! Check the college visit schedule often on the counseling website.

## Important Dates

**Sept. 13**—Princeton Review PSAT & SAT Practice Tests, 9:00 a.m. at FMHS

**Sept. 23**—Nortex College Fair, 6:30 p.m. at UNT. College reps from all over the U.S.

**Oct. 15**—PSAT, 8:45 a.m. at FMHS

**Oct. 15**—Performing & Visual Arts College Fair, 7:00—9:00 p.m. at SMU's Owen Fine Arts Center.

**Nov. 13**—FMHS College Forum, 6:00—9:00.



## Scholarships

Most scholarships are dedicated to Seniors, but there are many scholarship and awards available to all grade levels. Check the scholarships/financial aid section of the counseling website for those opportunities. Create an account with [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), the most comprehensive scholarship resource on the internet. It is also a good idea to review the senior-only scholarships so that you can start preparing to meet the requirements to receive those scholarships in the future.

### **Prudential Spirit of Community Scholarship**

Available to students in grades 9-12 who have taken part in a community service activities over the past year. State level - \$1,000, plus trip to Washington D.C. National Level - \$5,000, plus trip to Washington D.C. Apply online at [www.prudential.com/spirit](http://www.prudential.com/spirit). Print & sign application. Submit to Ms. Lewis in counseling office. Deadline—Oct. 31st.

### **TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Awards**

Open to any Texas H.S. student who has started and managed a business. Do not have to attend TCU. \$1,000—\$5,000. Apply online at [www.tcuyeya.org](http://www.tcuyeya.org). Deadline—November 1st.

## PSAT/NMSQT— Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

Given at FMHS on Wednesday, October 15th at 8:45 a.m. Rooms will be posted prior to the test date. All sophomores will take the exam and it is free. Juniors must pay \$13 and register in Rm. 1460 from Sept. 15th - 19th.

FMHS Orchestra Booster club is sponsoring a fundraiser that gives students the opportunity to practice the PSAT, and then get a detailed score report.

Practice test: Saturday, Sept. 13th.

**SAT** - 9:00 a.m.- 1:15 p.m. Cost - \$15

**PSAT** - 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Cost - \$10

Strategy/Results Session: Tuesday, Sept. 23rd, 6:30 - 8:30.

For more information, download **registration form** on front page of counselor website. Registration due by Monday, Sept. 8th.

### What is the PSAT???

The PSAT/NMSQT, a short form of the SAT, measures verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities. It serves four purposes:

- Allows students to compare their academic abilities with other college-bound students at their specific grade level.
- Familiarizes students with the SAT.
- Shows the student areas on which he/she may need to concentrate additional preparation before taking the SAT.
- Allows college-bound juniors to compete for National Merit Scholarships.

The test is offered only in October and should be taken by all sophomores and college-bound juniors.

Once you receive results & access code, go to Collegeboard's **My College QuickStart** ([www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart)). This site will give you a personalized online PSAT score report, personalized SAT study plan, and an interactive college/career/major match.



## College Classroom Visit Schedule

(Must register for these in the counseling office)

Date	Time	College	Meeting Room
9/15	1:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Messiah College</a>	1225
9/16	9:30 a.m.	<a href="#">Creighton University</a>	1225
9/17	9:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Maryville University</a>	1225
9/18	9:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Pomona College</a>	1225
9/18	11:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Purdue University</a>	1225
9/18	1:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Bradley University</a>	1225
9/19	1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Notre Dame University</a>	1225
9/22	1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Elon University</a>	1225
9/23	9:30 a.m.	<a href="#">University of Colorado – Boulder</a>	Access Lab Library
9/23	1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Vanderbilt University</a>	Access Lab Library
10/1	10:30 a.m.	<a href="#">Duke University</a>	1225
10/10	12:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Lafayette College</a>	1225
10/16	10:30 a.m.	<a href="#">Southern Methodist University</a>	1225

## College Lunch Visit Schedule

DATE	COLLEGE
9/8	<a href="#">University of Alabama</a>
9/16	<a href="#">University of Arkansas</a>
9/17	<a href="#">Kansas State University</a>
9/24	<a href="#">Schreiner University</a>

For more comprehensive and updated college visit information, go to:

<http://fmhs.lisd.net/counseling/collegevisit.htm>

