



FEBRUARY/MARCH
NEWSLETTER

Counselor's Corner by Miss Tetschner

HAPPY 2018!!! The start of a new year also brings about many changes: high school students change classes and junior high students are introduced to a few new classes. It is also that time of year to start thinking and planning for next school year – already!

I will start to meet with students in grades 8-11 to discuss academic performance, high school transcripts, ACT and other academic testing. This meeting is to stress the importance of academic performance and how it is reflected on the student's transcripts for colleges and scholarship committees to consider.

We also discuss the student's future career interests and how to academically prepare for such adventures. In the process of considering possible career options and student's post-secondary options, students then select possible classes they would like to take for next school year.

As scheduling is always a challenge, Mr. Owen and myself will make the best effort possible to offer several academic options for all our students based on the information the students provide at our pre-registration meeting.

Colleges are becoming more and more selective and entrance requirements are increasing. Students need to be academically solid in their choice of classes as well as their academic performance in those classes.

I advise students to take as much math and science as possible. First, it helps prepare them for the ACT test. Second, many colleges require an entrance exam especially for math. Lastly, it is the most frequent request of alumni who report they "wish they had taken more math and science classes in high school".

JUNIORS: Now is the time to start attending college "Junior Days." These are college visits especially for high school juniors. If you have a college of interest, I highly recommend going to visit, researching their admission and scholarship requirements, and in some cases apply. It is easy to explore colleges on line and gather information – Just do it!! Also take advantage of days we don't have school to schedule a college visit. Don't wait until your senior year to start the pursuit of a college career. It is important that you take time to look at your options because if you wait your options might not be available (especially at a two year school).

Juniors interested in programs that require a waiting list should apply NOW and get your name on the list. Many programs at Milford and Northeast, for example, have at least a year wait for some popular programs. It is important that you get your name on the list if you are interested in attending. Also don't feel obligated to go there if your name is on the list. It is just to help secure a spot and remember you can always change your mind. To find out if there is waiting lists simply call and ask.

- EducationQuest will sponsor five college fairs this spring to help students narrow their college choices. These free events are especially important for juniors who should pick their top college choices in preparation for completing the FAFSA and applying to college early next fall. The college fair schedule is as follows: [Lincoln Area College Fair](#) – April 22, 2018 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Central Time, Southeast Community College – Lincoln, 8800 O Street Lincoln, Nebraska 68520
[Omaha Area College Fair](#) – April 29, 2018
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Central Time, Sapp Fieldhouse – UNO, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68182
[Tri-State Area College Fair](#) (South Sioux City) – April 15, 2018
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Central Time, Delta Hotel by Marriott South Sioux City Riverfront, 385 East 4th St., South Sioux City, Nebraska 68776

Before attending a college fair, students should register for a barcode at NebraskaCollegeFairs.org, print the barcode (or download it to their smartphone) and take it to the fair so college reps can scan it.

NEW for juniors – the Nebraska Department of Education is requiring all juniors to take the ACT Test as a replacement to the state NeSA testing. All the juniors have a free ACT Online ACT Prep account and I have emailed that information to all the juniors and their academic teachers. Mark your calendar, the state ACT test date is Tuesday, April 3rd and we will be testing at the Parish Center. I will be giving the juniors more details as they are made available to me.

In addition take the ACT in April and/or June. It is to your advantage to take the ACT test this spring, so you know where you are at and plan for where you want to be by December your senior year. Register at www.actstudent.org and enter BHS school code 280-375. Also if you qualify for free/reduced lunch or other programs you may take the ACT test for free and just stop by my office for that information.

Students only interested in attending a two year college should plan on taking the ACCUPLACER test this spring as well. BHS is in the process of offering this testing service on site. Student can take the test one time for free. The ACCUPLACER test is used by two year colleges for academic placement into classes, as well as scholarship dollars, and admission to certain programs of study.

Junior To Do List:

- Plan to take the ACT test or ACCUPLACER test
- Start looking at colleges and go on college visits
- Start looking for a summer job or volunteer work
- Are you on Miss T's email list? If not email her so you can get the latest and up-to-date information julie.tetschner@burwellpublicschools.com.

SENIORS: Scholarships are hot, hot, hot!!! This is the time of year when most scholarships are posted and deadlines are due. This is also the time of year that many local scholarships are posted. Check your email daily as I have been emailing you scholarship information as soon as it comes across my desk. However, not all scholarships come across my desk, so sign up with www.ScholarshipQuest.org and check with organizations or businesses that either you or your parents are associated with. There are several scholarships out there but you must apply. The people that receive scholarships are the ones that do the work (many are online), write the essay, get letters of recommendation, and put a little time and effort in to completing the needed information. You can't be awarded anything if you don't try.

If you haven't already **COMPLETE THE FAFSA!!!!!!** Remember the FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID is FREE. Never pay to have your FAFSA completed. Steps to take to complete your FAFSA: 1. Apply for a FSA ID for you and a parent to file the FAFSA on-line www.fsaaid.ed.gov (this is your electronic signature). 2. Complete student and parent 2016 tax returns. 3. Gather all needed information to complete the FAFSA. I emailed you a check list, but you can also go to EducationQuest.org and look under the FAFSA tools for the list and tutorials. 4. Complete the FAFSA www.fafsa.gov .

If you need any assistance with completing the FAFSA or have questions, please contact the EducationQuest Foundation. This is a free education service and they are well informed and trained on the FAFSA. You can call the Kearney office at 1-800-666-3721 or go to their website at www.EducationQuest.org.

By completing the FAFSA (remember to do it as soon as possible as some funding runs out and is on a first come first serve basis) and the financial aid process you will be notified of scholarships, grants, work-study, and loans. This will all help you in the decisions you will need to make on how to pay for a college education. After you complete the FAFSA you will soon receive a SAR (Student Aid Report); please bring me a copy so I can record any scholarship and grant money you may be awarded for my records.

Seniors, when you are awarded scholarships please bring me a copy of your award letter so I can keep a record as well as start planning and preparing for your graduation ceremony.

Senior To Do List:

- Continue to apply for scholarships
- Complete the FAFSA
- Start narrowing your college choices
- Start looking for a summer job

Important Dates:

- February 10 – ACT Test
- February 6 – Parent/Teachers Conference
- March 9 – Deadline to register for the April 14th ACT Test www.actstudent.org
- April 3rd – all juniors take the ACT Test

*******2018 JR/SR PROM*******

The Burwell Jr-Sr Prom will be held on Saturday, March 24th. Pictures will be at 5:45 pm, Grand March will begin at 7:00 pm, which will be open to the public, and will be followed by the coronation of the 2018 Prom King and Queen. The Dinner and Dance will follow.

*******NEW TO THE BURWELL SCHOOL WEBPAGE*******

A new web page has been created so parents, grandparents and fans can stay up to date with practice schedules/departure times/games times for the High School and JH High activities. This information can be found on the following:

Go to: www.burwellpublicschools.org

Click on:

*Jr-Sr High School

*Winter Sports Information

*******IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER*******

February 6 1PM Dismissal/Parent Teachers Conferences 3:00-7:30
February 7 Lions Bus Health Screenings
February 14 10:00 Start/Teacher In Service/Breakfast In A Bag 9:45
March 6 FFA Labor Auction/Degree Night
March 9 NO SCHOOL Winter Break
March 14 10AM Start/Teacher Inservice/Breakfast In A Bag 9:45
March 15 Winter Athletic Awards Night
March 16 Kindergarten Round Up
March 16-18 Calamus Court Challenge
March 24 PROM
March 27 Elementary Spring Concert
March 29 1PM Dismissal
March 30 NO SCHOOL GOOD FRIDAY