**Preparing for the “Next Step”**

Below is an outline of activities that help our students develop their future goals.

**8th Grade**

January/February: 9th Grade Registration. Students in the district are introduced to Missouri Connections as a post-secondary planning tool. Career Clusters are explained. An interest inventory is completed.

The A+ Program is explained. Students complete 9th grade registration and are encouraged to complete an A+ Participation Agreement.

**9th Grade**

Fall: Students are introduced to the counseling staff. Contact information is shared. Career clusters, the A+ Program, and post-secondary planning are reviewed. Tips for high school success are discussed.

January/February: Students receive registration information. A review of the career clusters is offered. Students are encouraged to take classes that align with their career interests.

Ongoing: Students may make appointments to visit with their counselor to discuss individual concerns. They may also visit the College/Career A+ counselor to discuss future goals.

**10th Grade**

Fall: Students are introduced to The Lewis and Clark Technical School. Applications are given to interested students. Post-secondary planning is reviewed, as well as tips for high school success.

Fall: The PSAT (pre-SAT) test is offered for a fee to interested students. Read daily announcements and monthly newsletters for dates. Visit [collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for more information regarding the assessment.

Fall: the ASVAB (military entrance exam) is offered free of charge to sophomores, juniors and seniors considering a military career. The “no recruit” option is used in order to allow exploration without any pressure. An extensive interest inventory is included in this assessment which allows students the opportunity to further explore future careers. Visit [official-asvab.com](http://www.official-asvab.com) for more information.

January/February: Students receive registration information. A review of the career clusters is offered. Students are encouraged to take classes that align with their career interests and post-secondary plans.

Ongoing: Students may make appointments to visit with their guidance counselor to discuss individual concerns. They may also visit the College/Career A+ counselor to discuss future goals. A+ Tutor Trainings are open to sophomores. Visit the A+ Scholarship Program website (under Academics on the Timberland website) for more information.

**11th Grade**

Fall: The ASVAB is offered. (see description above)

Fall: The PSAT is offered for a fee to interested students. Information can be found at [collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

December: College/Career Counselor visits English III classes. This presentation includes information regarding post-secondary planning (the college application process, financial aid, scholarships, and career choices). A similar evening presentation is offered to parents in February.

January/February: Students receive registration information. A review of the career clusters is offered. Students are encouraged to take classes that align with their career interests and post-secondary plans. Counselors meet individually with juniors before the end of the school year to review their senior course selections and graduation requirements.

Spring: Juniors who plan on attending a four year university after graduation are encouraged to take the ACT no later than April of junior year (earlier may be better, depending on each student’s plan). This test is required for admission to most four year colleges/universities. Students are encouraged to take advantage of preparation opportunities (See College/Career website). Registration information can be found at: [actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) .

Ongoing: Students may make appointments to visit with their guidance counselor to discuss individual concerns. They are encouraged to meet with the College/Career/A+ counselor to discuss post-secondary planning. Students who plan on completing the A+ Scholarship Program are encouraged to begin their tutoring hours during junior year. Area college representative visit Timberland. Students should sign up through scoir.com to attend visits.

**12th Grade**

Fall: Seniors attend a senior meeting. Information is shared about post- secondary planning, scholarship opportunities, the A+ Program requirements, graduation requirements and graduating with honors.

Fall: Area College representatives visit Timberland. Seniors are encouraged to sign up in the guidance office for these visits. Some representatives will return in the spring, but students are encouraged to plan early and attend the fall visits.

Fall: Apply Week-Seniors have the opportunity to sign up for assistance with their college applications during the school day.

October/November: Counselors mail senior status letters to parents/students outlining the remaining required credits for graduation.

Fall: The ASVAB is offered. (see description above)

January: Students enrolled in the A+ Program will be mailed a mid-year report reviewing their eligibility.

Spring: Senior packets are distributed at a class meeting. Graduation/commencement and Honors Night information is reviewed.

Ongoing: Students may make appointments to visit with their guidance counselor to discuss individual concerns. Students are encouraged to meet with their guidance counselor and/or the college and career counselor to further develop their post-secondary plan. Seniors are encouraged to complete college paperwork early (fall semester) for the best opportunities. Counselors continue to monitor seniors’ progression toward graduation.

**Other**

* Mentors for College and the College/Career Counselor offer a variety of evening informational sessions. Watch the announcements.
* February: Sail into Senior Year: Presented by College/Career Counselor. Geared toward parents of juniors but open to all parents.
* Guest speakers: Some teachers have guest speakers that offer career information in a particular field. This varies from year to year.
* Teachers who have AP classes advise students throughout the year on the benefits of the AP exam, depending on the college of choice. A link to AP information is on the College/Career/A+ website under Parent Resources and also under the College/Career Website section for students.
* The Be Ready Program is hosted by St. Charles Community College for seniors planning on attending SCC after graduation. SCC staff is on site at Timberland to help students with application, assessment, advising, class selection etc. This program culminates in a spring field trip for orientation to the campus. Seniors learn about this opportunity at the fall senior meeting.
* Field Trips (vary from year to year)
  + SCC College Orientation – April (open to seniors planning on attending SCC in the fall who have completed the Be Ready Program)
  + Various teachers offer career related field trips.

**Resources**

* Both the Counseling Website and the College/Career Website provide the most up to date information. Find these sites by following [www.wentzville.k12.mo.us](http://www.wentzville.k12.mo.us/) >school information>Timberland.
* Follow us on twitter at : <https://twitter.com/GuidanceTHS>
* Daily Announcements can be found on the parent portal.
* School newsletters are sent electronically each month.
* Encourage your student to read daily announcements from the student portal or from the screen during lunch.

**Counselor Contact Information**

Guidance Office: 636-327-3988 ext. 5

Guidance Secretary: Dustie Taylor [dustietaylor@wsdr4.org](mailto:dustietaylor@wsdr4.org)

Julie Biggs: Last names A-D [juliebiggs@wsdr4.org](mailto:juliebiggs@wsdr4.org)

Amy Green: Last names E-K [amygreen@wsdr4.org](mailto:amygreen@wsdr4.org)

Tammy Braun: Last names L - Ri [tammybraun@wsdr4.org](mailto:tammybraun@wsdr4.org)

Stephanie Bell: Last names Ro-Z [stephaniebell@wsdr4.org](mailto:stephaniebell@wsdr4.org)

Stacey Nielsen: College/Career/A+ [staceynielsen@wsdr4.org](mailto:staceynielsen@wsdr4.org)