

# Mentor High School



## The Mentor High School Parent Information Page



### From the Principal's Desk



Dear Mentor High School Parents and Students,

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and was able to spend quality time with their family and friends. It is hard to believe the holidays have already come and gone; where did the time go? It seems like we were just starting school, and now we are in the beginning phases of getting ready for the next school year! As we begin our transition we soon will be starting our scheduling process for next school year. Please make sure you work with your student(s) and school counselors on selecting the correct courses, as well as courses that will maximize his/her potential and interest. The courses students choose will be utilized to create a building schedule to best meet our needs (i.e. course offerings, staffing, etc.). Thus, it is always important to remind students and parents of our protocols for course changes (student handbook p. 11):

*Students are required to take a minimum number of courses each year. This "minimum course load" includes both required and elective courses. With the guidance of parents and counselors, students select these courses during the registration period. In addition to the required courses, students have an opportunity to select elective courses. The program of studies is available to students and parents online at [www.mentorschools.net](http://www.mentorschools.net).*

*During the time between registration and the end of the school year (early June), students and parents may request changes in these courses. After the end of the school year, schedule changes will not be made unless:*

- 1) A technical error was made in the process of scheduling the student's requests.
- 2) The student has been clearly academically misplaced.

*Schedule changes **will not** be made for:*

- 1) Teacher preference
- 2) Late arrival or early dismissal to or from school
- 3) Work considerations
- 4) Transportation
- 5) Special lunch requests

*Due to scheduling complications, once courses are selected they may not be dropped due to student change in preference. Courses may be **added** after the close of school in the spring and during the next school year during the first two weeks of each semester if the class the student wishes to take is not filled.*

Have you logged onto the Parent Portal of our electronic gradebook lately? This is a wonderful tool that parents can use to keep up-to-date on their student's progress. From homework assignments and comments to grades and assessments, teachers post student information directly into the grade book and, through the Portal, parents can retrieve information about their students immediately. I think it is crucial to our students' success that we work collaboratively together to monitor their success, and this tool is a great way to facilitate this communication. To help out, Infinite Campus just rolled out an app for the Parent Portal. The next time you login to the portal, you'll see a button at the bottom of the page "Available on the App Store". It will link you to a page with instructions on how to install the Infinite Campus Mobile Portal app to your iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad so you can access your child or children's information from anywhere, anytime. You can access the Parent Portal at: <https://campus.mentorschools.org/campus/portal/Mentor.jsp?2047Nav=|&NodeID=61>. Contact your child's school counselor if you have any questions.

During the week of March 12, the district will be administering the **Ohio Graduation Test (OGT)** to all students in tenth grade, as well as any junior or senior who still needs to pass a particular subject area. The OGT is a five-part test consisting of Reading, Math, Writing, Science, and Social Studies and is a requirement for graduation for all students. To support the testing environment during the week of the OGT, we are modifying the daily schedule as follows:

7:25 - 9:25 a.m.	Test Administration (for all sophomores and any juniors and seniors who still need to pass the OGT)
9:30 - 9:58 a.m.	Mods 1-2
10:02 - 10:39 a.m.	Mods 3-4
10:43 - 11:11 a.m.	Mods 5-6
11:15 - 11:53 a.m.	Mods 7-8 (Includes lunch)
11:57a.m. - 12:35 p.m.	Mods 9-10 (Includes lunch)
12:39 - 1:17p.m.	Mods 11-12 (Includes lunch)
1:21 - 1:59 p.m.	Mods 13-14 (Includes lunch)
2:03 - 2:31 p.m.	Mods 15-16

The modification will allow us to administer the test in a small group classroom settings that will help students concentrate and do their best work. Any freshman, junior or senior who arrives to school prior to 9:15 a.m. must report to the Student Center, as we want to maintain a quiet environment throughout the testing time. School buses will operate at their regular times throughout the week. It is our expectation that this modification will assist our students in being successful on the test. If you have questions about the schedule for the week or anything having to do with the Ohio Graduation Test, please call the school and we will be happy to help.

I am excited for the next phase of the school year and encourage you to stay involved as we move forward in preparing our students for their future. Please always feel free to contact me if you have a question, comment or concern. Our collaboration is essential to not only help our students, but also to help all of us continue to be life-long learners. I can be reached at (440) 974 - 5300 or at [Wade@MentorSchools.org](mailto:Wade@MentorSchools.org).

Sincerely,

*Mr. Wade*

William R. Wade  
Mentor High School Principal



### Important Dates

- Tuesday, January 20 – End of Second Grading Period
- Monday, January 23 – Staff In-Service Day – **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- Saturday, January 28 – Top 25 Dinner and a Show . . . Choir Benefit – 6 p.m. – Fine Arts Center
- Saturday, January 28 – SAT – 8 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 31 – 8-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation Meeting – 7 p.m. – Fine Arts Center
- Thursday, February 9 – Mentor High School Music Collage Concert – 7 p.m. – Fine Arts Center
- Saturday, February 11 - ACT – 8 a.m.
- Saturday, February 18 - Science Olympiad Competition – Mentor High School – All Day
- Monday, February 20 – Presidents' Day – **NO SCHOOL**
- Friday, February 24 – Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Honor Band – 7 p.m. – Fine Arts Center
- Friday-Saturday, February 24-25 – District Wrestling Tournament at Mentor High School
- Tuesday, February 28 – Mentor High/Middle School Orchestra Festival - 7 pm – Fine Arts Center
- Wednesday, February 29 – National Honor Society Talent Show – 7 p.m. – Fine Arts Center
- Thursday, March 1 – Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) Meeting – 7 p.m. – Fine Arts Center
- Tuesday, March 6 – Bloodmobile – All Day – Fine Arts Center
- Thursday, March 8 – Parent-Teacher Conferences – 5-8 p.m.
- Saturday, March 10 – SAT – 8:00 a.m.
- Monday-Friday, March 12-16 – Ohio Graduation Testing (OGT) – Late Start for 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders
- Monday, March 12 – Spring Sports Information Night – 7 p.m. – Fine Arts Center
- Tuesday, March 13 – Get Set for College – 7 p.m. – Fine Arts Center
- Wednesday, March 14 – Winter Sports Awards Night – 7 p.m.
- Friday-Saturday, March 16-17 – Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Large Group Contest
- Thursday-Friday-Saturday, March 29-31 – MHS Theatre Production of *Titanic* – 7 p.m. – Fine Arts Center



## Guidance News

The high school will begin the scheduling process for the 2012-2013 school year during the month of February. Counselors will present scheduling information in 9<sup>th</sup> grade English classes, 10<sup>th</sup> grade United States History classes, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade English classes. The scheduling information will consist of the following:

- ✓ graduation requirements
- ✓ college core
- ✓ course selection requirements
- ✓ Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- ✓ Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO)
- ✓ criteria for honors diploma

The students will be given a course selection sheet which will be turned in to their teacher. We encourage parents to review the courses offered to their child and get actively involved in the scheduling process. Access to the Mentor High School Program of Studies is available at [www.mentorschools.net](http://www.mentorschools.net) under the Parents tab.

The counselors will meet with each student individually to review the courses he/she has chosen and go over any questions or concerns they may have. Proper planning will help prepare students for what awaits them after graduation. Students should challenge themselves with course selections. Selecting a rigorous high school schedule is the best way to be prepared for college.

**The Learning About Business (LAB) Program** is for select sophomore and junior students. The summer program will run from Sunday, June 17 to Friday, June 22, 2012 at Lake Erie College. LAB is in its thirtieth year as an award-winning program as a full week of living economics – fun mixed with learning. LAB is about teamwork, self-discovery, communication, competition, gamesmanship and entrepreneurial creativity. It is a week away from home with about 60 other teens on a college campus, making some lifelong friends and getting to know more than 100 local business professionals. Interested students may pick up an application packet in the guidance office or online at: <http://www.learningaboutbusiness.org/students.html>. Applications are due by March 15, 2012.

The **PSEO** meeting will be held on March 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Students and parents who are interested in participating in the PSEO program during the 2012-2013 school year must attend this counseling session. The guidelines and expectations for PSEO students will be explained and you will receive the initial set of forms required for PSEO participation. Attending this meeting does not obligate the student to participate in PSEO; however, per State of Ohio guidelines, you must attend the meeting and turn in the required forms by March 31 if you think you have any interest in PSEO. Parents of students currently in PSEO **MUST** attend this meeting. Watch for the mailing with more information that will be sent home in early February to all students in grades 8, 9, 10 and 11.



## Notes from the Nurses

February is American Heart Month and the National Heart Association has some information and healthy tips for adults and children to become more "heart" conscious at [www.americanheartassociation.com](http://www.americanheartassociation.com). According to the American Heart Association (AHA), today about one of three American kids and teens are overweight or obese, nearly triple the rate in 1963. Among our children, obesity is causing a broad range of health problems that previously were not seen until adulthood. These include high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and elevated blood cholesterol levels. There are also psychological effects. Obese children are more prone to low self-esteem, negative body image and depression.

However, there is good news: Obesity can be stopped. And it doesn't take high-tech treatments or cutting-edge medications. The solution begins and ends with the daily decisions we make. The American Heart Association is working to help kids and families live heart-healthy lives. Many resources can be found at the AHA website.

Below are a few points of interest:

- Please remember that any student who is going to be attending an overnight field trip and will need to take any medication (prescribed and all over-the-counter medications) will need to have the Medication Administration Forms completed by both a physician and the parent/guardian for the medication to be brought on the trip.
- The school nurses will be continuing to perform vision/hearing screening on all 9<sup>th</sup> graders and students new to Mentor High School. Likewise, hearing screenings for all students in band, orchestra and choir will be performed. Please contact the school nurses at 440-974-5340 or 440-974-5341 with any questions.



# **Cardinal PRIDE**



## PTSA News

The PTSA would like to thank all the students, teachers and parents who filled out or signed a card for the troops at Conferences. Your continued support is appreciated!

Memberships are still being taken, so start the New Year off and join PTSA. We welcome new potential leaders, movers and shakers! Cards can be picked up at any of our meetings, see the school PTSA website for dates and times.

Are you registered for the Heinen's rewards benefits? If not, it is not too late! Heinen's rewards benefit our School through our PTSA. We have purchased benches, waste cans, and a scoreboard with funds from this valuable program. Register your card online at [Heinens.com](http://Heinens.com) today!



## Unit Principal Updates

### Senior Class by Mrs. Wolf:

#### Graduation Update (June 2, 2012)

On January 5, seniors were given information regarding Cap/Gown/Tassel ordering. The cost is 30.00 and money will be due at pick up in April. Any senior who did not attend the meeting must come to the unit office to complete forms. If you have any questions regarding ordering and pick-up dates, please contact the Unit 12 Office or your Jostens Representative:

Rick Kraft  
Phone: 440-257-8666  
Fax: 440-257-7979  
Email: [rick.kraft@jostens.com](mailto:rick.kraft@jostens.com)

On January 5, students filled out a **Graduation Participation Form** to indicate if they were participating in commencement ceremonies on June 2. If students will not be participating, they were to indicate where their diploma should be sent. If your senior did not attend the meeting, he or she **must** come to the Unit 12 Office to complete this form.

#### Senior Project (May 14-25, 2012)

**Senior Project Intent** forms are due to Mrs. Skouby, Senior Project Advisor, by January 12, 2012.

Those seniors who qualify for Senior Project will be given a **Senior Project Proposal** packet that is due no later than **March 2, 2012**.

#### Senior Calendar

Senior calendars can be picked up at any unit office or parents and students can find the senior calendar at [mentorhigh.com](http://mentorhigh.com).

Information included in the senior calendar includes graduation ordering and pick-up dates, senior meeting dates and times, SAT and ACT testing information and Senior Project information.

Students and parents can also access the "Senior Information Page" through [mentorhigh.com](http://mentorhigh.com). This link will provide updated information about upcoming deadlines and other important information pertinent to seniors specifically. In addition, parents and students will be receiving updates and messages through Infinite Campus and email as well. Parents and students are reminded to update their Infinite Campus portal to ensure that messages are received. Call the Unit 12 Office at 974-5312 if updates need to be completed.

#### Bloodmobile

The next Blood Drive is scheduled for March 6, 2012. Sign-ups will be completed in the Student Center during lunch periods in the 2 weeks before that date.

#### Community Service

If any students are planning or interested in receiving an honor cord for community service, they are reminded that they are required to log in 30 hours of service. Forms are located in any unit office and outside Room D100.

**Students are reminded that the deadline to submit Community Service Forms is February 1, 2012 to Mrs. Kirby in Room D100.**

### Junior Class by Mr. Diamond:

Confused about College Planning? Here's an easy checklist to guide you through the process:

#### Freshman Year

- Choose challenging courses and concentrate on your grades and extracurricular activities

#### Sophomore Year

- Take college prep courses in high school, concentrate on doing well and earning good grades
- Participate in career exploration activities, job shadow, volunteer, surf the web (OCIS link)
- Make a list of college attributes important to you, location, cost, majors, size, and student life
- Research colleges and universities; talk with family, friends, teachers and guidance counselor

### Junior Year

- Narrow down your choice of schools, visit campuses, attend college admission presentations at school, and attend local college fairs
- Register to take the ACT and/or SAT in the spring, visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to register, have scores sent to schools you are considering
- Prepare to take the ACT and/or SAT, inquire about test preparation software and materials, consider taking a test preparation class offered at RHS (Princeton Review)
- Look into the financial aid process

### Senior Year

- Finalize college choices and apply as soon as possible, request in writing to have your guidance counselor send your transcript
- Visit all schools that you have applied to in order to better finalize your choice
- Submit all financial aid paperwork and file FAFSA form online
- Make choice of the college you will attend and send in deposit by deadline

### Sophomore Class by Mr. Dudziak:

The tenth grade class will be taking the Ohio Graduation Test for the first time the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>. Our students are being prepared to take these tests in their classes. You can help them further prepare by making sure they are completing their class assignments on time and you can monitor their progress on the Parent Portal. Here is some information about this testing process (all information comes from [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us)).

#### *The purposes of the OGT are to:*

- Ensure that students who receive a high school diploma demonstrate at least high school levels of achievement;
- Measure the level of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies skills expected of students at the end of the 10th grade;
- Meet federal requirement for high school testing.

#### *How many questions are on the OGT tests?*

- OGT tests have approximately 35 multiple-choice questions and up to eight constructed (written) response questions.

#### *How long will students have to take the tests?*

- Students have up to two and one-half hours to take each of the tests.

#### *What happens if students don't pass the tests the first time?*

- Students who do not pass one or more tests on their first attempt will retake the tests they need to pass during their junior and senior years. Ohio Graduation Tests are administered each fall and spring, with an optional summer administration available within some school districts.

### Freshman Class by Mr. McMahon:

During the second academic quarter of the school year the freshmen class has built on their successful start at Mentor High School and they have continued their good work through the second grading period. We hope your child experienced a successful completion of his or her first semester final exams and they are ready to begin the second semester of their freshman year.

The second semester is in many ways a fresh start for students as they begin a new grading period and have the opportunity to forge a healthy academic track record as the school year proceeds through the late winter. Students' schedules may also change as new semester courses may appear on their class schedules. This moment in the school year offers a good chance for students to recommit themselves to their studies and we encourage them to refocus on their schoolwork so they do not experience a letdown after their first semester exams.

The start of the second semester also marks the beginning of the scheduling process for the 2012-2013 school year. School Counselors will visit classes in the near future to talk with students regarding class choices and scheduling paperwork. Please consider course options with your child carefully and submit all necessary paperwork in a timely manner so we can successfully accommodate your child's course requests for their sophomore year.



### Special Points of Interest!

- Students are required by Board Policy 6.36 to have an Emergency Medical Authorization form on file. Furthermore, students who do not have this form on file are not permitted to attend field trips. If you have not done so, please make sure you have updated your emergency medical information. If you have questions please contact the appropriate unit office or the school nurse.
- Parking passes are still available. Please stop the security booth if you are interested in driving to school. Passes are now available for any student who is able to drive (including sophomores) for \$25.00.
- When dropping students off in the morning please drop them off at the front of the building. We ask you to please respect our NO LEFT TURN and DO NOT ENTER signs in order to maintain safety and order.
- Please welcome Mr. Crowe to the administrative team. He will be transitioning from a math teacher to an administrator to fill in for Mrs. Munoz while she is out on leave.