

2009-2010 JUNIOR YEAR TIPS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

TIP#1: ESTABLISH GOOD COMMUNICATION

It is very important to establish effective lines of communication between the educational support team. Successful communication among students, parents, teachers, the administrators, and the counselor will enhance your child's high school experience.

Types of communication include the following:

Mr. Thompson's Monday Morning Minute	Parent Portal
NEISD Home Page	Progress Reports
Madison Web Page	Report Cards
Counselor Page on MHS Web Page	Attendance Letters
Email Addressees on Website	PTA Newsletter/Meetings
Parent Information Nights	Counseling Blast E-Mails
Grade Level Handbooks	Teacher Conferences
Junior Cues	Senior Cues

Tip #2: Utilize School Resources

There are various resources available to Juniors to support academics, career exploration, college search, and scholarship information:

Tutorials before or after school	Taks tutoring sessions
GO CENTER	Junior Cues

Tip #3: Encourage you child to get involved with school activities

Involvement with school activities not only encourages a strong commitment to academics, sense of belonging and self worth, but also provides students with opportunities to develop leaderships, self discipline, organizational and time management skills, as well as important community service experiences.

Tip #4: Plan for Graduation and Beyond

It is critical for students to be aware of their graduation program requirements needed for graduation and their post secondary plans. Junior should begin looking at colleges there are interested in attending and make sure their course selection will prepare them for their future career and college admission requirements. The class of 2011 is on the 4x4 graduation program. To graduate on the recommended program they must earn 26 credits and pass all sections of the TAKS Test. Care must be taken that they establish a plan to meet each of the requirement areas needed as they plan for course selection during the Junior and Senior year.

If they are interested in attending a U.S. Military Academy students should contact the a representative from the academy in order to obtain an application packet in the middle of the Junior year.

Tip#5: Tests, Tests, Tests, and Tests

During the Junior year students will be taking several tests important for their future:

PSAT/NMSQT...Provides access to personalized college and career planning resources in the Collegeboard.com "MyCollege Quick Start" on line program

TAKS... The exit level exam will be given in the spring. Students must master and all 4 sections: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies in order to graduate.

ACT or SAT Students should plan on taking the college admission beginning in the spring of their Junior year. Check the www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org for registration deadlines.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: AP exams will be given May 3-14th, 2010. Registration will be held mid spring.