



# BHS Guidance Department

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**Mrs. Melissa Manges**  
*Guidance Counselor*  
*Grades 10-12*

**Mrs. Mardell Miller**  
*Guidance Department*  
*Secretary*

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Dear Parent or Guardian of Seniors:

Can you believe it? This is the final year of your child's education in high school? Now more than ever, it is important that you have a conversation with your student about goals for the future, or continue earlier conversations that you might have already begun. I will be meeting with seniors the rest of September and all of October to discuss future plans and how to look for opportunities to finance those plans. This letter is to inform you what I plan to share with your student this fall. Students will also be bringing home a packet of information so please make sure you ask to see it! ☺

First and foremost, it is vital that each senior planning on attending any college take the ACT or the SAT if they have not already done so. The next ACT date is December 10, 2011 and the registration deadline is November 4<sup>th</sup>. The next SAT date is November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and the registration deadline is October 7<sup>th</sup>. You can register online for both of these tests at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org).

Secondly, make it a habit to check our website regularly. At the BPS website, under "Guidance Department," there is a link especially for seniors. I have already posted some information there, and will continue to post more as the year progresses. In addition, make sure you check the "Counselor Corner" weekly to see what scholarships are available, their deadlines, as well as what schools plan on visiting Bremen this fall. Encourage your student to stop and talk to these college representatives.

I want to also emphasize the importance of meeting deadlines. Over the years, I have traditionally had students come in a week or two before graduation, looking to apply to colleges and/or look for scholarships. At this point, the stress level of both student and parent escalates quickly, and there are not many choices left. Many colleges are full and scholarship money has been awarded. The best way to avoid stress is to apply early. I typically say to have all college applications done by Thanksgiving, but some schools like IU have a November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline (for awarding automatic scholarships) and Purdue has a November 15<sup>th</sup> deadline (for awarding scholarships). Make a calendar just for college plans, writing down application deadlines, scholarship deadlines, awards banquets, FAFSA deadlines, etc.

In addition to posting information on the website, I will be sending frequent emails home through Harmony. If you have not been receiving emails (b-bursts) from the school, please contact us so that we can make sure we have accurate information in our database. If you don't have access to Harmony and want information sent home regular mail, please notify us as well.

Lastly, I want draw your attention to some important dates for this year. First, mark your calendars for our two **Financial Aid nights on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Both will be held in Computer Lab 327 at 7:00.** Also, make sure that you file your FAFSA between January 2,

2012 and March 10, 2012. **March 10 is a hard and fast deadline! Finally, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, will be the Senior Recognition Banquet, held in Bowen Auditorium at 7:00 pm.** This is the night all the seniors will be awarded local scholarship money.

I hope this letter gives you a start to the information you are going to need this year as you, along with your student, begin planning for your student's future. As always, feel free to contact the Guidance Office at 574-546-3511 or email me at [mmanges@bps.k12.in.us](mailto:mmanges@bps.k12.in.us). Good luck! ☺

Happy Planning,

Melissa Manges  
BHS Guidance Counselor – Grade 12