

Life After High School



Bremen High School Home of the Bremen Lions! *September 2011*

Senior Notes:

- Check your schedules to make sure you have all required courses you need!
- Pay CLOSE attention to the daily announcements and follow up on topics that pertain to you! Announcements are posted online and around the school if you don't hear them.
- Check the bulletin boards outside the Guidance Office frequently for information on college programs, college visit days, "Counselor Corner," scholarships, and many other topics of importance.
- Take SAT / ACT as soon as possible if you haven't taken one yet or if you plan to retake.
- Know and follow the process for college applications. Make sure you are also requesting transcripts for the colleges you are applying to. (Use E-transcript if possible).
- Watch DEADLINES carefully!!!!

ALTHOUGH BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL WILL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE YOU IN EVERY WAY, WE CANNOT TAKE COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY TO INSURE YOU GRADUATE OR BE ADMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF YOUR CHOICE – THAT RESPONSIBILITY IS ULTIMATELY YOURS!

The College Admission Application...

Congrats to all of you who have already started this process! I have been amazed at the number of counselor forms that have already come across my desk! If you haven't started, don't despair! There is still time. Early priority dates for most schools is November 1st. So the next couple of months are going to be critical if you want to meet this deadline. Most schools now prefer the online application, however they will still accept paper versions mailed to them. If you qualify for an application fee waiver, stop in the Guidance Office. You will need to print out your application and mail it in the regular mail with your fee waiver. Each school has their own application procedures. It is imperative that you READ the application entirely before filling it out. Most of them ask for the same general information, but have different formats for you to provide it.

Typical elements on the application include: basic identification information, SAT/ACT scores, senior schedule, transcript with counselor verification, and a deadline. In addition, some schools require a description of extra-curricular activities (Academic Resume), an essay, recommendation letters, and sometimes even an interview (although this is generally only for a "direct admit" into a competitive program). Not adhering to a particular school's application procedures WILL exclude you from consideration. Be sure to READ ALL DIRECTIONS, and if not completing it online, be sure it is NEAT and in PEN!

Question: How do I get an application?

- Apply online at the school's website or see a college representative when they visit Bremen

Question: What if I am retaking the SAT or ACT?

- Apply to schools anyway. DON'T WAIT! Just make sure you send your updated scores to the schools you are applying to directly from College Board or ACT. Also note on your application when you are retaking the tests.

Question: How many colleges should I apply to?

- The rule of thumb is 3-5 schools (1 in-state, 1 out-of-state, 1 public, 1 private, 1 "safety" school, etc)

Question: How will I know if I have been accepted?

- A formal letter will be mailed directly from undergraduate admissions indicating acceptance or denial
- Some schools may request more information. Always check your email!
- Some schools will provide you with a website to check your application status.

Defining the Admission Terms:

- **Early Decision:** Students apply to their first choice for college, usually in the fall of their senior year. If admitted, they **MUST** commit to enrolling. The student may have only one early decision application pending at one time. If offered admission, the student must withdraw applications from all other institutions.
- **Early Action:** Students apply and receive an admissions decision earlier than normal but are **NOT** required to commit until the regular deadline of May 1. Institutions using an early action plan may not place restrictions on the number or type of other applications filed by the student.
- **Regular Decision:** Students submit an application by a specific date and receive a decision by no later than April 15. The student may apply to other colleges without restriction and reply to admissions offers by May 1.
- **Rolling Admission:** Students may apply at any time. The institution reviews applications as they are received and renders a decision in a timely manner. The student may apply to other colleges without restriction.
- **Wait List:** An admission toll designed to protect an institution against shortfalls in enrollment. By placing a student on the wait list, an institution does not initially offer or deny admissions. It extends to a candidate the possibility of admission in the future.

THE ONLINE APPLICATION

Most schools have now made their applications online, and most “prefer” students to apply online (IUB, Purdue, etc.) most do not even print paper applications anymore, although you can usually download a paper one from their websites. Some schools will not charge an application fee if you apply online, some will waive the application fee during “College Go! Week,” and others will require you to pay online. Most schools charge around \$40-\$50 per application, and they charge these processing fees for the service being provided to you. Application fees are non-refundable even if you are not admitted.

Some schools will allow you to fill out their application on site and submit it, like on a college visit day. Others will provide a variety of options: online submittal, download a PDF file, or fill in a PDF file that is downloadable.

Applying online is quick and simple, however you also still need to use caution!

- READ all instructions PRIOR to starting to fill out an application.
- Download ALL supplemental forms (e.g. the *Counselor’s Recommendation Form* or *Secondary School Report* are a MUST!) This is how your transcript gets sent in!

After you apply online, either bring in the *Counselor Form* to the Guidance Office so we can send your transcript, or log on to E-Transcript and request that your transcript be sent to the schools you have applied to. Bremen will then get an electronic notification to send your transcript, as well as an electronic notification to complete any *Counselor Forms* (also called ESSRs for Electronic Secondary School Reports).

If you have an Academic Resume or Letters of Recommendation that you want me to send along electronically, please email them to me so I can send them along with the ESSR as an attachment. If you want them sent via regular mail, please bring a copy to the Guidance Office and we will mail them for you.

APPLICATION POINTERS:

- If completing an application by HAND – PRINT NEATLY or TYPE your application. NEVER submit an application in pencil! Use either blue or black ink consistently – don’t mix and match them.
- Make sure the application looks NEAT. It should not be crumpled or folded or have any stains, etc. on it!

A WORD OF ADVICE from an experienced college admissions officer...

Filling out any college application can require a great deal of work. Take your time and allow enough time to complete it neatly. Give special attention to the questions that we ask. Certainly, if an essay is required it will call for the most effort, requiring forethought and planning. Applicants are well advised to carefully complete all areas of the application. Even the seemingly small questions can make a difference.

If the admissions committee sees on very polished, well-written, grammatically correct application/essay surrounded by other responses that contain misspellings and careless writing, then, obviously this lack of consistency will affect our impression of the candidate.

For an essay, students should select the topic they like best and remember to observe the word limitation. A one-sentence description of a student's essay topic should be clear and easy for others to understand. Counselors, if you have an opportunity to talk to your students, emphasize that they should not start writing until they have a clear central idea and a good topic sentence!


Never submit a college essay without first having it read by an adult and possibly by an English teacher.



**September 26-30
2011**

**FREE Applications to many
Indiana Colleges / Universities**

**Visit www.learnmoreindiana.org
for more information!**



INDIANA
e-transcript

Students are STRONGLY encouraged to use Indiana E-Transcript to send transcripts to colleges. This is a FREE service to Indiana students sponsored by the DOE. The delivery method is secure, and makes the sending and receiving of transcripts FAST and easy!

COLLEGE VISITATION DAYS

Every college would like to have potential students visit their campus. It allows the college to “place” you on the scene, and it allows you, the student, to get a “feel” for the campus to see if it is the right fit. During the fall, most colleges have daylong programs arranged to attract high school seniors as they navigate their way through the admission process. You will find many of these program on the weekends so that visitors will not be disrupting the college's classes or their own high school education. However, some schools offer preview days during the week so students can “see” college life in action. CHECK THE “COUNSELOR CORNER” AND THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE THE GUIDANCE OFFICE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT COLLEGE PREVIEW DAYS!

Bremen High School's Procedure for Missing School for a College Visit:

- Contact Mrs. Jenni Miller at least TWO SCHOOL DAYS prior to the visit if you intend to miss school. She will give you a purple sheet for you to take around to your teachers to get assignments. You will also need to get the required signatures from teachers, parents, etc.
- Return the purple form to Mrs. Jenni Miller the DAY BEFORE YOU GO on your college visit.
- Students MAY be required to provide proof of the visitation, such as the college admission officer signature
- A maximum of two (2) visit days are permitted for the entire school year. Use them wisely!

Note: Visiting college campuses WILL count against the total number of days a student can be absent from school.

Choosing a College

The Right Match:

All Types to Choose From: The type of college or post-secondary institution you choose to attend should reflect your personality and your goals. Whether you choose a public, private, community, technical, trade, or even online college, make sure it's the best match for YOU!

Big or Small? Do you want to attend a larger university with a greater choice of majors and social activities, but perhaps larger classes? Or would you like a smaller college with fewer choices but more personal attention? You can decide!

Home or Away? Do you want to attend a local college or somewhere in Indiana? Do you want to go out of state? It all depends on you. For some, living on campus and experiencing the dorms is an important part of the college experience, but commuting from home is less expensive. Some want to be close to home and some want to see other parts of the country or live in a different climate.

Which Major? Figuring out what you like doing most, plus what you are best at, can point you to careers you should consider and majors that will help you reach your career goal. Not every college offers every major. Do your research. Which ones have your interests?

The Right Place:

Indiana Colleges: Indiana has a lot of two year and four year colleges. Which ones are close to you? Check out Indiana's map at <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/college/choosing/Pages/CollegeMap.aspx> This map is a great resource for quick access to most of Indiana's two year and four year accredited colleges and universities.

Outside Indiana: There are thousands of colleges in the United States. Go to <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> This search offers profiles of nearly 7,000 colleges and universities nationwide.

The Right Things:

Facilities: Colleges usually have a wide variety of buildings that may be important to you. Do you want the most current computer labs, the largest library, the newest recreation center, or the best equipped science labs? Check it all out on a visit to the college or on a virtual tour on the college web site.

Activities: Just because you will be studying hard at college doesn't mean you can't get involved in student group or activities. If you have a particular interest, there is probably a student group to join on campus. Entertainment, leadership, community service projects, sports teams, intramural teams, music, theatre...you name it. Find a place where you can enjoy being involved!

Special Programs: Want to study in another country? Do you want to do a business internship or an engineering so-op? Find a college with the unique things you want to experience.

The Right Reasons:

Family: Just because mom or dad or an older sibling, cousin, etc. went to a certain school, don't think you have to go there too. Make sure the school is the RIGHT fit for all the RIGHT reasons for YOU!

Friends: You will make plenty of new friends in college, no matter where you go. Don't limit your choices just because your friends from high school are going there. Don't be afraid to meet new people! You will make lasting friendships!

Cost: Don't let the price tag on a college limit your interest. Go ahead and apply, and wait for the financial aid package to come back. You might be surprised!

ATHLETES

NCAA, Division I and II programs require the submission of an application to the NCAA Clearinghouse for review PRIOR to you being recruited or even offered an official visit. Go online to be informed of the regulations:

https://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/ncaa/NCAA/student/index_student.html

DRAFT REGISTRATION

Upon reaching their 18th birthday, all males are required to register for the draft. Any male, upon reaching his 17th birthday plus three months can “pre-register.” Financial Aid from colleges is directly tied with compliance to this federal law. Registration can be done online at

www.sss.gov.

THE TESTS...

If you haven't taken an SAT or ACT test yet and you are planning on going to college, REGISTER NOW! Go to www.sat.collegeboard.org to register for the SAT or to www.actstudent.org to register for the ACT. You will need a credit card.

You should consider re-testing if your SAT score is below 500 (each section) or below 21 (composite) on the ACT.

<u>TEST</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
SAT	Nov. 5	Oct. 7
ACT	Dec. 10	Nov. 4
SAT	Dec. 3	Nov. 8
ACT	Feb. 11	Jan. 13

* Bremen High School's School Code is: 150290

*Be sure to also send scores to colleges. You get 4 free!

*Ask if you qualify for a fee waiver.

EXTREME CAUTION:

SAT POINTER: When registering online and you arrive at the point of your current high school, be sure to include BHS as your school. The SAT site automatically sets your high school as the public school for your mailing address. Click on the link “Can't find your school?” then place 150290 for the code.

ACT POINTER: When registering, you have the option to take or not take the ACT with Writing Test. Most Indiana schools DO require the Writing Test, so be sure to check ahead of time. If you apply to a school that requires this portion of the test and you did not take the optional writing test, they may not accept your results.

EXTENDED TIME: Both the SAT and the ACT are available with accommodations for students who have special needs. See Mrs. Manges, Mrs. Hundt, or Mrs. Ailes for more details.

SAT / ACT WAIVERS: If financial situations at home warrant financial assistance, you may qualify for fee waivers for these tests. Ask Mrs. Manges for more details.

FINANCIAL AID INFO

*Each school will have their own individual financial aid procedures. Contact each school for specific details.

*Each family is STRONGLY encouraged to fill out the FAFAS (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) regardless of income level. You cannot apply until after January 1, and applications have to be done on-line.

*You can apply for a PIN number **RIGHT NOW!** Each student and parent needs one – this serves as your electronic signature. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to apply for a PIN now.

*Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to view more details about the FAFSA. Deadline in Indiana is **MARCH 10!**

*DO NOT pay anyone any money to complete your FAFSA – it is FREE. There are many websites that will charge you! Also be leery of any scholarship website or seminar that charges you money or guarantees a scholarship!

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOPS:

Monday, November 7th, 2011 at 7:00 PM (Room 327)

Monday, January 9th, 2012 at 7:00 PM (Room 327)