



September 2011

Dear Parents / Guardians and Members of the Class of 2012:

Congratulations! You have reached a milestone year. We are excited that you have reached the pinnacle of your high school career, and we look forward to helping you navigate your way through this year as you prepare for your future. Time will go quickly this year, as it always does! And there are MANY items of business that both parents and students must take care before June!

The Guidance Department is very aware of how many decisions you must make this year. This booklet has been created for you to use as a reference for the many questions that you may have on college admissions, financial aid, military, and scholarships. We hope this booklet helps make the senior year more pleasant and less stressful – print it out and highlight the information important to you. Deadlines are crucial during this year, so please make time to review all the material. There is a lot of information, but if you spend time together – student and parent – reading the information a little at a time, things will go smoother.

Here are some valuable pieces of advice for the year:

- Check *Counselor Corner* frequently for updated college visit and scholarship information
- Read Daily Announcements so you don't miss important dates and deadlines
- Supply the school with an email so that you can receive the Harmony communication
- Students: TALK to your parents and SHARE information; Parents: TALK to your student!
- Check the Bulletin Boards outside the Guidance Office frequently
- BEWARE OF DEADLINES! Have a calendar just to keep track of college dates, etc.
- Keep your Academic Resume updated all year

I will also be providing you with a short “newsletter” once per trimester with pertinent information and reminders for the time of year. These will be available on our website at www.bps.k12.in.us. Click on the “High School” tab, “Guidance Department,” and then “Senior Information.” The first one should be posted by October 1.

In addition to this booklet and the scheduled individual senior conference, we would like to encourage you to contact the guidance office to talk with a counselor about any additional concerns you may be having concerning graduation. Please try to call first to set up an appointment if possible.

I look forward to working with you throughout the school year. GOOD LUCK AND ENJOY YOUR SENIOR YEAR! ☺

Sincerely,

Melissa Manges
BHS Guidance Counselor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Senior Calendar	4
Senior Checklist	5 -6
Graduation Information	
ECA Exams (End of Course Exams).....	7
Graduation requirements	
• CORE 40.....	7
• Academic Honors Diploma	7
• Technical Honors Diploma.....	7
Opt Out Process	8
Areas of responsibility.....	9
Guidance Department Information	
Senior Conferences.....	10
Bulletin Boards.....	10
Website.....	10
Counselor Corner.....	10
Daily Announcements.....	10
College / Military Representative Schedule.....	10
Meeting with Counselors.....	11
Class Rank and GPA.....	11
Honor Roll.....	11
Permanent Records and Transcripts.....	11
Retake Policy.....	11
Dual Credit Policy.....	12
On-Line Courses.....	12
Post-Secondary Preparation	
Academic Resume	12
Letters of Recommendation	12
Tips on Asking for a Letter of Recommendation	13
College Information	
Selecting a college	14
Application Checklist	14
College Application Information	15
Requesting Transcripts (E-Transcript)	15
Tips on college visitation	16
Athletic Eligibility.....	16
College Fairs	16
College Catalogs and Guidebooks.....	16
SAT II Subject Tests	17
Learn More Indiana	17
SAT / ACT Information	18

Ways to Finance a College Education	
FAFSA	19
Your Financial Aid Package	20
How to apply for financial aid.....	20
How to apply for scholarships.....	20
How to avoid SCAMS.....	20
CSS / Financial Aid PROFILE	21
College Dollars Document	21
Financial Aid Terminology	
Federal Pell Grants.....	22
State Grants.....	22
Federal Stafford Loans.....	22
Federal Plus Loans.....	22
Campus – Based Programs.....	22
Tax credits.....	23
How you will receive your financial aid package	23
Where can I get more information about other sources of aid?.....	23
General Scholarship Information	
Items you may need	24
Local Bremen Scholarships.....	24
Private Scholarships	24
Career Information	
Employment Information	25
Career Cruising Website	25
Apprenticeships	25
Military Information	
Branches of the Armed Forces	26
ROTC	26
Military Academies	26
Selective Service	26
ASVAB.....	26
Websites of interest	27

SENIOR CALENDAR

***Revised August 2011**

August 29	Senior Parent Meeting – Bowen Aud. 7:00 PM
Sept / Oct	Senior conference with Mrs. Manges
September 10	ACT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline Aug. 12)
September 26	CollegeGo!Week – check out website for details
October 1	SAT (at NorthWood) (Reg. deadline Sept. 9)
October 3	Elkhart County College Fair – Goshen H.S. 7 – 8:30 pm
October 6	Plymouth High School College Fair – 6:30 – 8:00 pm
October 10	Jostens Graduation Packets passed out
October 14	Jostens orders taken at lunch
October 22	ACT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline Sept. 16)
November 5	SAT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline Oct. 7)
November 7	Financial Aid Workshop I – Room 327 - 7:00- 8:30 PM
November 17	End of 1st Trimester (approx Nov 21 st Report Cards)
November 21	College Applications should be completed
December 3	SAT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline Nov. 8)
December 10	ACT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline Nov. 4))
January 9	Financial Aid Workshop II – Room 327 - 7:00- 8:30 PM
January 28	SAT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline Dec. 10)
January 30	Financial Aid Meeting 7:00 p.m. in Cafeteria
February ??	Dollars for Scholars Applications Available
February 11	ACT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline Jan. 13)
March 2	End of 2nd Trimester (approx. March 7 th Report Cards)
March 10	FAFSA DUE!
March 10	SAT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline Feb. 10)
March 26	NHS Induction Ceremony / Tri Kappa Award Night Bowen Auditorium 7:30 PM
April 14	ACT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline Mar. 9)
May 5	SAT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline April 6)
May 8/9	Spanish AP Exam / Calculus AP Exam
May 10	Senior awards night – Bowen Auditorium – 7:00 PM
June 2	SAT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline May 8)
June 5	End of Term 3 (Approx. June 8 th Report Cards)
June 9	ACT Test – Area Schools (Reg. deadline May 4)
June 10	Graduation ☺

Be sure to check the Bremen High School webpage for additional detailed information

SENIOR CHECKLIST

FALL

- Update and finalize academic resume.
- Meet with your school counselor and clarify your post-secondary plans.
- Many college and career representatives visit Bremen during this time of year. There is still time for seniors to talk with reps and/or make college visits.
- Make sure your high school course selections are appropriate for your college/career interests and that you are meeting high school graduation and college admission requirements.
- If your plans include college, you may want to consider re-taking the SAT I Reasoning Test to improve your scores. You may also want to consider taking the ACT.
- Stay alert to all announcements for seniors including financial aid obligations, scholarship information, and other senior announcements.
- College applications should be completed during September/October. If letters of recommendation are needed, make sure you allow plenty of time for them to be completed, and be sure to write a thank you note.
- If you are seeking an athletic scholarship, enroll with the NCAA Clearinghouse to be sure you are certified and eligible for college sports programs.
- If admission interviews are required or recommended, schedule them.
- Attend the financial aid meetings held at Bremen High School on November 7th, 2011 and January 9th, 2012.

WINTER

- Confirm that all school admission application materials, including recommendations, have been sent on schedule.
- Request that your guidance counselor send a copy of your transcript, which includes first trimester senior year grades and rank, to the schools to which you have applied (if necessary).
- Attend the financial aid meetings held at Bremen High School. (November 7th, 2011 and January 9th, 2012)
- Submit your family's financial information or a need analysis document as soon after January 1 as possible and no later than March 10. All State of Indiana and college/university awards have a priority deadline of March 10 (no exceptions for missing deadlines). Your counselor can help you ascertain which form to file. Most colleges and universities will require the FAFSA or Profile. Some will also require the college's institutional financial aid form. Be sure to check the item on the form that allows your information to be used to determine eligibility for a Pell Grant.
- If the schools to which you are applying require additional application forms for financial aid or request copies of your family's income tax returns for verification, submit them immediately.
- If the need analysis processor requests additional financial information in order to process your application, submit it promptly.
- Continue to seek and apply for private scholarships.

SPRING

- Make your final decision about which post-secondary institution you will attend. Revisit schools, if necessary, before making your final decision. May 1 is the decision deadline for colleges and universities. Decline other offers of admission in writing (other students may be waiting for that place in the freshman class).
- Review your financial aid award letter with your parents; be sure that you understand the terms and conditions that accompany each kind of aid. Sign your financial aid award letter and any other items requiring your signature, and return them. Schedule an appointment with the financial aid administrator at the school if you have questions or wish to discuss contents of the letter.
- If you have received financial aid award letters from schools whose offers of enrollment or aid you have decided to decline, notify the aid office in writing. (Other students who wish to attend that school will need the aid that you decline.)

- Notify the financial aid office of any outside scholarships, grants, or any other kinds of student aid from private sources that you have received since you submitted your aid applications.
- Make a separate application for any loan funds that require such an application; understand all of your rights and responsibilities before you and/or your parents sign a promissory note.
- Arrange with the school for housing and a meal plan, if necessary.
- Find out when payment of school charges for tuition, fees, room and board, etc., will actually be due, and plan how you will meet those charges. Be sure you understand how financial aid will be disbursed and whether or not you can defer bill payment until the funds are available.
- Be aware of any summer orientation sessions that you must attend at the school in which you will enroll, and formulate your summer plans accordingly.

GRADUATION

ECA Exams (Graduation Qualifying Exams)

Beginning with the Class of 2012, graduates must successfully complete two ECA (End of Course Exams) to receive an Indiana High School Diploma. Students will have to pass the Algebra I Exam, typically administered in 8th or 9th grade. Students also need to pass the English 10 Exam at the conclusion of tenth grade English. If students don't pass these exams on the first try, they will have two opportunities each year to take the exams again. If the ECAs are not successfully completed, but the senior has completed all local graduation requirements, the senior can receive a Certificate of Completion during the graduation ceremonies at the end of the senior year.

BASIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (47 credits)

Bremen seniors (Class of 2012) must successfully complete a minimum of 47 credits of high school work to receive a Bremen High School diploma. Thirty-one of these are required course credits and 16 are electives. Unless you have completed the graduation requirements, you cannot participate in commencement activities.

CORE 40 DIPLOMA (47 credits)

The CORE 40 is a single, flexible high school curriculum which, except for elective courses, is based upon a single set of agreed upon competencies. Emphasis is placed on more math, science, social studies, and career electives. More information is located in the annual course description booklets or from your counselor.

ACADEMIC HONORS DIPLOMA (50 credits)

The State Board of Education and the Indiana Department of Education have established this diploma to recognize graduating seniors who have completed a rigorous and specific academic course of study. Emphasis is placed on math, science, social studies, foreign language, and the arts. Requirements of this diploma are published yearly in the annual course description booklets.

TECHNICAL HONORS DIPLOMA (47 Credits)

The Technical Honors Diploma is designed to recognize graduating seniors who have completed a rigorous and specific academic course of study in a career or technical area. Emphasis is placed not only on academic success, but also on a career focus. Requirements of this diploma are published yearly in the annual course description booklets.

Requirements for each Diploma Track are:

	<u>Core 40</u>	<u>Academic Honors *</u>	<u>Technical Honors*</u>
English	8 Credits	8 Credits	8 Credits
Math	6 Credits	8 Credits	6 Credits
Science	6 Credits	6 Credits	6 Credits
Social Studies	8 Credits	8 Credits	8 Credits
Foreign Language	0 Credits	6-8 Credits	0 Credits
Physical Ed.	2 Credits	2 Credits	2 Credit
Health	1 Credit	1 Credit	1 Credit
Fine Arts	2 Credits	2 Credits	2 Credits
Practical Arts	2 Credits	2 Credits	2 Credits
Elective Credits	<u>12 Credits</u>	<u>7 Credits</u>	<u>12 Credits</u>
Credits Needed	47 Credits	50 Credits	47 Credits

*diplomas have additional requirements (see Course Guidebook)

OPT OUT PROCESS

To graduate with less than Core 40, the following formal opt-out process must be completed:

- The student, the student's parent or guardian, the student's counselor (or another staff member who assists students in course selection) and the school principal must meet to discuss the student's progress.
- The student's career and course plan is reviewed.
- The student's parent or guardian determines if the student will achieve greater educational benefits by completing the general curriculum or the Core 40 curriculum.

Helpful Hints

- Keep an organized file of all your high school records
- Keep an organized file of all your college information
- **MAKE COPIES OF EVERYTHING YOU SEND**
- Create an email just to use for college correspondence, and check it frequently.
- Keep a list of all the accounts, usernames, and passwords you set up

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Begin the process of selection early (Junior Year or Fall of Senior Year-August & September).
2. Be aware of grades, rank in class, test results, admission criteria, strengths and weaknesses.
3. Read the *b-burst*, pay attention to Daily Announcements, use the Guidance Department for information, SAT/ACT testing information, etc.
4. Check out college applications online and begin filling them out.
5. Register for the SAT and/or ACT on time. (Fee waivers are available for low income students and 21st Century Scholars).
6. Search and apply for scholarships (all year).
7. Check *Counselor Corner* and the BPS webpage regularly.
8. Arrange and attend college visits.
9. Complete FAFSA and scholarship applications.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Discuss future plans, including the financial picture and any restrictions, with your son/daughter early in the selection process.
2. Be aware of deadlines (admission, scholarship and financial aid applications, etc.).
3. Sign a Transcript Release Form so that the Guidance Department can include a transcript with any application(s). (This is usually part of the registration process at the beginning of the year).
4. Complete your portion of the admission application (signature, checks, verification of residency, etc.).
5. Fill out financial aid forms, if you plan to file, in January and no later than **March 10** to qualify for Indiana and Federal grants.
6. Call the Guidance Department if you have questions. Make an appointment if necessary.
7. Read the "*b-burst*" that the school sends out weekly to parents.
8. Check *Counselor Corner* and the BPS webpage regularly.
9. Go to the college visits with your student and set-up advising and financial aid meetings.
10. Check with your student periodically to provide support with the college selection process.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Discuss college selection process with students and parents.
2. Advise students and/or parents on course selection and appropriate college matches.
3. Provide information regarding college admission and scholarships.
4. Communicate regularly with students (via Daily Announcements) and parents (via *Counselor Corner*) concerning college selection and scholarship opportunities.
5. Provide opportunities to learn about various colleges by informing students of college representatives visiting Bremen High School, college fairs, college campus visit programs, open houses, etc.
6. Make available certain applications and forms, although many are online now.
7. Prepare transcripts and recommendations (if applicable) to be sent to colleges with application for admission.
8. Send mid-year and final grades to colleges.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

COMMUNICATION

- Senior Conferences
During September and October, Mrs. Manges will schedule a senior conference. During this conference, the following items will be discussed: graduation requirements, Diploma choice, current credit and diploma status, ECA information, college or career choice, SAT/ACT testing (if necessary), scholarship and financial aid information, and any other questions or concerns that a student or parent might have. Parents are always welcome to attend this meeting, although they will take place during the school day.
- Bulletin Boards
The Guidance Department Bulletin Boards are located in the hallway outside of the Guidance Office. On these boards, you will find information about scholarship opportunities, college and campus visit dates, vocational schools, opportunities in the military, employment opportunities, dates for testing (SAT and ACT) , and much more.
- Website
On the Bremen Public Schools Website (www.bps.k12.in.us) under the “High School” tab, the Guidance Department has its own page. In addition, there are links to pages for each class: frosh, sophomore, juniors, and seniors. This site is a “work in progress” but we are working diligently to post as much useful guidance information as possible on there.
- Counselor Corner
Counselor Corner is a newsletter for students and parents that includes everything from scholarship opportunities to college and military representative visits. This is updated weekly and is available in a variety of places. *Counselor Corner* is emailed to parents and senior students, posted on our website, published weekly in the Bremen Enquirer, posted on the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office, and located in every senior Bonus Period teacher’s room. Additional copies can also be picked up in the Guidance Office.
- Daily Announcements
Pay close attention to the Daily Announcements because this is where we publicize the newest guidance information. Some examples of what we publicize include scholarship information and deadlines, college rep visits, and testing dates and information.
- College Representatives / Military Representatives
College Reps and Military Recruiters most often visit Bremen High School on Monday mornings from 7:45 – 8:20 or Monday – Friday during lunch. They are set up in front of the main office. These representatives like to visit with students interested in attending or obtaining information about their schools or branches of the service. Updated listings of these visits are posted regularly on the *Counselor Corner*.

DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Meeting with counselors

The guidance counselors are available to answer questions and help with applications for college and scholarships or anything else related to senior year. I try to visit the senior English classes and/or Government and Economics classes once in a while to answer questions in bulk. However, due to our busy schedules, it would be best to make an appointment if you would like to sit down and meet.

- Class Rank and GPA

A student's grade-point average and class rank are maintained from the end of the first term through the twelfth term. All grades, with the exception of a "P" in a pass-fail setting, and an "NCG" resulting from exceeding the attendance limit (including +'s or -'s), are computed to determine honor roll, grade-point average, and class rank. Students desiring this information may obtain it from their counselor. Grades obtained in the 8th grade for Algebra shall be included in the GPA and class rank calculations.

- Honor Roll

All full-time students (including E.A.C.C. and I.C.E. students) are eligible for scholastic recognition by meeting the following standards: Distinguished: "A's" in all subjects Honors: "B's" and above in all subjects. Honor roll is determined at the end of each trimester.

- Permanent Records and Transcripts

A permanent record is maintained on each student which follows the student each year of his/her education. Contained in this record are courses taken and grades earned, standardized test scores, days present/absent, conduct and discipline, health and immunization records, and any other pertinent information. Transcripts of this record are prepared upon written request of the student (if 18 or older, or the parent, if the student is less than 18) to provide prospective employers and college or technical school officials a thorough picture of a student's educational progress. Normally transcripts are sent directly to the employer, college or school, and are not given to the student to hand carry.

- Retake Policy

Bremen High School students will be allowed to re-take a course for a higher grade. Students must make the request to a Guidance Counselor and complete the appropriate paperwork. In addition, students must follow the guidelines listed below:

- **Students wishing to re-take a course must agree to the following conditions:**

1. Students may only re-take a class if they have received a "C-" or lower.
2. When a student re-takes a class, the original course title and grade will remain on the transcript.
3. The grade received the second time is the grade that will count for credit and in the cumulative GPA, even if it is a lower grade.
4. Students may only re-take a course once per year for a maximum of two courses in their high school career.
5. All re-takes must be completed at Bremen High School.
6. Re-takes must be completed as soon as the Master Schedule allows.
7. Students who have taken a class over are not eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian recognition.
8. Students will be allowed to re-take a course only if space is available. The maximum number of students enrolled in the course shall be at the discretion of the High School Principal.

- Dual Credit Policy

DEFINITION from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Dual credit courses are defined as courses that are taken by high school students and that can satisfy requirements for earning both a high school diploma and a college degree. Dual credit courses are taught by regular high school faculty, who has been trained by certified college faculty members, or by regular or adjunct college faculty. The term “concurrent enrollment” is also sometimes used to describe high school students who enroll in courses that generate dual credit.

Dual credit opportunities include the ACP Program (see below) or courses taken at the college level. For students to qualify to take courses at the college level that also count for high school credits, they must meet the following requirements:

- Courses must be taken at an accredited college through which Bremen has an articulation agreement.
- Students must meet ACP (Advance College Project) requirements. (See Course Guidebook).
- Courses taken off campus must not also be offered at Bremen High School.

ACP PROGRAM (ADVANCE COLLEGE PROJECT) – Dual Credit with IUSB

Students in grades 11 and 12 may choose to enroll in classes that fulfill their high school requirements and also receive college credit through Indiana University. ACP is a dual credit partnership program between Indiana University and Bremen High School. Credits received in these courses are transferable to many colleges nationwide, providing students earn a “C” or higher and pay for the credits at the ACP rates determined by IUSB. Students are billed through the IUSB Bursar, not through Bremen High School. Courses offered include Composition (W131 – 3 credits), Literature (A202 -3 credits), Speech (S121 – 3 credits), Calculus (M215 – 5 credits), and Business (W100 - 3 credits)

- Online Courses

Bremen High School strongly recommends that students take all courses at the high school.

However, we do have students take classes through the Bremen Academy, an alternative program that offers course through an online program called PLATO. Students are enrolled in this program for a variety of reasons. In addition, students have taken courses that we do not offer at Bremen High School through Indiana University High School (IUHS), Brigham Young University (BYU), and the Indiana Online Academy (IOA). Please contact the Guidance Office for further details and information on these alternatives.

POST-SECONDARY PREPARATION

- Academic Resumes

Students are encouraged to begin an Academic Resume during their 9th grade year, and keep it updated all the way through high school. Senior year, these resumes are useful to students as they begin applying to colleges, applying for scholarships, and asking people for letters of recommendation.

- Letters of Recommendation

Seniors are encouraged to ask for 2-3 Letters of Recommendation early in their senior year. Students should ask people who know them well, such as a teacher, counselor, coach, youth pastor, or employer. Each letter should show a different aspect of the student’s abilities and character.

*See more on both Academic Resumes and Letters of Recommendation on following page

ASKING FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

STUDENT TIPS

People to consider asking: teachers, counselors, coaches, advisors, youth pastors, employers, or anyone else who knows you well besides family members. Make sure you also ask people who you are confident will be able to write a favorable letter for you.

You should get 2-3 different letters from different people who can attest to varying aspects of your personality, interests, strengths, and attributes.

When requesting a letter of recommendation from anyone, be sure to do the following:

- Ask the person face-to-face; don't send a text or email. Make it personal.
- Provide a copy of your Academic Resume so they can have accurate information.
 - Make sure your resume includes your career interest or intended college major
 - It would also be helpful to have your ultimate Career Goal included
- Provide the person with information on whom to address the letter to and why you are asking them to write it:
 - Is it for a specific college? If so, for what major?
 - Is it for a specific scholarship?
 - Do you want it just be "generic" so you can use it for multiple things?
- PLAN AHEAD! You should allow the person at least 2 weeks to complete the letter.
- Provide the person with specific instructions on what to do with the letter:
 - Give it back to you?
 - Mail it? (Provide a stamped envelope for them)
 - Give it to the Guidance Office?

After you receive your letters or recommendation:

- Write a thank-you note to the person! He or she took time to do you a favor. A handwritten note is a nice way to show your appreciation.
- Provide a hard copy of the signed letter to the Guidance Office so it can be kept on file.

COLLEGE INFORMATION

By working together throughout the college planning process, we hope to provide each student the assistance needed to attain his or her college goals. Parents and guardians also play an important role in this process. Make sure you are taking time to talk about the next step after high school graduation!

SELECTING A COLLEGE

1. Think about your priorities and write them down. **KNOW YOURSELF!**
2. Talk to your counselor, teachers, parents, friends, and alumni of various colleges. You may even approach people you don't know but who have information about schools that might meet your needs.
3. Read everything you can get your hands on! Start with general catalogue guides and search the Internet. Visit college websites for general information along with information on your special interest.
4. List the colleges which interest you the most. The schools you list should vary in terms of selectivity and should include at least one "back-up" school where you know you will be accepted. (one in-state and one out of state – one public and one private etc).
5. Visit the colleges on your list. Spend as much time as you can on campus and talk to students, faculty, and admissions counselors. Ask candid questions about what it is like to be a student at the college.
6. Apply to several colleges in the fall of your senior year. Check the admissions and financial aid application deadlines to be sure you meet them. **It is your responsibility to be sure all of the application parts arrive on time.**
7. Re-evaluate your college selection criteria while you wait to receive your decisions.
8. Decide which college you will attend. Ask others for last minute advice or visit again if you like. But remember, it's your decision.

It is important that you are realistic about the colleges where you choose to apply. Be sure to check admission requirements of a college or university before applying to that institution. Check to see that you have taken the required courses, and be sure you have the minimum test scores, class rank, and GPA for admission.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Read all instructions carefully and fill out the application completely. Be as neat as possible. This is a representation of YOU!
- When you have completed the application, take it to your counselor who will complete the section that is marked for the high school counselor to complete (if applicable).
- Make sure you include the application fee when you mail the application. Do not send money to Guidance Office.
- Write an essay if you are a borderline prospect and tell the college about yourself or about any special circumstances.
- If you need letters of recommendation, it is your responsibility to remind the recommendation writer when the letter of recommendation is needed. Make sure you allow at least two weeks for him/her to complete it, and be sure to send a thank you note afterwards.
- Bring your completed application items to the Guidance Office at anytime but at least one week prior to the mailing deadline. The Guidance Office will complete school information (GPA, class rank, SAT scores, etc.) and make a copy of the student's transcript.
- Applications will be returned to students for mailing; however, in some cases, transcripts must be sent separately.
- Keep a folder for each college you apply to so you can stay organized.
- **The Guidance Office will keep a record of where all transcripts are sent.**

COLLEGE APPLICATION INFORMATION

Colleges and Universities consider the following four items in their selection of freshmen

- High school class rank computed at the end of your junior year and based upon your GPA
- Academic courses taken in high school. In the State of Indiana you are expected to complete the CORE 40 to be considered for admission to Indiana's four-year colleges.
- Test results – SAT I Reasoning Test or the ACT.
- At some schools you may need other recommendations.

It is perfectly acceptable to apply to more than one college. Most applications are available online or by contacting the college and requesting information. The Guidance Office will have information on college addresses, phone numbers, and may have some applications on hand to Indiana Colleges and Universities. Most colleges send us applications during September and October; you should plan on applying to college before Thanksgiving break. Some colleges have early deadlines for selective college majors and scholarship dollars so research this and do not delay.

Please check for on-line applications because most colleges now encourage students to apply on-line. **If you apply on-line, please look for the counselor page to print and bring in to the Guidance Office.** On most home pages, locate the “Admissions” tab and then there should be the option of “Undergraduate Admissions.” From there you should easily be able to check admission criteria and access the online application. There may also be additional forms to complete or print. You may even be required to create an account. If so, WRITE DOWN your username and password and keep in your organized file of college information.

In order for your application to be complete and an admission decision to be made, you must have a formal high school transcript submitted from the Guidance Office either via regular mail or through Docufife (E-transcript). It would also be a good idea to print a hard copy of your application for yourself.

REQUESTING A TRANSCRIPT

Transcripts should be requested using Docufide (or Parchment), used to be called E-Transcript. This is the way our office can send electronic transcripts, as colleges now prefer to receive electronic documents. Find the link on the Bremen Guidance Department webpage and click on it to begin the process.

Students should have already registered for this service in their junior year, so they should log on and request their transcripts. The Guidance Office then receives the request and sends the transcript electronically. The student will be notified when the transcript has been sent, and also when it has been received by the institution. This is a free service.

Along with this process, I will receive an ESSR (Electronic Secondary School Report), also known as a “Counselor Form.” I also log on to Docufide, and complete the counselor information that the schools request. I can submit this information to several schools at one time. I can also attach documents like Academic Resumes and Letters of Recommendation, which is why I ask that students submit electronic copies to me.

If a student cannot use Docufide, students must request the Guidance Office to send a transcript. Typically, if paper copies are being requested, the transcript and counselor page will be mailed to the university together.

TIPS ON COLLEGE VISITATION

1. Make an appointment in advance with the college you want to visit.
2. Pick up forms from the Attendance Office to be approved for a college visit.
3. Make arrangements to be absent the days of your visit with the Attendance Office.
4. Go to the college with prepared questions to ask.
5. Take a copy of your transcript.
6. Make an appointment with the Admissions and Financial Aid Offices.
7. Make an appointment with the Dean in the area in which you are interested.
8. Take a campus tour.
9. Observe a class.
10. Take pictures of the campus.
11. Make notes after the visit about things you liked and disliked about the college.
12. Have someone at the college write a note as proof of your visit.
13. **Send thank-you notes to the admission officer and tour guide that you visited**
14. **Dress to impress. Make a good first impression.**

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The National College Athletic Association (NCAA) regulates many colleges' athletic programs. The NCAA has three membership Divisions – Division I, Division II, and Division III. If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must complete a NCAA initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse form. This form is online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

All test scores must be sent directly from the testing agency, code “9999.” Students must also request from the Guidance Office that a transcript be mailed. You should request these as early as possible.

COLLEGE FAIRS

College Fairs are ideal times to meet college representatives and discuss the programs they offer. You may also get admissions criteria and application information at this time. Most college fairs are run shopper-fair style. This means booths are set up for you to visit and come and go as you please. You may talk to one college or a dozen if you wish.

COLLEGE CATALOGS AND GUIDEBOOKS

The Guidance Office has many catalogs, books, and brochures available for you to check out or come look through. We have information for most of the Indiana colleges as well information on many out-of-state schools. We have books to help identify and learn about specific majors, financial aid, test preparation, and more. All of these materials are available to be checked out. Please ask the Guidance Secretary, Mrs. Mardell Miller, how to do this.

Nearly all colleges and trade schools have their own websites, and almost any information you might need can be found on the Internet. At the end of this packet, there is an extensive list of websites categorized for you; however, as you know, these sites change frequently so there are no guarantees that they all still exist! If you are a person that still likes to have a book in your hand and read the hard copy of something, feel free to stop in the Guidance Office to see what we have available.

TAKING THE SAT II SUBJECT TESTS

Many students and parents ask if they need to take the subject tests, and many don't even know what they are! The SAT II tests are required by some colleges, but are optional at most. They are intended to measure your knowledge and skills in a particular subject and your ability to apply that knowledge. There are 24 separate tests in all. They are often used to determine college course level placement. Students planning to major in math, science, or a foreign language might be required to take that particular subject exam. Students applying to competitive programs may also be asked to take the SAT II exams.

These exams are given on the same days as the SAT I Reasoning Test. Check to see if the college you are interested in requires the SAT II and in which subjects. It is recommended that you take these tests in the fall of your senior year. Check on the College Board website for additional information.

LEARN MORE INDIANA

Learn More Indiana is the state of Indiana's center to inform, encourage, and support the education and career development of the people of Indiana. All students should have been introduced to this website at some point in their high school career. Learn More Indiana will offer assistance with questions about career exploration, Indiana colleges and the application process, and financial aid information. If you wish to contact Learn More Indiana, you can call them at 1-800-992-2076 or visit their website at www.learnmoreindiana.org. **We strongly encourage ALL students and parents to visit this valuable website!**

SAT and ACT INFORMATION *revised

August 2011

Most colleges require the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) as part of the admissions process. It is important that you take the SAT or ACT as soon as possible **BE SURE YOU LIST THE COLLEGES THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING SO THE SCORES MAY BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THEM.** The college or university will not make a final decision on your admission until they receive your SAT or ACT scores, **however it is NOT necessary to wait until you have taken either test to fill out and send in your college application.**

If you have not taken the SAT or the ACT, we recommend that you register soon. The October SAT test is usually given at Northwood High School. Students are encouraged to register online for both tests.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) - Cost \$49.00

*Register online by going to www.sat.collegeboard.org

<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</u>	<u>LOCAL LOCATIONS</u> *may change
October 1, 2011	September 9, 2011	NorthWood, Concord, Penn
November 5, 2011	October 7, 2011	Elk Mem, Goshen, Warsaw
December 3, 2011	November 8, 2011	Penn, SB St Joe, Warsaw
January 28, 2012	December 30, 2011	Concord, Warsaw
March 10, 2012	February 10, 2012	NorthWood, Penn
May 5, 2012	April 6, 2012	Elk Mem, Goshen, Warsaw
June 2, 2012	May 8, 2012	Concord, Warsaw

American College Test (ACT) - Cost \$49.50

*Register online by going to www.actstudent.org

<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</u>	<u>LOCAL LOCATIONS</u> *may change
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	IUSB
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	IUSB, Concord, Mishawaka
February 11, 2012	January 13, 2012	IUSB, Elkhart Central
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	IUSB
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	IUSB, Concord 11

BREMEN'S School Code Number 150290

**FEE WAIVERS are available to students who qualify for free or reduced lunches. See your counselor for details.

WAYS TO FINANCE A COLLEGE EDUCATION

We believe that any student that wants to pursue an education beyond high school can do so! There are many ways to finance and pay for post-secondary schooling. There are also many choices to make about what kind of debt or how much debt the student and/or the family would like to incur.

There are many ways to finance a college education, these include: FAFSA Application, the military, ROTC Scholarships, university scholarships, co-op university housing, work-study programs, bank loans (Stafford, Plus), athletic scholarships, service club scholarships, local scholarships (Bremen Dollars for Scholars, Woodies, etc.), church scholarships, insurance company scholarships, and parent employers scholarships. Grants or scholarships are gift aid, based on merit or need, and do not have to be paid back. Loans are monies that need to be repaid after graduation or when you leave school.

Each school has a Financial Aid Department. Many of them offer their own grants and scholarship programs. Contact the college you are applying to for a listing of their financial assistance programs and a financial aid application (if necessary). Some schools offer assistance based on merit, such as academic achievement, athletics, and leadership. All schools use the FAFSA to determine financial need. Be sure to apply for financial aid from your school by the deadline specified.

FAFSA

The Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the instrument most commonly used to determine financial need. Colleges, the State Student Assistance Commission, and the Federal Basis Opportunity Grant Program, use it. Filing the FAFSA form is required by these programs so the amount of aid needed can be determined. FAFSA forms are no longer available in paper form. You can access them online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. **The Guidance Office will also hold two Financial Aid Workshops on November 9, 2011 and January 9, 2012** to help parents and students fill out the FAFSA and to answer any financial aid questions. This form needs to be completed online by **MARCH 10**.

The Guidance Department strongly recommends that you fill out the (FAFSA) Free Application for Federal Student Aid regardless of income level. **Most two or four year colleges, vocational schools, or technical schools require that you fill out the form prior to receiving any financial aid.** College financial aid packages are dependent on the FAFSA.

With the FAFSA, you're taking the first step in the financial aid process. It will take 3- 4 weeks to process your form and send you a Student Aid Report (SAR) by mail. Your Student Aid Report will summarize the data that you reported on your application. Please check the information carefully to make sure that it is accurate. Make sure that you keep a copy of the Report and note the DRN (Data Release Number) in the upper right hand corner of the first page, which you will need if you decide to apply to additional schools. If the information is complete, an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be printed next to the DRN. The EFC is based on the income and expense information that you provide on the FAFSA, and your school will use this to award your financial aid package.

If you believe that you have special circumstances that should be taken into account, such as a significant change in income from one year to the next, you should contact the financial aid administrator at the school(s) to which you are applying. If the circumstances warrant it, the aid administrator has the authority to change your dependency status or to adjust the data used to calculate your EFC. Please note that the aid administrator's decision is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.

YOUR FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE

The school to which you are applying will prepare a financial aid package to help meet your financial need. Financial need is the difference between your cost of attendance at the school (including living expenses) and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Your aid package cannot exceed your financial need, but some forms of self-help assistance may be used to meet your EFC. The amount of your financial aid award will not depend entirely on your financial need, but on the cost of attending school, whether you're a full-time or part-time student, and whether you attend school for a full academic year or less. The school will notify you of your aid package by sending you an award letter.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

1. Both parents and students need to apply for a PIN early in the year at www.pin.ed.gov. This PIN serves as your electronic signature. Parents and students each need a different PIN.
2. Complete and submit an application for admission to the college of your choice during the first semester of your senior year. Remember, this is done online and through your high school counselor.
3. Complete and submit the college/university institutional financial aid application along with your application for admission (if needed).
4. Attend Bremen High School Financial Aid Nights. The first workshop will be a basic overview of the Financial Aid process, and the second workshop will be a hands-on workshop to help parents begin completing the FAFSA online. Both workshops will allow time to ask questions.
5. Complete the FAFSA by MARCH 10.

HOW TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Obtain a copy of the scholarship application or apply online. The Guidance Office announces scholarship opportunities via the "Counselor Corner" on a regular basis and sometimes has copies of scholarships and applications.
2. Follow all directions and prepare everything for mailing.
3. Be aware of the application deadline.
4. Most scholarships ask for an official transcript. You can get a copy of this in the Guidance Office.

***Please give your counselor time to fill out the information and write recommendations. Get applications in at least 1 week before mailing deadlines.**

HOW TO AVOID THE SCAMS

Need money for college? Unfortunately, to pay the bills, many students and their families are falling prey to scholarship scams. The FTC cautions students to look for tell tale lines, such as:

- "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back";
- "You can't get this information anywhere else";
- "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship";
- "We'll do all the work";
- "The scholarship will cost some money";
- "You've been selected by a national foundation to receive a scholarship"; or
- "You're a finalist in a contest you never entered."

Also be cautious of the \$89 – \$129 scholarship search that guarantees a scholarship or your money back. It may be a scholarship to a school that you don't want to attend. These searches are computer generated and a financial aid officer can do the same search at little or no cost.

REMEMBER: APPLYING FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID IS FREE!

CSS / FINANCIAL AID PROFILE

Many colleges and universities use the information collected on the PROFILE to help them award private, non-federal student aid funds. **Check with the college you are interested in, or a guidance counselor, to see if they require a PROFILE.** There is a charge for filing the PROFILE. The PROFILE is an exclusively online service. You can apply for the PROFILE at www.collegeboard.com Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch or textbook assistance can receive a fee waiver for the PROFILE.

COLLEGE DOLLARS 2011 -12

This document is a listing of scholarships that were offered *last* year at colleges in Indiana. Please know that there are no guarantees that the same ones or the same amounts will be offered this year. However, it is worth checking out to see what kind of money is out there and what criteria the colleges are asking for from the students. The document is posted on our website at www.bps.k12.in.us.

FINANCIAL AID TERMINOLOGY

FEDERAL PELL GRANTS

These are grants which do not have to be repaid. This is available to undergraduate students only and applications can be obtained at the college financial aid office. The size of the Pell Grants will be determined by the amount of money Congress appropriates for this program. Pell Grants can be used at most colleges, universities, and vocational schools throughout the country. To receive a Pell Grant, financial need must be shown from your FAFSA application.

STATE GRANTS

All students are eligible for Indiana Higher Education Grants. The state grants may only be used at schools in Indiana. If a student receives an Indiana Higher Education Grant of the maximum amount and he/she still has financial need, the student will automatically be considered for a Freedom of Choice Grant. Many times it is used to assist students who attend private Indiana colleges. Grants may also be available for students completing a Core 40 or Academic Honors Diploma. To apply for both grants, students must fill out the FAFAS by March 10. Separate applications are not necessary.

FEDERAL STAFFORD LOANS

- Subsidized
- Unsubsidized

These are student loans, which must be repaid. If your school participates in the Federal Direct Student Loan Program, your Stafford Loan will be made through the school. (For other schools, the Stafford Loan will be made through a private lender.) Stafford loans are available to graduate and undergraduate students.

If you qualify (based on need) for a subsidized Stafford loan, the government will pay the interest on your loan in school, during the 6-month "grace period," and during any deferment periods. You are responsible for paying all of the interest that accrues on an unsubsidized Stafford Loan.

FEDERAL PLUS LOANS

These are unsubsidized loans made to parents that must be repaid. PLUS Loans are made either through the school (Direct Loans) or through a private lender. (If you are independent or your parents cannot get a PLUS loan, you are eligible to borrow additional Stafford funds).

CAMPUS-BASED PROGRAMS

- Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG)
- Work-study
- Perkins Loans

The school awards Campus-based funds. SEOG is a grant available for undergraduates only; awards range from \$100-\$4,000. Federal Work Study provides jobs to undergraduates and graduate students who are then paid on an hourly rate, at minimum wage or above. Perkins Loans are low-interest (5%) loans that must be repaid.

TAX CREDITS

- Hope Tax Credit
- Lifetime Learning Tax Credit

These income tax credits reduce your or your family's federal taxes. They are based on your college tuition and fee charges, minus grants, scholarships, and other tax-free educational assistance. The Hope tax credit can be claimed during the first two years of college. The Lifetime Learning tax credit is available for any level of post-secondary study, up to a current maximum of \$1,000. If your parents claim you on their income tax return, they would be eligible to take the credit on their taxes.

If you are not claimed as a dependent on anyone else's tax return, you would be eligible to claim the credit. The credits are not available to single filers with adjusted gross incomes greater than \$50,000 or joint

The actual amount of your financial aid award will depend not only on your financial need, but on your cost of attending school, whether you're a full-time or part-time student, and whether you attend school for a full academic year or less.

To receive aid from these programs, you must be an eligible citizen or permanent resident of the United States with a valid Social Security Number have a high school diploma or a General Education Development certificate (or pass an approved "ability to benefit" test) must enroll in an eligible program as a regular student seeking a degree or certificate. (If you are a male, you must also have registered for Selective Service, if you are in the applicable age range for registration.)

For more information about federal student aid, explore the Department of Education's web site at: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/Students>

HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR FINANCIAL AID

Aid from the Student Financial Assistance Programs will be paid to you through the school. Your aid awards will almost always be paid to you by the semester, quarter, or other payment period. Typically, the school will first use the aid to pay any tuition and fee charges (and room and board, if provided by the school). The remainder will be paid to you for your other living expenses

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER SOURCES OF AID?

The financial aid office at the school you plan to attend is the best place to begin your search for free information. The financial aid administrator can tell you about student aid available from your state, from the school itself, and from other sources. You can also find free information about student aid in the reference section of your local library (usually listed under "student aid" or "financial aid"). These materials usually include information about federal, state, institutional, and private aid.

Information about student aid may also be available from foundations, religious organizations, community organizations, and civic groups, as well as organizations related to your field of interest, such as the American Medical Association or American Bar Association. Check with your parents' employers to see if they award scholarships or have a tuition payment plan.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP INFO

ITEMS YOU MAY NEED FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

ACADEMIC RESUME

You should compile an up-to-date list of all activities you have participated in during your high school career. Activities to include: volunteer work; school clubs and organizations; athletics; church groups; 4-H; scouting; honors and awards. Try to include everything no matter how trivial it may seem to you.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

You may need to write your autobiography. Many scholarships require an autobiography as part of the application. Be sure to save this information on your computer.

REFERENCES

You may need to have at least four or five people who are willing to write letters of recommendation for you. You need teachers and people outside of education who know you pretty well and are willing to write letters in your behalf. It is important that you contact these references at least two weeks before you need the recommendation.

ESSAY

Many scholarships ask for essays written on specific topics. When this is requested as handwritten, make your final draft on white unlined paper in blue or black ink. If they do not request a handwritten essay, you are encouraged to use a computer word processing program. SPELL CHECK, DOUBLE CHECK and then have your English teacher or someone with writing experience check your essay for suggestions. Be sure to plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time.

LOCAL BREMEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Bremen is notorious for providing generous amounts of money to each graduating class. The two most popular programs are Bremen Dollars for Scholars and Woodies. There are also many more local scholarships awarded through local service organizations and churches.

The Bremen Dollars for Scholars applications are generally available from the Guidance Office in February. This ONE application gives students the opportunity to apply for over 45 scholarships, many of which have been created in memory of a family or loved one. Some of them have specific criteria and others do not. When students pick up an application, they also receive a packet with a description of all the scholarships and criteria. It is important to note that these scholarships are NOT just for the top students: there are several for vocational students as well.

The Woodies Scholarship Program also awards generous amounts of money to current seniors as well as current college students. Applications will be available around December in the Guidance Office.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Many private organizations offer scholarships to students each year. When searching for scholarships, first consider organizations with whom you or your parents may already have a relationship. Examples of these would be employers, churches, labor unions, local foundations, the military, fraternities/sororities, and civic groups such as the American Legion, YMCA, 4H Club, Elks, Kiwanis, Lions, Jaycees, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and the Boy or Girl Scouts. You might also consider aid from organizations connected with your field of interest, like the American Medical Association. These organizations are listed in the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook and are listed in various directories of associations available at the public library.

CAREER INFORMATION

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Your future will be one of change. With the rapid advance of technology, our lives are changing every day. Television and a multi-cultural population introduce us to the entire world; machines of all kinds are doing many of the things we used to do manually. There are many new processes, cultures and ideas that we need to learn and understand in order to succeed in our lives. There is more flexibility in the workplace and therefore, more self-direction is necessary. Eventually continual training will be necessary so that employees can keep up with these changes. This means that employees will be continually learning. People will be working as teams; their work tasks will be integrated with others.

What are the employers looking for in you? Studies have shown the most common traits for valuable employees include:

- Good attendance
- Ability to work as a team
- Showing up on time
- Good communication skills
- A willingness to learn new things
- Good Math and English skills

Your high school transcript with **attendance** and **grades** are a determining factor in employee selection. What you do now can affect what you can do later!

CAREER CRUISING WEBSITE

Career Cruising is an Internet-based career and exploration and planning tool. It includes and Interest and Skills Assessment, Numerous Career Profiles, Multimedia Interviews, College and Financial Aid Information, and much more! Student can access this website from any computer at www.careercruising.com and login using the Username: bremen511 and the Password: indiana. There is also a flyer on the BPS website that outlines the features of this program more thoroughly.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Many vocational trades offer apprenticeships for students after they graduate. If you are interested in a particular trade, see one of the counselors for information about whether apprenticeships are available.

LOOKING FOR A JOB

Visit <http://www.snagajob.com/>. One stop access to part-time job listings nationwide. Apply online. Thousands of jobs available.

MILITARY INFORMATION

Branches of the Military – Army, Army National Guard, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard.

The United States Armed Forces offer financial help in the form of education benefit programs. The **Montgomery GI Bill Program** is a federally legislated program that entitles enlistees to funding for college or vocational schools.

The Army College Fund, The Navy College Fund, and the Marine Corps Fund are three programs that can be used in addition to the Montgomery GI Bill to provide eligible students with money toward tuition and college fees.

ROTC – The Reserve Officer Training scholarship covers most tuition and on-campus educational expenses and includes most textbooks, classroom supplies, and equipment. You will also receive a tax-free cash allowance per month during the school year. After graduation, you'll have a degree. You'll also have something else – recognition as a leader due to your commission as an officer in the armed services.

Service Academy Appointments are awarded to qualifying students who are interested in any of the four Armed Forces Academies. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Coast Guard Academy offer superior educational opportunities at full scholarship levels. The admission process is long and should be started as early as possible during the senior year.

Selective Service

All males who are 18 years old must register with the Selective Service. Men who register with the selective service remain eligible for important programs and benefits linked to registration, including student loans and grants for college, employment by the Federal Government, and many other state programs.

The easiest way to register is to connect with the Selective Services website (www.sss.gov). Registration forms are also available at your local post office.

Military recruiters visit Bremen High School often, usually once a month, to answer questions regarding their branch and the educational benefits they offer.

There is no commitment for simply asking questions! :☺

ASVAB (The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)

All students planning on entering the military when they leave high school are required to take the ASVAB. The ASVAB is a useful vocational aptitude test. As juniors, Bremen students are given a choice to take either the ASVAB or the PSAT. If any senior who has not taken the ASVAB would like to take it, please contact the Guidance Office so we can contact a recruiter.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

The Internet can be a very useful tool in answering questions about financial aid, scholarships, testing, and college searches. Many websites provide detailed explanations of everything from the process of applying to college to figuring out your financial aid. However, the Internet can also make things overwhelming, so pick your sites carefully and stick to a few that you feel the most comfortable with. Here are a few of the sites we have found most useful!

- www.triptocollege.org
Provides college planning timeline, figures and information about preparing and paying for college, a savings growth calculator, and information about Indiana Colleges
- www.ecampustours.com
Take a virtual tour of over 1200 college campuses! A great place to start the college search process
- www.doe.state.in.us
Indiana Department of Education website
- www.careercruising.com
A great site to research career options. Enter username: bremen511 and password: Indiana to access site
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
Apply for financial aid on this site by completing the FAFSA
- www.pin.ed.gov
Students and parents can each apply for a PIN (electronic signature) on this site.
- www.collegeboard.com
Information about SAT, SAT practice tests, SAT sign-up, links to college websites, & much more!
- www.act.org
Information about ACT, ACT practice tests, ACT sign-up and more
- www.learnmoreindiana.com
Indiana's own website to research colleges and careers
- www.fastweb.com
A great site for researching scholarships and getting financial aid information
- www.knowhow2go.org
Provides useful information by grade level to prepare for college, apply to college, what to ask on a campus visit, and much more!
- www.isfaa.org Indiana Student Financial Aid Association – a must see!
- www.studentaid.ed.gov FAFSA forms, PIN numbers, all you need when it comes time for the financial aid process
- www.docufide.com Electronic transcripts at the click of a button