

Junior Newsletter

November, 2011

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**Class of
2013**

PSAT & SAT

PSAT results will be mailed home in December. The Counseling Center will return test booklets and review PSAT scores in January.



SAT's/ACT's and when should you take them?

Check out www.collegeboard.com for an overview of the SAT's, scoring, and registering to take the test. Come in to the Counseling Center and pick up information on SAT prep courses or to borrow SAT Practice books. Selective schools require the SAT II (Subject Tests), taking the test at the end of the course is recommended; see your counselor for advice. Most students will just need to take the SAT Reasoning test. Information and registration for the ACT's may be found at www.act.org Plan on taking the SAT or ACT by the end of this school year. Our school code is 210411, use this to register for the test.

We have a two scholarship Websites to check out!

www.hcpss.org

You can also access scholarship information from our own
Oakland Mills High School webpage:

<http://www.howard.k12.md.us/OMHS/>

You are welcome to look for possible scholarships. Many scholarships pertain to seniors but there are some that are for juniors as well.



GPA Information

The GPA that is reported to colleges when you apply in the fall of 2012 will be based on final grades received at the end of 9th, 10th and 11th. That means you have already earned two-thirds of your final GPA. The next few months will have a profound impact on your GPA and rank.

The GPA & Rank distribution for your class right now is as follows:

4.0	=	1/272	3.25	=	77/272
3.93	=	8/272	3.0	=	102/272
3.86	=	15/272	2.75	=	137/272
3.80	=	20/272	2.50	=	168/272
3.50	=	43/272	2.0	=	210/272

Here are a few scenarios:

<u>Current Cumulative GPA</u> (See your 4 th quarter report card)	<u>Final GPA Goal</u>	<u>Jr. Year GPA Needed</u>
3.0	3.3	4.0
2.5	3.0	4.0
2.0	2.5	3.5

Volunteer Opportunities – There are many opportunities for volunteering in your community, whether at church, neighborhood activities, parks and rec. events, through scouts or search and rescue groups. Colleges love to see those kinds of activities.



PEER MEDIATION: Stop problems before they get out of hand. Come by the Counseling Center and work with peer mediators to resolve conflicts. We have many trained students and they want to help you avoid office referrals.

FAFSA or Free Application for Federal Student Aid

This form is located at: www.fafsa.ed.gov

It must be completed by March 1st of your senior year.

Find our more information at a Financial Aid Night.

Financial Aid Nights are offered at 7pm on December 1st at Reservoir High School and on December 7th at Hammond High School.



Phone: 410/313-6950

Fax: 410/313-6951

We're on the Web!
See us at:
OaklandMillsHigh.com

Junior Interviews: The **World of Work** graduation requirement includes the completion of a resume (due to your English teacher by December 2nd) and an interview. Simulated interviews are scheduled for all 11th graders on December 6th and 7th. **Please remember to DRESS appropriately and bring a copy of your resume to the interview.**

Junior Interview Criteria

The following are the areas in which you will be evaluated:

- Appropriate business dress
- Typed resume
- Maintained eye contact with the interviewer
- Spoke clearly and used a pleasant voice
- Answered questions completely, honestly and seriously
- Asked relevant questions about the college, company or military service
- Showed appreciation to the interviewer for her/his time and interest
- Maintained a positive attitude about the interview



Keys to a Successful Interview

By Dr. Martha Gagnon (permission granted for portions to be reprinted)

Purpose

The Job Interview: To show how your qualifications may set you apart from others and so your employer can see if you are a good match for the job.

The College Interview: To find out more about the college and gives you a chance to “sell” yourself to the college.

Preparing for the Interview

Job Interview – Research the company and the job, what does the Employer want and need. Arrive on time, shake hands confidently and give good eye contact. Dress according to the job, well groomed. No cologne, perfume, gum, or noisy jewelry. Answer honestly and completely without just “yes” and “no” responses. **DO NOT** lie or swear and be friendly. **DO NOT** sit down until you are invited to do so.

College Interview – Call and request an appt. 3 to 4 weeks before you plan to visit. Plan to visit when students will be on campus. It’s helpful to bring an unofficial copy of your transcript. Do some research about the school beforehand. Follow the same do’s and don’ts for the Job Interview.

Possible Interview Questions/Topics

Job Interview: What qualifications do you have for this job? What has been your experience? What would your previous employers say about you if they were sitting here? How do you work with others? What are your strengths and weaknesses? Do you like to be a leader or follower? Are you a hard worker?

College Interview: Why do you want to attend this college/university? What has been your academic record? What are your SAT or ACT scores? Do your grades accurately reflect your ability? What do you plan to study? How did you choose your major? What is a weakness you have overcome? What books have you read lately? What do you do during the summer?



Questions You Could Ask

Job Interview: What specific duties does this job require? Does the job involve working overtime? Travel? Are there any health benefits?

College Interview: What distinguishes your college or university from others? Why do students choose your college? Do most students stay on campus on the weekends? What are the security issues on campus? What are the most popular extracurricular activities? Are there opportunities for internships/semester abroad?

After the Interview: Be sure to thank the interviewer. Ask the interviewer if they need any follow-up information and when you will be notified. Send a short thank-you note as a follow up after the interview.

Advanced Placement Exams – Advanced Placement courses prepare students for these exams which are being offered during the spring. Students who score well may attain advanced standing or be awarded credit by certain colleges and universities. Advanced Placement courses are extremely challenging but should be taken when possible. There is financial aid for Advanced Placement tests if needed.

COLLEGE PREPARATION TIPS

- * **Choose** a strong academic schedule for the senior year.
 - * **Register** for the SAT and/or ACT during the spring of 2012. Registration packets are in the Counseling Center or register online. Oakland Mills High offers the SAT's in October, November and June.
 - * **Note** that the School Code (also called the CEEB, ATP, ETS code) is 210411.
 - * **Begin** the search for colleges/universities using directories, catalogues, college reference books in the College and Career Center. Parent volunteers are available to assist students with a computer search every school day from 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
 - * **Write** a brief letter or look at college/university web sites to request applications and information about programs, housing, activities and financial aid.
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