

Saura Scoop

October 5, 2012

South Stokes

Counseling Department

Are You College Ready? Upcoming Assessments

PSAT – There are just a few more days to sign up for the PSAT. The PSAT is a practice test for the SAT and is only given once each school year. The test will be administered at school on Wednesday, October 17, during 1st and 2nd periods. Students who wish to take the test should bring \$14 and register in the Counseling Office with Mrs. Wright. There are fee waivers available for juniors who qualify. Results will come back in December and are an excellent resource when determining what to study to prepare for future college entrance exams. If you have questions, please see your counselor.

PLAN – All sophomores will be taking the PLAN on October 25, during the school day. The PLAN is a college readiness exam developed by ACT to help determine the skills and knowledge required to succeed in college, areas where extra help or additional courses are needed, and career areas that match the student's interests. Subtests will include English, math, reading, and science. If you would like more information about the test, please contact your child's counselor or see <http://www.stokes.k12.nc.us/pdf/PLAN-WhyTake.pdf>. You may also view a short video about PLAN at <http://www.act.org/plan/downloads.html#.UG2qOpjA-Ap> and click on PLAN PROGRAM OVERVIEW under VIDEO on the left.

ACT – The ACT is a college entrance test that will be administered to all juniors in March. The ACT is accepted at all colleges and universities throughout the United States and beyond as a measure of college readiness. Scores on this test will be reportable to colleges students apply to during their senior year* so students are strongly encouraged to start preparing now and to take the test very seriously. Working hard in rigorous academic courses in high school is the best way to prepare for this achievement test. For more information about the test, sample questions, or test-taking skills see your counselor or the websites below.

<http://www.act.org/>

<http://sshscounselors.weebly.com/index.html>

<http://www.petersons.com/college-search/act-scores-tips-strategies.aspx>

Johnna Cheek

Counselor

9th & 11th Grade

E-mail: johnna.cheek@stokes.k12.nc.us

Christina Sawyer

Counselor

10th & 12th Grade

christina.sawyer@stokes.k12.nc.us

Lynn Wright

Secretary

E-mail: lynn.wright@stokes.k12.nc.us

South Stokes High School
1100 South Stokes High Drive
Walnut Cove, NC 27052

Website: south.stokes.k12.nc.us
click on Counseling Center

Phone: 336-994-8495 or 994-2995
Fax: 336-994-2608



The College Fair held at South Stokes on Wednesday, October 3, was a huge success! Representatives from more than 60 colleges were on hand to provide information and answer questions.

College Entrance Exams: Which one is for me?

The differences between the ACT, SAT, and the Community College Placement Tests (Accuplacer, Compass, etc) can be very confusing. Because there's not ONE test that's right for everyone, the counselors at South Stokes meet with students individually and make recommendations regarding which test(s) are right for each child. As a general rule, students do not need to take a college entrance exam/placement test until their junior year at the earliest. Students planning to attend a four-year college after graduating from high school will likely need to take the ACT and/or the SAT beginning in the spring of their junior year. Those planning to go to the community college may only need to take a placement test. Mrs. Cheek is meeting with juniors now to help make plans for after high school. If you are not sure which test is right for you, she'll help you decide what's best for you. Regardless of which is best for you, preparation is the key to making your best score. Check out the Counseling Department website at <http://sshscounselors.weebly.com/> for ideas about how to best prepare for these tests.

Enrichment Opportunities

NC-MSEN at WSSU

Enroll NOW in this pre-college program designed to promote excellence in mathematics and science education. Middle and high school students interested in pursuing careers in science, mathematics, technology, engineering, and teaching will attend periodically throughout the school year. The cost is \$75. For more information go to www.wssu.edu/ncmsen or call 750-2995. Registration deadline is October 6.

UNC Chapel Hill Catalyst Conference

Eighty high school students from across the state will be selected to attend a weekend-long exploration of social justice issues affecting both America and the larger world. The workshop strives to transform high school students into catalysts for positive social change and generate a vision of social harmony for the 21st century and beyond. The conference will take place on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill February 22-24, 2013. A \$40 registration fee is required once a student is accepted. Applications are available from Mrs. Cheek and the deadline is Friday, November 9.

The Rule of Law Your Rights, Your Life: How the Law Affects You

The Rule of Law is an interactive program involving high school students, lawyers, and community leaders who will explore how the Rule of Law affects and enriches lives. The keynote speaker will be NC Supreme Court Justice Mark Martin. The event will be held November 8, 2012 from 6-8 pm at the Wake Forest University School of Law and dinner will be provided. To attend, RSVP to mdongre@gmail.com by October 30.

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”

~Benjamin Franklin

\$\$\$ MONEY FOR COLLEGE \$\$\$

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 5 – Homecoming (Dance 10pm-12am)
 October 11 – Early Dismissal
 October 12 – Teacher Workday
 October 17 – PSAT
 October 18 – Report Cards
 October 22 – Bloodmobile
 October 23 – Early Dismissal
 October 25 – PLAN Administration
 (All 10th graders)
 November 1 – Progress Reports
 November 4 – Daylight Saving Time Ends
 November 6 – Teacher Workday
 November 12 – HOLIDAY
 November 21 – Early Dismissal
 November 22-23 - HOLIDAYS

Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program

The Walnut Cove Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is sponsoring its annual Voice of Democracy scholarship program. The competition is open to all high school students at South Stokes and the local winner will receive \$100 cash and move on to the district, state, and national competitions for more prize money. Students compete by writing and recording a speech on this year's theme: ***Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?*** Students interested in competing should obtain an entry form from Mrs. Cheek. Deadline is November 1.

Profile in Courage Essay Contest

All high school students under the age of 20 whose families are not employees of John Hancock Financial are eligible to apply for this essay contest. Applicants should construct an original, creative essay of 1,000 words or less that demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by John F. Kennedy in *Profiles of Courage*. Specific entry requirements can be found at www.jfklibrary.org or you may pick up a copy from your counselor. Essays must be submitted by January 5, 2013.

Create-A-Greeting-Card Scholarship Contest

Students may win \$10,000 towards their education in this 6th Annual contest. Students must submit a unique photo, piece of artwork, or computer graphic for the front of a greeting card. The student with the best design will win \$10,000. For more information, go to www.gallerycollection.com/greeting-cards-scholarship.htm. Submissions are due by January 16, 2013.

