

***ACP***

Since the start of the 2016-2017 school year, every school in the state of Wisconsin has to have an ACP (Academic and Career Plan) for each student in grades 6 - 12. Our district was a pilot for DPI to create an ACP and has begun this process. The Sophomore Planning Conference is a part of the ACP along with the Goal Setting Day, Junior Action Plan and other activities related to career and academic planning.

***XELLO***

Xello is a highly beneficial program that helps students prepare and explore options for how to be successful in school, career and life. This program replaces Career Cruising.

What does Xello offer:

* Build Self-Awareness by allowing students to complete assessments and inventories using their interests, skills, preferences and dreams to explore opportunities that match
* Explore Options by searching possible careers and educational paths that are available both in your local area and all over the nation
* Create a Plan using results from self-assessments, inventories and your own research on options to develop the steps needed to achieve career, school and life goals
* Make it happen by taking action!

Your Sophomore Planning Conference is one step in reaching your goals. When we meet, we discuss your results from Xello self-assessments, explore your personal and academic dreams and goals, along with how we can help you reach them. The next step, which is completed at your Sophomore Planning Conference as well, is creating your Junior Action Plan.

***JUNIOR ACTION PLAN***

Your Junior Action Plan is a plan we develop together to help you set goals for your Junior year. These goals are stepping stones that will help you plan for life after BHS and how you can continuously be working towards reaching your dreams. You will get a copy of this plan, one will be stored in Student Services, and at the beginning of your junior year, **your homeroom teacher** will also get a copy to help you refer to it throughout the year. As a team we will work together to achieve and succeed!

***A Must See - Video About the Future - Please watch***

<https://vimeo.com/67277269>

***Job Shadows & Class or Program Shadows***

Students are welcome to set up a job shadow in a career of interest or attend a class or program shadow at a local technical college or university .

A **job shadow** will give your child the chance to actually spend time with someone in the workforce. The student will spend time observing and learning more about their occupation of interest. This experience will allow your child to find out the pros and cons of the occupation, while they get a visual image of what the job would be like.

**Job Shadows may include:**

* Visiting a business
* Getting a tour of the company
* Getting questions answered regarding a career of interest
* Observing an expert in the field first-hand
* Getting hands-on experience
* Talking with experts in the field

A **class or program shadow** is a great way for your child to experience a technical college campus or university. Once they are on campus, they will not only get a tour of the facility, but they will also have the opportunity to talk with the teachers and students in their selected programs.

For both of these experiences, your child can be excused from school. Your child needs to fill out a shadow form and get signatures for a pre-arranged absence. These forms are available in the Student Services Office.



**Class or Program Shadows may include:**

* Visiting a post-secondary school
* Getting a tour of the campus
* Getting questions answered about admissions, campus life, etc.
* Observing a class in a program of interest
* Getting hands-on experience with classroom activities
* Talking with teachers of the program
* Talking with current students in the class or program

***TESTS, TESTS, AND MORE TESTS!***

Many changes have occurred regarding testing. Below is a list of tests that Sophomores/Juniors are required or recommended to take depending on their goals and dreams.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TEST | REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED | WHEN | PURPOSE | RESOURCES |
| **ACT Aspire** | **Required**  | **Spring of Sophomore year** | * Assess student progress in the following subjects: English, mathematics, reading, science and writing
* Prepares for college and career readiness from grade 3 through early high school
 | <http://www.discoveractaspire.org/>  |
| **WI Forward** | **Required** | **Spring of Sophomore year** | * Looks at how well students are progressing academically in correspondence with Wisconsin State Standards
* Administered in English and Mathematics grades 3-8; Science grades 4 and 8; **Social Studies grades 4, 8 and 10**
 | <http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward> |
| PSAT | Recommended for students planning to attend a 4-year college | October of Junior year | * Rehearsal for students who plan to take the SAT
* Used to select students seeking National Merit Scholarships (awarded spring of Senior year)
* Great test-taking experience!
 | <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10> |
| **ACT**  | **Required** | **March 3, 2020** | * **National college admission exam consisting of tests in: English, Mathematics, Reading and Science**
* **Results are accepted at all U.S. colleges and universities to assist in admission process**
* ***Please note, ACT scores are only one piece of what colleges and universities look at when determining acceptance (other areas looked at include, rigorous course work, involvement, character)***
 | <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html> |
| SAT | Some larger universities on the East and West Coast require this entrance exam | Spring of Junior year | * Measures what you learn in high school and what you will need to succeed in college
* Reading, Writing and Language, Mathematics & optional essay
 | <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat> |
| SAT Subject Tests | Specific universities may require students to take 2-3 achievement tests | Spring of Junior year or fall of Senior year | * Used in combination with other background information, scores from other tests, etc. to predict future performance
* 20 Tests in five general subject areas: English, History, languages, mathematics and science
 | <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests> |
| COMPASS Accuplacer | Required for some Technical Colleges & Apprenticeships | Tech College will let you know if you need to test after application. | * Scores are used to determine where a prospective student’s academic strengths and needs lie in relation to the college-level coursework required for a specific program
 | <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/students> |
| ASVAB | Required for military, and recommended for career exploration | Junior or Senior year | * Includes Career Exploration Scores and Military Careers Score to predict success in wide variety of military and civilian occupations
* Military Entrance Score determine whether students meet entrance requirements of military service
 | <http://official-asvab.com/> |

***TEST TAKING TIPS***

When you take a test, you are demonstrating your ability to understand course material or perform certain tasks. The best way to do well on a test is to prepare for it:

* We will offer ACT Prep Classes in February—be watching for those sign ups.
* Stop by or contact Student Services for multiple test prep opportunities including:
	+ Sample questions
	+ Prep class sign-ups
	+ Online practice resources
* Method Test Prep
	+ Mini-classes, tutoring, sample questions and more to help prepare students for the ACT

***Course Considerations for the Technical College Student***

Students who graduate from high school can be admitted to a technical college in the state of Wisconsin. There are some programs that **require** certain courses to be accepted into specific programs. It truly is an advantage to the student if he/she can complete those courses successfully (C or higher, both semesters) so they may be admitted to the technical college program immediately, or when openings arise. Students who do not meet the requirements will need to take them at the technical college before being admitted to the program. This is more costly and time-consuming. Most of the programs that **require** certain courses before admittance are in the medical fields. Radiography is a good example. A high school student who would like to enter that program at Chippewa Valley Technical College would need to earn “C’s” or better in algebra, biology and physics. Check out the requirements on their website.

***Course Consideration for the College-Bound Student***

Students are required to take a minimum of 17 college-preparatory credits to be considered for admission. Please note that this exceeds the Barron High School graduation requirements. **Most colleges want students to have a rigorous course schedule.** This means that college bound students should be taking **four years of math and science**.

**Math** – Students need to take Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II at a minimum. The ACT has a lot of Geometry in the test so one may consider waiting until they have almost completed Geometry. Universities strongly encourage to be in a math course their senior year. Universities of Minnesota are now requiring 4 credits of Math.

**Science** – Students must take IPS (Introduction to Physical Science), Biology and another natural science course for their third science credit. If students are not planning on attending a four-year university, they may substitute an agricultural science for the third credit. Many universities want students to be in a natural science during their senior year and use this for an admission criteria.

**Social Studies** – Students must take Geography, American History, World History, APB (American Political Behavior), and Economics.

**English**  - All students must take four years of English.

**Foreign Language** – Not required, but some schools require at least two years of foreign language. Some universities don’t require it for admission, but do require students to take it at their university.

***AP or Advanced Placement Courses***

Through college-level AP courses, you enter a universe of knowledge that might otherwise remain unexplored in high school; through AP Exams, you have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation’s colleges and universities. Having AP courses on your transcript will help your efforts with admission to colleges and for

scholarships.

Students attending colleges in Wisconsin can see how much credit and what type of

college credit can be received when successfully scoring a three, four or five on the

advanced placement exam. Students and parents interested in finding out exactly how many and what type of college credit would be awarded in the UW-System can go to http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu or you may access it from the student services web page.

**Gain the Edge in College Preparation**

* Get a head start on exactly the sort of work you will confront in college.
* Improve your writing skills and sharpen your problem-solving techniques
* Develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous coursework.

**Stand out in the College Admissions Process**

* Demonstrate your maturity and readiness for college.
* Show your willingness to push yourself to the limit.
* Emphasize your commitment to academic excellence.

**Broaden Your Intellectual Horizons**

* Explore the world from a variety of perspectives, most importantly your own.
* Study subjects in greater depth and detail
* Assume the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing, and understanding for yourself.

