



# BHS Guidance Department

511 W. Grant St. ♦ Bremen, IN 46506 ♦ 574-546-3511 ♦ 574-546-5477 ♦ www.bps.k12.in.us



**Mrs. Melissa Manges**  
*Guidance Counselor*  
*Grades 10-12*

**Mrs. Meghan Atkins**  
*Guidance Department*  
*Administrative Assistant*

August 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian of Seniors:

Can you believe it? This is the final year of your child's education in high school? Now more than ever, it is important that you have a conversation with your student about goals for the future, or continue earlier conversations that you might have already begun. **I will be meeting with seniors during September and October to discuss future plans and how to look for opportunities to finance those plans.** This letter is to inform you what I plan to share with your student this fall.

First and foremost, it is vital that each senior planning on attending any college take the ACT or the SAT if they have not already done so. The next ACT date to register for is October 22, 2016 and the registration deadline is September 16<sup>th</sup>. The next SAT date is October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, and the registration deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>. You can register online for both of these tests at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org).

Secondly, make it a habit to check our website regularly. At the BPS website, click on "Schools" and then choose the high school. On the left hand side of the page you should see "Guidance Department." This will take you directly to our weebly website; I have already posted some information there, and will continue to post more as the year progresses. In addition, make sure you check the "Counselor Corner" that will be emailed to you weekly to see what scholarships are available, their deadlines, as well as what schools plan on visiting Bremen this fall. Encourage your student to stop and talk to these college representatives.

I want to also emphasize the importance of meeting deadlines. Over the years, I have traditionally had students come in a week or two before graduation, looking to apply to colleges and/or look for scholarships. At this point, the stress level of both student and parent escalates quickly, and there are not many choices left. Many colleges are full and scholarship money has been awarded. The best way to avoid stress is to apply early. I typically say to have all college applications done by Thanksgiving, but some schools like IU and Purdue have a November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline (for awarding automatic scholarships). Make a calendar just for college plans, writing down application deadlines, scholarship deadlines, awards banquets, FAFSA deadlines, etc.

In addition to posting information on the website, I will be sending frequent emails home through Harmony. **If you have not been receiving emails (b-bursts) from the school, please contact us so that we can make sure we have accurate information in our database.** If you don't have access to Harmony and want information sent home regular mail, please notify us as well.

---

***Our mission is to work collaboratively to provide a safe, nurturing environment where students are empowered academically and socially to succeed in life.***

Lastly, I want draw your attention to some important dates for this year. First, mark your calendars for our two **Financial Aid nights on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lion Den, and Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in Computer Lab 327.** Also, make sure that you file your FAFSA between October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and March 10, 2016. \*This is NEW this fall \* **March 10 is a hard and fast deadline!** Finally, **Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, will be the Senior Recognition Banquet, held in Bowen Auditorium at 7:00 pm.** This is the night all the seniors will be awarded local scholarship money.

I hope this letter gives you a start to the information you are going to need this year as you, along with your student, begin planning for your student's future. As always, feel free to contact the Guidance Office at 574-546-3511 or email me at [mmanges@bps.k12.in.us](mailto:mmanges@bps.k12.in.us). Good luck! ☺

Happy Planning,

Melissa Manges  
BHS School Counselor – Grade 12  
Guidance Department Chair