

COUNSELORS' REPORT NCHS COUNSELING OFFICE

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End of Semester Reminders:

1. Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to exempt out of 2 semester exams if they meet certain criteria:
 - a. Student must be earning at least an 80% in that class.
 - b. Student must not have an F in any class.
 - c. Student must have a 2.0 GPA overall for that semester.
 - d. Student must not have any unexcused absences for that period.
 - e. Student cannot have missed more than 15 total class periods for the exam they wish to exempt.
 - f. Student may not have any suspensions for the semester.
 - g. Student has 2 or fewer tardies to the class he/she wants to exempt.
 - h. Exemptions may not be used for dual credit classes.
 - i. A parent or school administrator can revoke this privilege at any time.
2. Freshmen and sophomores are required to take exams in all classes.
3. Students are to attend each exam period at the scheduled time.
4. Students who have 7th period PE or study hall (last exam period on 3rd day) may leave school after their 6th period exam. These students will be given a permission form for parents/guardians to complete before the last day of exams.
5. Students who have 6th and 7th period study hall and PE may leave school after their 5th period exam. These students will be given a permission form for parents/guardians to complete before the last day of exams.
6. Juniors/seniors who have elected to exempt their 1st period exam will need to attend school from 2nd period until the end of the day.
7. Juniors/seniors who exempt two exams back to back on the same day, can arrive just prior to their exam or leave after their exam.
8. Juniors/seniors who have a combination of an exemption and a study hall or PE back to back will be allowed to leave early or come late.
9. Juniors/seniors who exempt 3rd and/or 6th period exams and have an exam 2nd period and 4th period or 5th period and 7th period will not be allowed to come and go. They will remain on campus for the 3rd and/or 6th period exam time(s) to study in the Media Center.
10. Exams must be given during the scheduled time. Any deviation from this must be cleared by administration in advance.

11. The semester exam is worth 15% of the semester grade.
12. Students are not allowed to leave the building during breaks.
13. Students will be given second semester schedules before they leave for winter break.
14. Students who fail required classes for the first semester should contact the Counseling Office about repeating the course!
15. Semester Exam Schedule:
 - a. Tuesday, December 19 1st period class, 1st period exam, Periods 2-7
 - b. Wednesday, December 20 Periods 2, 3, 4 exams
 - c. Thursday, December 21 Periods 5, 6, 7 exams
16. Study sessions will be held Monday, December 18 and Tuesday, December 19 from 3:30-6:30 in the Media Center.
17. The second semester begins on Thursday, January 4.

Kaskaskia College Foundation Scholarships: ALL students planning to attend KC should apply for their Foundation Scholarships. Students can find the application at: <https://kaskaskia.smapply.io/> Attached below are some handouts that may be helpful as you go through the process. The priority deadline is February 1, 2024.

Scholarships: As we receive information on scholarships, they will be posted on the Counseling Office webpage at: <https://sites.google.com/nashville-k12.org/scholarships>

FAFSA Completion Night: One of the first steps of the college financial aid process is completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. The FAFSA enables students who qualify to receive federal/state grants, scholarships, as well as to participate in work-studies programs. NCHS will offer a free workshop to assist students and/or their parents in completing the FAFSA form. Those attending should bring the following information (if available): student's driver's license, student's social security card, 2022 federal tax records for both the student and parents, records of untaxed income, and information regarding net worth of family and student assets. The workshop will be at NCHS on **Monday, January 8 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**. State law in Illinois requires all graduating seniors to submit the FAFSA or complete a FAFSA Nonparticipation Form.

Golden Apple Scholars: The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program is a teacher preparation and tuition assistance program for high school who have the determination and drive to be highly effective teachers in Illinois schools-of-need. Scholars Receive: tuition assistance, up to \$23,000, paid Scholar Institutes that include courses and extensive classroom/work experience, academic and social-emotional support, job placement assistance, and mentoring from an award-winning teaching faculty. Interested seniors who plan on majoring in education should see Mrs. Maschhoff or Mrs. Luessenheide.

Second Semester Schedule Changes: *If a student would like to make a request for a second semester schedule change, the request should be turned into the counseling office by Friday, December 8. Students are encouraged to talk to their counselor about any schedule change requests to ensure graduation requirements are being met. Always remember, there is no guarantee changes will be made for every request.*

To make a request for a schedule change a student must obtain a green Request to Change form from the counseling office. To complete the form, be sure to include the following information:

- 1. Reason for the request*
- 2. If requesting to leave a full year class, student must get teacher initials.*
- 3. Parent Signature*
- 4. Student Signature*

ACT Testing Dates: *The next ACT test date open for registration is February 10. Registration is due by January 5. Additional ACT testing dates for the year are April 13, June 8, and July 13. Registration is typically due 5 weeks before the testing date. Students may register at www.ACTStudent.org. Our high school code is 143-110.*

SAT Testing Dates: *The next SAT test date open for registration is March 9. Registration is due by February 23. Additional SAT testing dates for the year are May 4 and June 1. Starting with the March date, the SAT will be given digitally. Registration is typically due 5 weeks before the testing date. Students may register at www.collegeboard.org. Our high school code is 143-110.*