

# *North Judson-San Pierre High School Counselor Connection: Winter*

**Mrs. Susie Matzat, Grades 9-10 School Counselor**

**Miss Colleen McCarthy, Grades 11-12 School Counselor**

**School Website:** Please visit [www.njsp.k12.in.us](http://www.njsp.k12.in.us) to obtain school information. This site is updated regularly and contains information about athletic events, school activities, contacts, and much more.

## **Vocational Classes Offered to 2015-2016**

**Juniors and Seniors:** The school counselors will present vocational course offerings to our current sophomores and juniors. The following classes are available to take next school year: Automotive Service Technology, Construction Technology (Building Trades), Early Childhood Education, Computer Network Technology (Microsoft Certified Information Technology), Cosmetology, Health Careers (CNA Preparation), Graphic Imaging Technology, Radio and Television, Criminal Justice, Welding Technology, and Precision Machining. Students drive off campus for all courses except for the Computer Network Technology course. Depending on the course location, students drive to Knox, Culver, or Plymouth. During the third nine weeks, students will have the opportunity to attend field trips to the sites to learn more about the programs. Completed applications for these programs are due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**PSAT Results:** Sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT in mid-October will soon receive those results. When scores are returned, each student will have an access code, which will link the results and additional information when entered at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). This website offers students four types of information: 1) an online score report to review each question, 2) a customized SAT study plan, 3) a starter list of college matches, and 4) a list of majors and careers based on the selected major. The students will also receive their test booklet back.

**Financial Aid Night:** Seniors and their parents should plan to attend in early February. A representative will be here to explain the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) process and answer any questions you may have. Don't miss out on the free workshop!

**Financial Aid Information:** Ms. McCarthy will soon be informing seniors about the financial aid process. There are many types of financial aid available from the federal government and the state of Indiana. The ONLY way a family can determine if they are eligible for any aid is by completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). It is critical that families do not miss the March 10<sup>th</sup> deadline for submission of FAFSA information. Filing late could mean missing out on state financial aid! Prior to starting the FAFSA, parents and the student need to go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) and request a Personal Identification Number, which is used to sign the FAFSA upon completion.

**Scholarships:** Seniors need to be aware of scholarship deadlines during second semester. Ms. McCarthy will continue to share this information during class talks. Financial assistance may also come directly from the college or technical program that your child plans to attend. Please be sure to ask about these opportunities.

**ASVAB Results:** When ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) results are returned, Ms. McCarthy will give the students these scores and a workbook to learn more about the careers that match their interests and skills.

**CVD (College Visitation Days) Available to Juniors and Seniors:** Spending time somewhere is a great way to see what it's like to live, work, and/or study there. Juniors and seniors can meet with admission officers, take tours, or complete the necessary placement testing. These CVD days may also be used for a job interview. Students must see Ms. McCarthy for a pre-arranged absence sheet at least one week in advance.

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**PowerSchool:** The PowerSchool website, <https://njsp.powerschool.com/public>, can easily be accessed through the school website. PowerSchool allows parents and students access to grades and attendance. You can even email teachers from this site. If you have a Smartphone, you can download the app for PowerSchool and check grades and attendance anywhere or anytime! If you do not have PowerSchool login information, please contact the guidance department.

**Audits:** An audit is the retaking of a course for which credit was already granted. An audit allows a student to improve a grade, to improve skills, or to allow movement to a more advanced class. Students may NOT receive credit twice for the same class. No credit is earned for an audited class.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Update:** Requirements for students in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program have changed. All underclassmen must now achieve a C+ (6.0) high school cumulative average. Freshmen and sophomores are now required to participate in the Scholar Success Program and self-report activities on the Scholar Track Portal. Seniors must review the presentation available in December and must affirm by March 10; seniors must complete the FAFSA as well. These are just a few of the changes so please be sure to read all correspondence from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars!

**The Bluejay Way:** The high school continues to recognize students who excel in the areas of achievement, respect, and responsibility. Students receive a written statement, a drink coupon, and are recognized in the Bluejay Way area.

**Scheduling Begins Soon:** School counselors will soon begin meeting with students to discuss schedules for next school year. Many changes are taking place, and students need to be sure to choose classes carefully. Take schedule choices seriously to ensure the best possible outcome.

## **SAT Registration Deadlines:**

There are several options of testing sites in our area. Be sure you are aware of time zone differences. The cost and registration information is available at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, you may qualify for a fee waiver. Please see Ms. McCarthy to discuss this fee waiver process.

**Bully Reporting:** Students are encouraged to let staff know about safety or bullying incidents at school. We also encourage students NOT to be bystanders but to assist victims by safely separating the bully and victim or reporting this to an adult. Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves an imbalance of power. An anonymous report can be made online.

**School Messenger:** If you are not receiving notification of a school delay or cancellation via phone call or text, contact Dianna Howard. She can get you enrolled in the school messenger system.

**Success Periods:** Students are placed in Success Periods to assist them in passing an end-of course assessment in English or Algebra or as juniors to review for the Accuplacer. It is important for students to participate and work to their best ability during these Success Periods. Failure to do so could jeopardize a student's ability to have a waiver granted. Questions? Please ask!

**Career and College Success Periods:** This is for students who are on target to pass their graduation exams or for those who have already done so. During these success periods, students are exposed for various college options, financial aid, and other important information. These students are also allowed some time to study as a reward for being on target.