

## **PRHS Friday Newsletter: March 5, 2010**

### **Counseling Department Information**

- Counseling Appointments: Please call Ms. Dunnings at 678.957.3117 if you would like to schedule an appointment with a counselor.
  
- **Attention Juniors!**
  - Make an appointment with your counselor ASAP. Stop in to the Counseling Office before school, after school, or at lunch to do so. Counselors will be meeting with all Juniors this semester. This mandatory meeting will discuss progress toward graduation (graduation requirements) and beginning the post-secondary planning process.
  
- **Attention Seniors!**
  - **Scholarships!**
    - Scholarship listings (containing scholarships we have been made aware of) are updated weekly. These listings are distributed through Senior PRIDE classes and are also available in the Counseling Office. If the listing denotes that the scholarship requires a paper application, these are available in the Counseling Office DEN. *\*This list is now also posted on the PRHS Counseling website.*
    - In addition to these scholarships, there are a multitude of other scholarships available to our students. Students are encouraged to log on to [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) and [salliemae.org/scholarships](http://salliemae.org/scholarships) to create their own scholarship profiles. These databases will give students access to thousands of scholarships offered nationwide.
    - Students are also encouraged to contact their college/universities of choice to apply for scholarships that they may be eligible for.
  
  - **Transcript Request Process**
    - Two Options:
      1. Request a hard copy of transcript from Counseling Office.
        - Must have waiver form on file first (signed by parent)
        - \$2 per copy
        - 48 hour processing time
        - Student is responsible for mailing transcript to college
        - If you request a letter of recommendation from your counselor you must have a completed questionnaire form. Letters of Recommendation will be ready within two weeks of the request, so plan ahead!!!
      2. Request transcript be sent electronically from [www.gacollege411.com](http://www.gacollege411.com)
        - Must have a GA College 411 account

- **Log in and select “My Transcripts”**  
**\*\*\*Only applies to Georgia Public Colleges/Universities\*\*\***

- **Parents! Need to know when your student should be completing important college planning activities?**
  - During the Spring semester, counselors meet with all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to review progress toward graduation and begin the post-secondary planning process. At this meeting the student is given a handout providing a timeline and valuable website resources. If you have an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, please encourage them to make an appointment with their counselor in January!
  - During the Fall semester, each 12<sup>th</sup> grade student meets individually with their counselor for the same purposes. A Senior handout/timeline is given.
  - Both of these handouts are available on the PRHS website ([www.peachtreeridge.org](http://www.peachtreeridge.org) ---Counseling Department—Grade Level Information ---Juniors ---Seniors)

- **Upcoming Visits from College/Military Representatives:**

- Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>: **Shorter College** from 10:30-12:30 in the Commons.

**\*\*To attend a college visit in the DEN the student must obtain a pass from the counseling office at least one day prior to the visit\*\***

- **Preliminary HOPE Scholarship GPA Calculation**

Seniors, as well as underclassmen, can access their preliminary HOPE GPA

- Go to [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org)
- Locate the box titled “Shortcuts” in the upper right column and select “Your HOPE GPA”
- Create an account or log in to an existing account
- After following the prompts it will bring you to “HOPE GPA”
- Fill in last name, date of birth, and social security number
- Select Peachtree Ridge High School
- The final screen will show the student’s HOPE GPA.

**\*A student’s social security number must be on file at PRHS in order to access preliminary HOPE calculation, as well as to receive the HOPE Scholarship\***

For specific questions regarding the calculation process, please contact the Georgia Student Finance Commission at 770-724-9000

- **ACT/SAT Tests:**

- Juniors and Seniors, a score on one of these tests is required for admission to a 4-year college. Ideal timeline for taking these tests

is as follows: 1. Take both the SAT and ACT in the Spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade (These tests are very different ---give yourself the opportunity to see each of them!). 2. Pick the one you did best on (hopefully it is the same one you preferred) and retake it in June between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. 3. Retake the test one more time in the Fall of 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This timeline ensures that college admission *testing* does not interfere with college *application* deadlines.

- Pick up registration and preparation material in the counseling office, or visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

- Upcoming Test Dates:

ACT	SAT
April 10	May 1
June 22	June 5

- Fee Waivers: If you receive free or reduced lunch you qualify for fee waivers for both tests. Stop by the counseling office to request one.
- Looking for ways to prepare for the SAT/ACT tests?
  - Check out [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com)
  - SAT offers a free online course. For more information go to [www.collegeboard.com/satonlinecourseschool](http://www.collegeboard.com/satonlinecourseschool). Students will need to obtain an access code from the counseling office.
  - ACT and SAT practice packets (provided by ACT and College Board) are available for pick up in the counseling office.
  - Free cds for the computer are also available in the counseling office \*while supplies last\*
  - PRHS offers an SAT Prep course as an elective class. Students must register for the course during arena registration. Students will need to sign up during the Spring of Sophomore year to take the course in 11<sup>th</sup> grade or the Spring of Junior year to take the course in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Upcoming Events:

### Dual Enrollment Information Meeting: \*date has been changed\*

- If you are interested in learning more about this program, please plan to attend an information meeting on Thursday, March 11th at 3pm in the Media Center.
- This meeting is for rising Juniors and Seniors and their parents.
- Please note that this meeting was originally scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> but had to be rescheduled due to pending changes in the program on behalf of the State Department of Education.