



March

PSAT 9

On Tuesday, April 11, all 9th-11th grade students will be taking a standardized test. Juniors will be taking the SAT, while sophomores will take the PSAT 10 and freshmen the PSAT 9. All of these tests originate from the same organization - the College Board - and are useful tools in post-secondary planning. The SAT is a college entrance exam and scores are used by institutions as one factor for admission. The PSAT 9 and 10 are “practice” tests for the SAT, allowing underclassmen to become familiar with the structure of the test and to gauge college/career readiness against grade appropriate benchmarks. Because the State of Michigan requires all students to take these tests, there is no fee involved. More information about the PSAT 9 is available at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9>.

You will receive more specific information regarding test day, such as where to report and what to bring, in a letter that will be sent to all families in the near future. If you have any questions prior to that, please contact your counselor.

Career Planning

Some high school students know exactly what they want to do with their life beyond high school, while others are just starting to investigate what their options are. Listed below are some career exploration resources to assist in the career planning process.

Career Cruising

Career Cruising is an interactive career resource designed to assist students in planning for life beyond high school. If you want to explore different career options, or plan future education and training, Career Cruising is a great place to start.

If you'd like to check it out, follow the instructions below to discover some of the great features of this program.

Step 1: Starting the Program

Go to the website <http://www.careercruising.com> and enter the school's username and password.

USERNAME: zeelandeast or zeelandwest

PASSWORD: chix or dux

Step 2: Exploring a Sample Occupation

- Click on LEARN ABOUT CAREERS (on the left side of the screen)
- Click on SEARCH BY CLUSTER
- Select a career cluster
- Select an occupation

Now browse through the occupation profile (use the blue buttons on the left to find the information you want). Notice that the Education section of each profile includes direct links to related college programs.

Step 3: Multimedia Interviews

- Click on one of the names in the interview section (the last two blue buttons on the left of the occupation profile screen)

Now browse through a multimedia interview. Use the blue buttons to find the information you want – some of which are sound and video clips.

Step 4: College and University Information

- Click on the EDUCATION button on the menu bar near the top of the screen
- Click on SCHOOL SELECTOR
- Click on UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOLS
- Under TYPE OF SCHOOL select Public or Private and select either 2-Year or 4-Year.
- Continue through the additional criteria and make selections (ex. Admissions Difficulty, Tuition, etc.) until you VIEW RESULTS.
- Select one of the schools listed

Now browse through the information for this school. To visit the school's website, simply click on the web link provided on the main School Profile page.

BigFuture (by the College Board)

The College Board (the organization that oversees the SAT college entrance test as well as the Advanced Placement program) has put together this website to help students conduct college and career searches. Check out <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/> for more information.

Occupational Outlook Handbook

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the "Occupational Outlook Handbook." This handbook provides a large database of information on hundreds of different types of jobs. The handbook tells you:

- the training and education needed
- earnings
- expected job prospects
- what workers do on the job
- working conditions

Go to <http://www.bls.gov/ooh> to conduct a free search.

My Next Move

This is an outstanding website for occupational information, and for determining what jobs fit your skills. The web address is <http://www.mynextmove.org/>

CareerShip

CareerShip® is a free online career exploration adventure for middle and high school students. Students can review careers by cluster, review the featured career, match careers to their interests, or search for a particular career. For each career, students will have access to a variety of information:

- Tasks
- Wages
- Career outlook
- Interests
- Education
- Knowledge
- Skills
- Similar careers

Visit <http://mappingyourfuture.org/planyourcareer/careership/> to check it out.