



Tocoi Creek School Counseling Newsletter

November 2021



Let's Talk Dual Enrollment!

Dual Enrollment is a program where eligible high school students attend college classes and earn high school and college credits at the same time.

TCHS offers Dual Enrollment classes on campus and at St. Johns River State College (SJR) as well as First Coast Technical College (FCTC).

Students that are interested in participating in academic Dual Enrollment at TCHS or SJR need to have a 3.0 unweighted GPA and qualifying test scores (<https://www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/dual-enrollment/>).

The school counseling department will be hosting information sessions for students interested in participating in Dual Enrollment for the 22-23 school year in November. Students can sign up using the QR code in schoology, on the posters around school, or in the school counseling office.

Junior Meetings

The counselors have been meeting individually with each Junior. During the meetings, we review first quarter grades, graduation requirements/status, post-secondary planning, and next steps.

Juniors that are planning to attend a university immediately after graduation and/or are hoping to receive the Bright Futures scholarship should be taking their ACT and SAT NOW!

We are asking our juniors to start solidifying their post-secondary goals by having them take career interest inventories, review the educational requirements for their dream career, and narrowing down their post-secondary options as a result. Counselors are emailing documents with links and planning resources to each student and parent following the meeting.



Welcome our new counselor- Rachel Blount!

Hi, my name is Rachel Blount and I joined TCHS on 10/18. I absolutely love it here!

I have been a School Counselor for 7 years. Most recently I was at Gamble Rogers Middle School, here in St. Augustine. Before that I was at Gruening Middle in Eagle River, Alaska. I lived in Alaska for 27 years, and in North Carolina for 12. I moved to St. Augustine in 2019 and am looking forward to making Florida home. The winters here are the best!

I have a 5-year-old daughter named Amina, and 4 stepchildren: three boys and one girl. Along with the two dogs and cat, it's kind of like the Brady Bunch in my home.

I look forward to meeting you all and being a Toro!



JUNIORS!

IT IS TIME TO SIGN UP FOR SAT & ACT REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT SAT & ACT IS NOV. 5!



School Counseling Team:

Rachel Blount: Last Names A-G

Rachel.Overholt@stjohns.k12.fl.us

D'Erica Gibbs: Last Names H-N &

Collegiate High School

D'Erica.Gibbs@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Linda M. Smith: Last Names O-Z

Linda.M.Smith@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Chassity Johnson: Registrar

Chassity.Johnson@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Marvin Jenkins: Computer Operator

Marvin.Jenkins@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Kimberly Doyle: Secretary

Kimberly.Doyle@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 25- Nov. 7: Individual Jr. Meetings

Nov. 3: Sophomore DE Meeting

Nov. 17: Junior DE Meeting

Nov. 11: Veteran's Day: No School

Nov. 24-26: Thanksgiving: No School!

Appointment Links:

Rachel Blount:

<https://calendly.com/rachel-blount>

D'Erica Gibbs:

<https://calendly.com/derica-gibbs-1>

Linda Smith:

<https://calendly.com/lindamsmith>



School Counseling Curriculum

FRESHMAN:

- Know graduation requirements.
- Understand GPA
- Keys to Success (tutoring, study skills, etc)
- Community Service
- Goal Setting

SOPHOMORES:

- Review graduation requirements
- PSAT
- Extracurricular suggestions
- Dual enrollment
- Explore college & career options

JUNIORS

- Review graduation requirements
- Create post secondary plan including: SAT/ACT/ASVAB, NCAA registration, Financial Aid, College search, & next steps document.



First Day

Freshman & Sophomore

Junior

Senior



Graduation

The right time to take the test:

- Junior year is the best time for most students
- SAT or ACT is given almost every month
- Many students take the SAT / ACT more than once
- College apps are due fall / winter of senior year

21-22 ACT/SAT Test Dates

SAT/ACT, PSAT?

Which test to take? When do I take it?

- All **Sophomores** are registered for the **PSAT** automatically. **Freshman** and **Juniors** may consider taking it for additional practice. **Juniors** are also encouraged to take the PSAT for National Merit Consideration. [National Merit Homepage](#)
- **Juniors** should take BOTH the **SAT & ACT** in the **late Fall or Winter** seasons. Once students know their "preferred" test, we encourage them to continue testing until they reach their desired score. **The goal is to have a "college application ready" score by the beginning of senior year.**
- Students interested in participating in **Dual Enrollment** may consider testing early. Students wanting to participate in DE as Juniors will need a qualifying test score in the early spring of Sophomore year.



Community Service Updates!

Community Service guidelines have changed as of 8/16/21! Students and parents can review the new requirements and paperwork here: <https://www-tchs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/home/community-service/>

Students can complete community service hours starting the summer between 8th and 9th grade through graduation day.

Students can view the number of community service hours on file in HAC.

We are SO EXCITED to be your school counselors!

ACT

Test Date	Registration Deadline
September 11, 2021	August 6
October 23, 2021	September 17
December 11, 2021	November 5
February 12, 2022	January 7
April 2, 2022	February 25
June 11, 2022	May 6
July 16, 2022	June 17

SAT

Test Date	Registration Deadline
August 28, 2021	July 30
October 2, 2021	September 3
November 6, 2021	October 8
December 4, 2021	November 4
March 12, 2022	February 11
May 7, 2022	April 8
June 4, 2022	May 5

FREE TEST PREP RESOURCES:

Deciding what test prep to use can often be overwhelming for students and parents. We encourage students to utilize FREE test prep for their initial study session. After they have taken their initial ACT & SAT, they can determine how much their score needs to improve. This can inform them of just how much they want to invest in paid test prep. Below we outlined some FREE test prep options that we have vetted and recommend.

ACT Websites: [ACT Test Prep](#)
[Printable ACT Full Length Practice Tests](#)
 ACT Phone App: [ACT Prep App](#)

SAT: [College Board Test Prep](#) (Khan Academy!)

Both: [SAT/ACT Practice Tests](#)
[March 2 Success Courses](#)

Our TCHS School Counseling Page is up and running! Come check it out for a TON of resources including SAT/ACT test prep and more!



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