

Butler High School

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Guidance Newsletter

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“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”
Aristotle

Characteristics of Successful Students at Butler

Good students with quality character and popular reputations are abundant at Butler High School. These students have certain attributes that help to make their years at Butler High School meaningful and rewarding. All of our students may enhance their experience by working at some simple habits found common amongst our thriving students.

Listen carefully: Most of what is expected is spoken repeatedly by the teachers and staff. Listening to directions, lectures, and one to one conversations with the teacher properly prepares students for tests, homework, projects and in their co- curricular activities.

Stay organized: The students that do well are organized. They write down assignments in their agenda book, have folders and notebooks for each class, they follow before and after school routines, and typically have organized lockers, and backpacks.

Follow the rules: The Butler High School agenda book has rules and regulations and every student has one. These are written to keep our campus organized and to provide the necessary structure from which to stay orderly. When students follow the rules their lives are simpler and it is much easier to pay attention in class and stay on task! Replacement agenda books can be purchased in the attendance office.

Seek out help: Students that are successful at Butler ask for help when they need it. If not from their teachers, they ask for help in guidance, from our school nurse, child study team members, Honor Society tutors and also our new Student Assistance Counselor (SAC)

Mrs. Robin Lavorato. Each of these resources will provide confidential support and search from their own community contacts in order to guide and assist all students. One such community resource is www.2ndfloor.org. This website is also a helpline (888-222-2228) and is another confidential resource available 24 hours, 365 days per year for our youth.

Be persistent: If one method of help or improvement is not successful, seek out another. Wasting time blaming or getting upset with an unsuccessful method is non productive. If at first you don't succeed try, try again. Self-reliance is what colleges and future employers value. Students that are determined to achieve usually do, and this leads to success beyond high school as well.

Help others: Being able to observe life and situations from another person's perspective is beneficial to success in many ways. Helping others is known to raise self-esteem, combat depression, and increase self-confidence. It also enhances social, career and jobs skills, and helps students to feel connected. There are many ways to help others both at Butler High School and in our community. A popular resource for finding a place to help in the community is <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>.

Each of these characteristics can be developed and practiced. Don't wait, start today!

“Giving connects two people, the giver and the receiver, and this connection gives birth to a new sense of belonging”
Deepak Chopra

The College Process

The **College application process** is in full swing. Suggestions for successfully getting through it are to be diligent but patient. Students must carefully review the necessary deadlines and criterion for each college application. Each college has different requirements for essays, personal statements, methods for receiving SAT/ACT scores, etc. Be aware that many of the college are transitioning from using paper to solely using online applications. At times information written on paper (and is still being sent to students) is different than what is up to date on the web and online. The best method of finding out the accurate answer is to call the admissions department of the college/university.

On site college admission dates have been set. William Paterson University, County College of Morris, Passaic County Community College, and NJIT will be at Butler the first week in December. Students interested must sign up and have paperwork to guidance by November 30th.

Scholarship opportunities are available from many sources. Amongst many resources, students can check in guidance, on the Butler Web page (<http://butlerboe.org/bhs/documents/octpostingguidance.pdf>), or log onto <http://meritaid.com>.

A valuable **financial aid** workshop is at Passaic County Community College on January 31, 2010. College Goal Sunday is 1-4pm and is available to students and their parents from any County in NJ. Parents will receive assistance in completing the FAFSA; all students attending college need to have this form submitted for any financial aid, www.fafsa.ed.gov. Also visit <http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov> to estimate the amount of financial aid for your student.

Learn more about the **NJ Stars** program at <http://www.njstars.net>. Be aware that any senior in the top 15% of their class after *junior or senior* years is eligible for this tuition free program.

Standardized Tests: **PSATs, SATs and ACTs**: Test taking varies from student to student. Generally we recommend that students take the PSATs the Fall of their Sophomore and/or Junior year. SATs and ACTs can be taken 2-3 times beginning the Spring of their Junior year. If a student has specific goals, a college or career in mind it's best to talk to your individual counselor for more specific recommendations on which test and the time to take it. Sign for SATs at www.collegeboard.com and ACTs at www.actstudent.org.

PSAT scores are returned in December. An informational classroom session will be provided to help them understand and interpret their scores.

Mark Your Calendars

Reports cards mailed	November 14, 2009	CCM on site	December 8, 2009**
Marking Period 2 Interim Report	December 12, 2009	PCCC on site	December 10, 2009**
SATs	December 5, 2009	WPU on site	December 11, 2009**
ACTs	December 12, 2009	NJIT	TBA**
Mini College Day	December 1, 2009*	** All paper work must be in Guidance by	
*Parents are welcome to attend		November 30th	

“Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. Accordingly a genius is often merely a talented person who has done all of his or her homework.”

Thomas Edison