



# Back to School Tips for Parents

**The start of a new school year is an ideal time for making the commitment to get involved with your children's education. Here are some things you can do at home and at school.**

### At Home

- Engage in discussions about your children's friends, classes, & activities.
- Work with your children to set attainable goals & expectations.
- Continue to encourage your children to read. Don't let TV, video games, or friends take up too much of their free time.
- Set a clear family policy regarding homework. Let your children know you expect this to be done daily & establishing a regular time & place because it can help them organize & prioritize time.
- If your children work part-time, make sure this doesn't interfere with schoolwork or getting a good night's sleep.
- Encourage your chil-

dren to get involved in extracurricular activities.

- Discuss their choice of courses with them so they are well prepared for different options after high school.
- Begin discussing with them what they may like to do after they graduate from high school.
- Keep a copy of your children's schedule in a convenient place for quick reference.
- Write a list of your children's teachers' e-mail addresses, counselor's name & e-mail address & frequently called school numbers such as Student Information.
- Write school events & activities on the family calendar. Have your children use it to fill in due dates of major assignments.
- Periodically e-mail your children's teachers to monitor progress & to show them support. Use InTouch to check not only grades but also attendance.

### At School

- Meet your children's teachers, guidance counselors, and principals.
- Prepare for and go to parent-teacher conferences.
- Attend Guidance grade level evening parent programs.
- Attend extracurricular events.
- Become a part of the school community by joining The Fort's P.T.S.A.
- Volunteer for school activities—chaperone a dance or field trip, help with an athletic event, etc. Also, parents are always needed & welcomed as testing monitors & substitute teachers.



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### Guidance at a Glance

- Mr. Campsie—Senior Counselor (C-S)*
- Mrs. Walker—Senior Counselor (A-B)*
- Junior Counselor (A-K)*
- Mr. Mosley—Senior Counselor (T-Z)*
- Junior Counselor (L-Z)*
- Ms. Fields—Sophomore Counselor (A-K)*
- Mrs. Wright—Guidance Director/Sophomore Counselor (L—Z)*
- Mrs. Jones—Freshman Counselor (A-K)*
- Dr. Balcome—Freshman Counselor (L-Z)*
- Mr. Daryl Evans—Career Specialist*
- Ms. Stempert—Guidance Secretary*
- Mrs. Reese—Transcript Secretary*

# Patriot Academy Career Day

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**Wednesday, October 15th** in our Annual District wide Assessment Day. The purpose of this day is to afford students an opportunity to take an assessment designed to assist them with career/academic decisions. While all grade levels will take an assessment on this day, in addition to taking the Holland Codes assessment, our 9th Grade Patriot Academy will also host their 3rd Annual Career Day.

9th grade counselors, Mrs. Laura Jones and Dr. Sharon Balcome, and our Career Development Facilitator, Mr. Daryl Evans are working diligently to gather a plethora of professionals from different career fields to come and speak with our Freshmen on this day. Students will have the opportunity to hear speakers from 3 areas of interest. This event will provide students with information needed to promote thinking about possible career fields and the requirements necessary to reach their goals.

**Additional speakers are still needed.** Thus, we are asking for your assistance in securing individuals who would like to participate. If you are interested or know anyone interested, please provide us with contact information by October 1st. Should you recommend a friend or colleague, please let them know

they will be contacted.

This event will take place from 7:25am – 10:00am. If you are able to participate, additional information will be provided.

**You can contact the Patriot Academy by phone @ 760-4450 or email us at the following:**

**laones@dorchester2.k12.sc.us, sbalcome@dorchester2.k12.sc.us, or devans@dorchester2.k12.sc.us.**



## Freshman Patriot Academy Counselors in the Classrooms

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The 9th grade counselors, Mrs. Laura Jones and Dr. Sharon Balcome are in the classrooms visiting with their students. These classroom presentations are taking place in our English 1 CP A&E classes and English 1 Honors. The purpose of the visits is to provide an introduction and overview of the guidance department, as well as discussion about our district wide Assessment Day/Career Day. Stu-

dents are obtaining information about various career clusters and occupations and indicating their career interests in preparation for this major event. These classroom presentations also involve the students completing a short lesson designed to help with the transition from middle to high school.

Mr. Daryl Evans, our Career Development Facilitator is accompanying them explaining his role in career exploration and readiness.

*"The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one."*

*Malcolm s. Forbes*

## Sophomore News Update

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Sophomore counselors, Mrs. Leonis S. Wright and Ms. Natasha Fields are planning to meet with all tenth grade students via assembly presentations in October. They will provide students with information about Assessment Day, October 15th and discuss the Individual Graduation Planning process.

Sophomores will take the PLAN assessment on October 15th in their home-

rooms.

They will need several No. 2 pencils for the assessment. Calculators are permitted for the math portion of PLAN; students should bring these if they wish to use them.

Once the PLAN results are received, Mrs. Wright and Ms. Fields plan to schedule Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) meetings with all their parents to discuss these

results. Parents and students will also be given a copy of "Using Your PLAN Results".

Counselors will also share with students a timeline of activities for college planning. They will be encouraged to begin obtaining college information now and getting involved in extracurricular activities. Moreover, minimum requirements for graduation will be discussed.

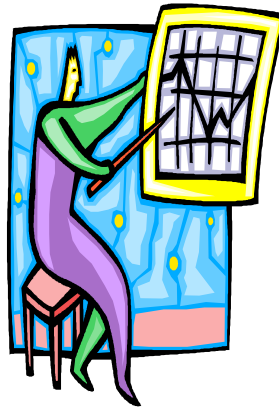
# What Are Career Clusters and Majors?

Career clusters help students obtain knowledge & skills needed to reach their career goals. High school courses in S.C. are aligned with 16 Career Clusters of Study. These can be found in your student's *High School Curriculum Guide: Graduation Paths and Career Planning 2008-2009*.

Each Career Cluster gives career majors, based on groups of professions that require similar talents, knowledge & skills. To help identify their individual Career Clusters, students take yearly assessments. This year's Career Assessment Day at F.D.H.S. is October 15th.

Once results of the assessments are returned, counselors will go into classes &

interpret the results with students. Students will then select a career cluster and complete an Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). Parents will be included in this process, & students may change career clusters at any time.



The Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) is a type of road map to a student's future.

An IGP includes these components:

- Student's name & school
- Chosen Career Cluster
- Service learning opportunities the student plans to pursue
- Chosen career major
- 9th-12th grade outline of courses
- Student's post- secondary plan

## What's Happening for Juniors.....

All juniors will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 15th during our district wide Assessment Day. Students were given an "Official Student Guide to the PSAT" in homeroom last week which provided them with test-taking help and a practice test. The PSAT is an excellent indicator of how your son/daughter may do on the SAT for college entrance. This fall Testing also determines National Merit Scholar-

ship finalists.

During October and November, the 11th grade counselors, Mrs. Carey Ellen Walker and Mr. Tony Mosley will also meet with students individually to conduct credit reviews and to discuss career goals after high school. Along with this activity there will be classroom guidance presentations to guide juniors on steps they need to be involved in this year in preparation of going to college.

If you have any questions, please contact your student's counselor.

Mrs. Walker (A-K)

Mr. Mosley (L-Z)

## Upcoming Events

### August—October:

Credit reviews—Individual (11-12)

Guidance Presentations—Classes (9-12)

### October:

7—Senior College Night, 7—8:30 PM

15—Career Assessment Day (9—12)

- 9th — Holland Codes Assessment
- 10th — PLAN

- 11th — PSAT
- 12th — Work Keys

21 - 23—HSAP (New/ Retake--This is the exit exam necessary for high graduation. Any 3rd year high school student new to S.C., or any who have taken but failed this test, must take it during this time.)

23 — Ed Op Day N. Charleston Coliseum 6:30pm-8:30pm

29 — Report Cards Issued (9-12)

29 — Freshman Academy Parent Night, 6:30

October—  
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Additional events & dates will be announced throughout the school year.

## Senior Credit Reviews & More

FDHS has approximately 551 seniors this year. This is the largest ever. While this is a good thing, as a result, our junior counselors, Mrs. Walker and Mr. Mosley are playing a dual role serving as partial senior counselors to assist Mr. Campsie, our senior counselor, in assuring the unique needs of seniors are being met. Last week, the three counselors started meeting with every 12th grade student going over transcripts, checking credits & discussing the college application process. This year more than ever, seniors must be pro-

active and pay particular attention to college & scholarship time lines, especially when requesting official transcripts.

During the administrative senior assembly each student received a college & financial aid planning booklet compiled to help seniors through the process of applying to college as well as for financial aid. Information on requesting recommendations, LIFE Scholarship, graduation honors, writing college essays, requesting transcripts, & standardized test dates are also included. Other features include web sites for S.C. colleges along with tips for applying for financial

aid online, the college interview, the campus visit & narrowing college choices. This is a valuable guide designed to aid seniors & their parents with the college application process.



### Check it out!!

Scholarship Applications are announced in our Senior Opportunities and Scholarships (SOS) Newsletter. These are distributed to 12th grade English and Social Studies classes, and can be assessed via our Guidance website. Updates are done every two weeks.

## Graduation Requirements: Two Options



Four year colleges require high school graduates to have completed specific courses. There is a difference in these requirements & those needed for a high school diploma. Students must complete 24 units of the prescribed study for both in addition to passing the HSAP.

### Graduation Requirements for 4-year Colleges:

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Units Required</u>
<b>English</b>	4
<b>Mathematics:</b>	4
Alg. 1 ( Math Tech 1 & 2)	
Geometry	
Alg. 2	
Precal. (or another math)	
<b>Science:</b>	
Physical Science	
Lab sciences	2
<i>(some colleges now require 3 lab sciences)</i>	
<b>Social Studies:</b>	
Social Stud. Elective	1
U.S. History	1
Econ/U.S. Gov.	1
<b>Foreign Language</b>	2
<i>(Some colleges now require 3)</i>	
<b>P.E. or ROTC</b>	1
<b>Computer Science</b>	1
<b>Electives</b>	<u>7</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

*Electives should include at least 1 Fine Arts and 1 additional CP course.*

### S.C. Diploma Requirements:

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Units Required</u>
English	4
Mathematics	4
Physical Science	1
Science	2
Social Studies:	
Social Stud. Elective	1
U.S. History	1
Econ./U.S. Gov.	1
P.E. or ROTC	1
Computer Science	1
For. Lang. or Vocational	1
<u>Electives</u>	<u>7</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>