

BLACKHAWK BULLETIN

Fort Atkinson High School



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL...Always be prepared

With so many things that have been changing on such a frequent basis, in so many different aspects of our lives, one thing that remains constant is the need to always be prepared. Oftentimes, to expect the unexpected, lends itself towards this motto but there is no substitute for having contingency plans in place for different possibilities that come our way. Having said that, we are tentatively planning for our Fall Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences on **Thursday, Nov. 5th, and Monday, Nov. 9th, from 4:30-7:30 p.m.** We will continue to plan to use a similar conference format which has been successful in the past should we have the ability to have large groupings in attendance. Progress reports and first Quarter report cards will be sent home this year electronically via email so it will be important to have reviewed them prior to arriving at the high school that evening. Guidance Counselors and other pupil services personnel will be available in their offices. More details will be shared out closer to the evening of conferences communicating out specific processes to maintain physical distancing as well as other safety measures as necessary. As a reminder, access to all student grades and class performance are updated and provided constantly on PowerSchool as well. Conferences provide us an important avenue of communication as we work together to provide our students the best possible education during these unusual and challenging times. Although we work to limit conference times to only five minutes in person, if additional time is needed, or you would like to make an appointment for another day, we ask that you please contact your student's teachers to arrange ahead of time. Also, please be alert to other communications with regards to conferences, as we may have to work through various contingencies as we strive for alternative ways to make this event happen. Your patience and understanding is and has been greatly appreciated as we have navigated through these vastly different environments from what we are all accustomed to. For that I thank you in advance as we continue our work through the remainder of the school year and continue our way through the Fall.

GET YOUR PARKING PERMITS

Please make sure that you get your 2020-2021 parking permit from the main office. The cost of a parking permit is \$40 for the school year. Please see Mrs. Knutson in the main office if you are interested.

FREE LUNCH FOR ALL and MYSCHOOLMENU APP

USDA has approved funding for the next few months, to allow schools to serve breakfast and lunch to all students at NO charge. This funding covers complete meals- entrée, fruit, vegetable and milk. If you wish to only get ala carte, those items are NOT covered, and funds must be in your account to make those purchases.

Also, be sure to check out the Student Nutrition Page of the FortSchools.org site, as there is exciting news about our new menu app that allows easy access to menu information- search MySchoolMenu at your device app store.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE GROUPS

The role of the Student Assistance Program (SAP) at F.A.H.S. is to help students make intelligent decisions and to help them appropriately deal with the complex problems of adolescence. The program focuses on personal issues that affect teens today. Some of the group topics include celebrating differences, coping with stress, changing families, and dealing with loss. Parents that are concerned about an issue facing their child can make a referral to Pupil Services by contacting Katie Utphall at 920-563-7811 ext. 1145. If you would not like your student to be involved with a SAP Group, please contact Katie Utphall.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

There will be a virtual financial aid presentation for seniors and their parents on **Thursday, October 8, 2020**. The presentation will take place at 6:00 p.m. through a Zoom meeting. A representative from the financial aid office at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater will be presenting information and answering any questions that parents may have on funding post-secondary education as well as information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The information at this presentation applies to all students planning to attend 4 year and 2 year technical colleges. A presentation in Spanish will also be available for Spanish speaking families. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Katie Utphall – FAHS Counselor at (920) 563-7811 ext. 1145.

Please sign up to receive the Zoom meeting link to attend by filling out this [Google Form](https://forms.gle/ZjyWkDq2vK4QdKRu6) : <https://forms.gle/ZjyWkDq2vK4QdKRu6>

FROM PUPIL SERVICES

Important Dates & Events From Pupil Services:

- Sept. 23 Senior Meeting---Portfolio Meeting and 4 year college applications
- Sept. 30 Senior Meeting---2 year college applications
- Oct. 6 Madison College Open Application Session, Please Email Katie Utphall
- Oct. 8 Virtual College Financial Aid Info Meeting for Parents
- Oct. 10 ACT Test Date
- Oct. 14 PSAT/NMSQT Test @ 7:50 a.m. for registered students
- Oct. 17 ACT Test Date
- Oct. 24 ACT Test Date
- Oct. 25 ACT Test Date
- Nov. 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Monthly Guidance Calendar on the Pupil Services Website

In preparation for each new month, the Pupil Services Office prepares a student calendar that includes important events such as informational meetings, college and military recruiter visits, deadlines, scholarship information, and test dates. The calendar will be accessible **through the Fort Atkinson High School webpage**. Use the link to Pupil Services to get to the monthly calendar. Printed copies are also available in the Pupil Services Office. Most of the information pertains to juniors and seniors, though underclassmen should read it as well for conference/workshop opportunities and occasional scholarships.

Daily Announcements

The counselors use the daily announcements for many student opportunities and scholarships that can't be included in the monthly calendar due to short notice on behalf of the sending parties.

Campus Visitation Programs

Colleges and universities offer campus preview days and tours throughout the year. For many students, this experience helps with the final decision of where to attend college. Please go to the college's or university's website for more information on campus visitation opportunities.

Information about National Education Fairs can be found at www.nacacnet.org link to "Upcoming Events". Information on the Performing and Visual Arts College Fairs is also located at this same site. Information about Wisconsin Education Fairs can be found at www.wefs.org.

MADISON COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES

Madison College began collecting applications for the Fall of 2021 term on September 15th. The admissions office will then begin processing those applications beginning on October 15th. **Some high-demand programs, such as nursing, have an application deadline of December 15th.**

When applying to a specific program there may be additional admissions requirements or specific application details for your program. These variances can involve testing prior to application, early application deadlines, specific high school course requirements, etc. **It is imperative that you go to the Madison College website at madisoncollege.edu and review your program details prior to applying online.**

There will be an **informational meeting for seniors** applying to the technical colleges on **Wednesday, September 30th during Enrichment** through a YouTube video. That video will review the application process as it pertains to Madison College.

A representative from Madison College will be holding an **Open Application Session** in the high school IMC on **Tuesday, October 6th** from 8:30-2:00. The rep will help students to complete the online application for Madison College for *FREE*. Students need to bring their social security number that day to apply.

ACT scores are required by Madison College for admissions and class placement purposes. Students needing a higher score may choose to retake the ACT, or they can take the Accuplacer test or the TEAS-V through Madison College. Contact the Fort Atkinson Madison College Campus for information on their test schedule or refer to the A-Z index on Madison College's website to find Placement Testing test dates.

Seniors should make an appointment with their counselors in early October if they have questions.

FAFSA ASSISTANCE

If your senior is planning to attend a technical college or a 4-year college next year, you should be completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) sometime this fall for your student to be eligible for federal loans and/or grants to help cover the cost of tuition at their college. College Goal Wisconsin is a program that provides free assistance to families completing the FAFSA. There are six virtual event dates this fall to choose from. Registration for the events can be found at <https://collegegoalwi.org/locations/>

PSAT/NMSQT TESTING

All sophomore and Junior students interested in taking the PSAT/NMSQT test are welcome to sign up by October 9th in Pupil Services. The test will be given on Wednesday, October 14th from 7:50 until approximately 11:30. The cost for the PSAT/NMSQT is \$17.00 and can be paid in Pupil Services.

The PSAT/NMSQT test is a preliminary or practice SAT test. This gives students the opportunity to take a 3 hour standardized test prior to taking the ACT in March of their junior year. This also gives students the opportunity to qualify for National Merit Scholarships.

The **National Merit® Scholarship Program** is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test ([PSAT/NMSQT](#))—a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

If you need more information on the PSAT/NMSQT, please contact Mrs. Strom in Pupil Services (stroml@fortschools or 920-563-7811 ext. 1146)

ACT Test Dates

ACT is providing test dates on the following dates in October (Saturday, Oct. 10, 17, & 24, as well as, Sunday, Oct. 25). Students interested in taking the ACT should register by September 25, however, no late fees will be assessed throughout the month of October. This would be a great time to register for and take the ACT if you are interested.

THE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

It is not too late to reserve your copy of the 2020 The School Yearbook. To purchase your yearbook with a credit card go to yearbookforever.com, enter your school name, and follow directions to place your yearbook order.

VIP SCHOOL PORTRAITS

Your school pictures are ready to view and order! Just follow these easy steps to look up your photos: 1. Go to vipis.com, 2. Type in your school, 3. Click on “School Portraits,” and 4. Enter your student’s information. Please feel free to contact VIP with any questions at support@vipis.com

FORT ATKINSON FFA HOLIDAY SALE

The Fort Atkinson FFA is again gearing up for their annual holiday sale to kick-off October 8th. The annual sale features fruit, cheese, sausage, nuts, and popcorn. This year the sale will run from Thursday, October 8, 2020 through Thursday, November 12, 2020. Proceeds from the sale fund all the activities the FFA participates in throughout the year including leadership conferences, conventions, workshops, contests, and other trips. All products are delivered to the high school the beginning of December and will be delivered to you by the member who takes your order. ****NEW THIS YEAR**** You will have the option of ordering online and paying with a credit/debit card (pay when ordering), ordering online and paying with a check or cash (pay on delivery), or ordering from an FFA member and paying on delivery. If you order online, you will have the option for a contactless pickup. If you are interested in purchasing anything from this sale or have any questions, please contact any FFA member or the high school agriculture education department at (920) 563-7811 ext. 1142.

Interact Club Welcomes the 2020–2021 Exchange Students:

The Fort Atkinson High School Interact Club is pleased to welcome the following 2020 –2021 Exchange Students:

- "Justin" Wei Ting Chen from Taiwan.
- Francesca Scian from Italy.
- Baptiste Billard from France.

Interact is a club for youth ages 12-18 who want to connect with others in their community or school. **Interactors** have fun while carrying out service projects and learning about the world.

Congratulations to the following elected officers of the Interact Club:

Co-Presidents~Eli Koehler & Sarah Mephram

Vice President~Brooke Leibman

Secretary~Emma Jahn

Treasurer~Logan Hamale

All students are invited to join the Interact Club to socialize with our guests and serve as volunteers. All meetings will be announced in advance. If you have any questions or suggestions for service club activities, please contact Faculty Adviser Lori Warren at warrenl@fortschools.org.

AP EXAM REGISTRATION-NEW PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Last year, AP/College Board implemented a new process and timeline for exam registration.

This process requires AP students to login to the College Board account they set up in their AP course(s) and indicate that they are taking the AP exam for that course.

The cost of each AP exam taken is \$95. Please submit payment to FAHS Main Office with completed information form (distributed by teachers in AP classes) by March 1, 2021.

If you have any questions about AP exams, please contact your student's AP teacher. For questions about payment or registration, please contact Nancy Leisgang, Program Assistant, Gifted and Talented Education, at 920-563-7840.

FANS MEETING

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 27th. Everyone is welcome!

IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES

- 10/3 SAT National Test
- 10/5 Voices Meeting Virtual 6:30pm
- 10/6 Madison College Open Application Session, Please Email Katie Uthall
- 10/8 FFA Fruit Sale Starts
- 10/8 Virtual College Financial Aid Info Meeting for Parents
- 10/10 ACT Test Date
- 10/14 PSAT/NMSQT Test 7:50am
- 10/15 Board of Education Meeting Luther 6:30pm
- 10/17 ACT Test Date
- 10/19 Early Release Students/Staff Professional Development
- 10/21 Picture Retake Day 8:00am-1:00pm
- 10/24 ACT Test Date
- 10/25 ACT Test Date
- 10/27 FANS Meeting Main Office Conf. Room 6:30pm
- 10/28 First Quarter Ends
- 10/29 **NO SCHOOL (STUDENTS ONLY) – Staff Records Day/Professional Development Day**
- 10/30 **NO SCHOOL (STAFF AND STUDENTS)-Fall Break**

LOOKING AHEAD

- 11/2 2nd Quarter Begins
- 11/5 Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences 4:30pm-7:30pm
- 11/9 Voices Meeting. 6:30pm Virtual
- 11/9 Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences 4:30pm-7:30pm
- 11/12 FFA Fruit Sale Orders Due