

College Center

All students at FCHS have access to an interactive search program called **Career Cruising**. **Career Cruising's** complete guidance system has been designed with one goal in mind: to help students plan for college and their careers. It offers an industry-leading portfolio development system, exceptional assessments, detailed occupation profiles, and comprehensive post-secondary education information.

At the incoming freshmen's Mule Mania event, students are given a username and password and complete some of the assessment tools. Other students are given the opportunity in several different classes to create a portfolio and begin the process of recording their high school grades and activities, researching various careers and colleges, and finding out about financial aid.

It is a valuable tool our district offers to the students at no cost to them. Parents can also utilize this tool to research as well.

Students with Portfolios

Students with previous accounts can go to www.careercruising.com and enter their username and password in the appropriate fields in the top right hand corner of the login page and click on the dark blue "Login" button. Once they do this, they will enter the program and their portfolio will already be open and ready to use.

If your student needs an account, they must log into the school's account prior to creating their own username and password. Please contact Mrs. Robson in the Guidance Department for help.

Constant Updates

Career Cruising is constantly updating its tool and resources, so you will have the most update information at the touch of your fingertips. Used correctly, it can save you some money by not having to travel to the various college campuses or searching on the web for information.

Career Cruising allows users to compare colleges side by side in various categories. It gives you contact information for the colleges, and offers ways to help your student pay for their college education. At times, free webinars are available to give you additional information or direct access to various features.

For more information on how you and your student can utilize **Career Cruising** features, contact Mrs. Lori Robson, School Guidance Counselor, at 847-9420 or 842-2649, EXT 420.

ACT/SAT Requirement

Are you planning on enrolling into a four-year college or university directly after high school? If so, you need to register for the **ACT or SAT** on a national test date. National test dates for the ACT are held during the months of September, October, December, February, April and June. Fairfield Community High School offers all of these test dates except the June test date. National test dates for the SAT are October, November, December, January, March, May and June. On these test dates various subject tests are given with the exception of the March. This is the national test for SAT. FCHS applied to become a testing center for SAT.

For ACT, students need to go to www.actstudent.org/start and register for one of the above test dates. A student has the option of signing up for the ACT No Writing and the ACT Plus Writing. Students are expected to know which test they need to take depending on the requirements of college they would like to attend. If a student is going in to the education field, it is recommended that they take the ACT Plus Writing; receiving a score of 24 will opt them out of the TAP testing all educators must take to be certified in the state of Illinois.

For SAT, students need to go to www.collegeboard.org and sign up for an account to register for any of the SAT tests. FCHS has applied to become an SAT testing center.

ACT/SAT Scores Are Required to Determine State Scholar Eligibility

Illinois high school juniors need to be aware that the formula used to determine eligibility for the **Illinois State Scholar Program** continues to utilize a student's highest qualifying ACT or SAT score.* For current high school juniors, only exams taken between September 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 qualify for consideration in the State Scholar announcements that will be made during the fall term of their senior year (i.e., fall of 2015). Current seniors would have taken the test during their junior year to be qualified.

Specific details regarding the State Scholar Program may be accessed by students and parents via the following pages at isac.org:

- The State Scholar Program page that is located within the Before College – College and Career Exploration and Planning section of the Students & Parents area; and

For more information about college assessment exams, students may visit the College Planning Timeline - 11th Grade area of the **What's Next Illinois** website, which includes a **free** "test prep" module. If you have any questions about Career Cruising or the ACT/SAT tests, please contact Mrs. Lori Robson, Guidance Counselor, Fairfield Community High School, at 618-847-9420.

*All college-bound high school **juniors** who wish to be considered for the State Scholar Program must take the ACT or SAT between September 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 – even if the colleges to which they are applying for admission do not require these specific exams.