



PRINCIPAL
Michael Reynolds

.....

**GRADE LEVEL
PRINCIPALS
AND COUNSELORS**

CLASS OF 2017
JD Lambert
(Athletic Director)
Anne Troutman

CLASS OF 2018
Russ Wise
Terry Sharp

CLASS OF 2019
Tracy Poulsen
(Curriculum Principal)
Dwayne Montgomery

CLASS OF 2020
Debbie Sayers
Lauren White

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

College Planning
Calendars
for 9th, 10th,
11th 2

Senior College
Planning
Calendar 3

Graduation
Requirements 4

Demystifying
the Testing
Alphabet 4

Contact
Us 4

Central High School

Student Survival Guide

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

AUGUST 2016

ACHIEVE SUCCESS AT CHS!

- ♦ Select classes carefully
- ♦ Develop time management skills
- ♦ Be prepared for class
- ♦ Get involved in school events and organizations
- ♦ Stay focused
- ♦ Do your homework
- ♦ Prepare for tests
- ♦ Be organized
- ♦ Study each night
- ♦ Attend tutoring sessions
- ♦ Set short and long term goals
- ♦ Ask your teachers for help when needed
- ♦ Follow all school rules
- ♦ Explore summer learning opportunities
- ♦ Keep track of activities

ABSENCES/TARDIES

Students who are 15 minutes late to class or leave before the last 15 minutes are considered absent from the class.

GRADE SCALE AND QUALITY

100-93	A	4 Points
92-85	B	3 Points
84-75	C	2 Points
74-70	D	1 Points
69-0	F	0 Points

Central High School evaluates student academic progress using interim reports and term grades. Interim reports are distributed every 4 1/2 weeks, and are cumulative for each term. The term grade is final and is recorded on the permanent record. It represents the combination of scores from all the class assignments for the entire 18 weeks (or the entire year for the year-long "skinny") and is not the average of interim grades.



BLOCK SCHEDULING

Students take four 90-minute classes and one year-long "skinny" each term. Passing all classes, students earn 4 credits per term and 9 credits per year. Each term, students should be enrolled in 2 academic classes and 2 electives. The skinny may be an academic or elective class.

CLASS PLACEMENTS

Class placement is based on past performance, test data, teacher recommendations, and parental approval.

Did You Know? Facts About CHS

- ♦ 19 AP courses offered
- ♦ 6 Dual Enrollment courses offered
- ♦ 19 Honors courses offered
- ♦ SIFE and SIOP pilot school
- ♦ Blended Learning Academy
- ♦ NJROTC
- ♦ Numerous course offerings in Visual Art, Band, Chorus, and Theatre
- ♦ Spanish, French, Latin
- ♦ CTE Programs in Business & Marketing, Health Science, Computer Technology, Family Studies, Collision Repair, HVAC, Engine Repair, Criminal Justice, Hospitality & Tourism, Audio/Visual Tech
- ♦ Superior-rated Band and Art Departments
- ♦ Drivers Ed offered
- ♦ \$4.9 million in scholarships offered to the Class of 2016
- ♦ Work-based learning and Senior Project
- ♦ Before and after school tutoring available

#beabobcat



*"The price of
excellence is
discipline; the cost
of mediocrity is
disappointment."
-William Ward*

Freshman College Planning Calendar

Build strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses.

Know what courses are required for graduation and entrance to both two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Focus on learning and hard work in all your classes!

Remember that your freshman year is the starting point of your cumulative grade point average (the grade point average reported to colleges).

Take advantage of tutoring opportunities offered by your teachers.

Attend local college/career fairs.

Get involved! Join one or more extracurricular activities and take on a leadership role.

Take the PSAT in October (sign up in the school counseling office). This will provide practice for the PSAT you will take in your junior year to qualify for scholarships sponsored through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Meet with your school counselor at least once to talk about your plans for the next four years. You are welcome to come by at your convenience!

Keep track of your extracurricular

activities and any honors/awards you receive.

Enroll in CollegeforTN.org to take practice ACT tests, track your academic progress, research colleges, financial aid, careers, and more!

Read, read, and read some more to build your vocabulary and strengthen the skills needed for standardized testing.

Know what courses are required for graduation and entrance into most four-year colleges and universities.

Research career possibilities.

Sophomore College Planning Calendar

Continue solid academic progress in challenging courses.

Stay involved in extracurricular activities that interest you. The level of involvement and accomplishment is most important, not the number of activities. Keep an updated record.

Begin your high school resume. You will use this for college applications and scholarship competitions.

Attend local college/career fairs.

Take the PSAT in October. The results will not be used for college admission but will provide helpful practice for

the PSAT and/or SAT you take in your junior year. This is a test that will qualify you for scholarships through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Check out *KnowHow2Go: The Four Steps to College*, which suggests some actions you can take as you start thinking about education beyond high school.

Meet with your counselor at least once or twice this year. Discuss your PSAT results with them after you receive your scores. PSAT scores usually come to the school in mid-December.

Sign up for junior year courses keeping in mind that you will want to challenge yourself with tougher courses like honors and AP courses.

It is never too early to start researching colleges and universities. Pick up a copy of our College Search handout for suggestions and tips.

Continue to research career options and consider possible college majors that will help you achieve your career goals.

Use your summer wisely: take time to volunteer, gain work experience, and tour college campuses with your family as you travel.

Junior College Planning Calendar

SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER

Be sure your schedule includes courses that strengthen your academic record and help complete graduation requirements.

Focus on academics! Junior grades are very important to college admission committees.

Attend *Junior/Senior Night* for juniors, seniors, and families at Central High School.

Sign up to attend the KCS College and Career Fair.

Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October. You **must** take this test in 11th grade to qualify for National Merit Scholarships. If not taking the PSAT, consider taking the ASVAB.

Meet with college representatives

during the school year as they visit CHS. The list of college visits is posted on our website. Come to these meetings if you have interest in a school and be prepared with questions.

Speak to recent graduates who are home from college for the holidays. They are a great resource!

Make an appointment to meet with your counselor.

Make college visits during fall break.

JANUARY–MARCH

Concentrate on doing well in your spring semester classes.

Update your resume with additional extracurricular activities, community service, honors and awards.

Visit colleges during the long weekend in February and during your spring break!

Work on a list of schools you are interested in researching. Good online college search engines are:

www.collegeboard.org, www.act.org, www.princetonreview.com, or www.petersons.com.

Meet with your counselor to plan your senior schedule and discuss your college/career plans.

APRIL–MAY

Register to take the ACT and/or SAT. Plan summer visits to colleges in which you are very interested.

Research colleges so that you narrow your list to a manageable number (3-6 schools).

Explore careers and their earning potential.

Plan summer visits to colleges in which you are very interested.

Senior College Planning Calendar



AUGUST

Consider taking the ACT and/or SAT **again** in October or December.
Create a resume to give to counselors and teachers. They cannot write letters of recommendation without it!
If you are considering playing a sport in college, review NCAA academic requirements at www.eligibilitycenter.org and NAIA requirements at www.playnaia.org.

SEPTEMBER

Begin work on your applications and essays if you are planning to apply Early Decision or Early Action.
Attend *Junior/Senior Night* for juniors, seniors, and families at Central High School.
Sign up to attend the KCS College and Career Fair.
Inform your counselor, at least one month in advance, about any Secondary School Reports and/or letters of recommendation. If forms are required, print them and submit them to your counselor. Provide your counselor with a resume or Senior Profile sheet (available in the School Counseling Office).
Ask teachers who know you well and with whom you have a good relationship to write a letter of recommendation for you (if required by the college). Let them know if they will complete this online or provide them with the proper request form, your resume, and an envelope addressed to the college with postage included.
Meet with college representatives who visit CHS in the fall.
Apply for scholarships listed in the CHS monthly Scholarship Newsletter or our Scholarship Book (online).
If required by the colleges, file the CSS Financial Aid Profile online at www.collegeboard.com
Participate in CHS College Application activities, especially College App Week!

OCTOBER

Meet with your counselor to discuss your final college list and discuss application deadlines. Give your counselor with a list of all schools to which you will apply, what forms they must complete, and the application deadline.
Complete and finalize any early decision or early action application deadlines due this month. Have a parent, teacher, or school counselor review the application before it is submitted.
Finalize your college essays.
Find out from the colleges to which you are applying whether a separate application is required for Financial Aid/Scholarships. Some schools automatically consider you when you apply, however, some schools require a separate application.

Athletes – If you have not done so already, register NOW with the NCAA Eligibility Center (www.eligibilitycenter.org).
Every college will require a high school transcript. Follow the CHS procedure for submitting transcripts.
Make college visits during fall break.
Seniors and families can begin filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) beginning October 1st. This can be done online at www.fafsa.ed.gov Complete it as soon as possible! In order to qualify for the **Hope Lottery Scholarship and/or TN Promise**, you **must** complete a FAFSA.

NOVEMBER

Be sure to meet the NOVEMBER deadline for TN Promise, which pays for tuition and fees at a two-year program in Tennessee.
Check the application deadline for the University of Tennessee if you would like to be considered for competitive scholarships.
Make sure your ACT/SAT scores have been sent to colleges directly from the testing company.
Check for Early Decision and Early Action application deadlines.

DECEMBER

Your goal should be to have all applications complete by the end of the first semester. WATCH DEADLINES!
Attend the **Financial Aid Workshop** held at your school.
If you are applying to colleges that have a January deadline, be sure to turn in the counselor forms in early December.

JANUARY

Need help or have questions? Attend the CHS FAFSA Night for information and assistance in completing the FAFSA.
Complete the CSS Profile (if required) at www.collegeboard.com
Remind your counselor if colleges to which you have applied require a mid-year report.

MARCH/APRIL

You may receive notification of acceptance prior to **April 15**; however, this is the common final notification date for colleges.
Make your final college choice after you receive your acceptances. Decline any offers of admission in writing so that colleges may admit other qualified candidates.

MAY

May 1 is the deadline for you to notify colleges of your final decision.
Remember to accept financial aid offers and follow the instructions given.
Make sure you have submitted the **senior survey** including the **final transcript request**. The senior survey gives us information regarding scholarships you have received and which college you will be attending. We must send a final transcript to the school you are attending so it is critical that you complete the final transcript request.

HAPPY GRADUATION!

**"If it doesn't
challenge
you, it won't
change
you."**

-Fred DeVito



UGA1374248



Main Office
689-1400
Counseling Office
689-1410
Fax
689-1420

<http://www.centralhs.knoxschools.org>

Central High School
5321 Jacksboro Pike
Knoxville, TN 37918

**PRIDE
AND
TRADITION**

***"Build your own dreams, or someone
else will hire you to build theirs."***
-Farrah Gray

Graduation Requirements

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(These are minimum KCS graduation requirements; many colleges prefer to see additional depth and rigor in courses beyond the basic requirements!)

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Math (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and one higher math)
- 1 credit of Fine Art
- 3 years of Science (Biology, Chemistry, and one additional lab science)*
- 3.5 years of History/Social Studies (World History or AP Human Geography, ½ US Government, US History, ½ Economics, ½ Personal Finance)
- 2 years of the same Foreign Language*
- 1.5 years of Physical Education and Health (1 Lifetime Wellness credit and ½ credit PE)
- 3 electives in one of the elective focus areas (see school counselor for more information)

*CHS recommends four years of science and three years of the same foreign language to best prepare students for college/career.

Demystifying the Testing Alphabet

EOC—All Grades

- End of course exam. Exam given at the completion of each block of study.
- Student score counts as 25% of final course grade.
- State, local, and building-level EOCs are given. State EOCs are TNReady exams.

TNReady—9-11th Grades

- "TCAP" exams for high school students. Final exam given at the completion of each block of study.
- Student score counts as 25% of final course grade.

PSAT—10th and 11th Grade

- Three sections: Critical Reading, Math, and Writing.
- Percentiles: Percentiles indicate the percentage of students whose scores fall below each specified score. Percentiles of juniors compare their performance with that of juniors who took the test. For freshmen and sophomores, percentiles compare their performance with that of sophomores.
- Selection Index: This is the sum of the critical reading, math, and writing scores and is used for qualification in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- National Merit Recognition: Of more than 1 million juniors who take the test, about 55,000 will qualify for recognition as a

Commended Student or Semi-Finalist.

- My College Quick Start: All student who took the PSAT have access to this online college planning website. Go to www.collegeboard.com/psatextra and use the access code found on your report.

AP—Advanced Placement—9-12th Grades

- After completing AP course work, students may register for these exams to take in May each year. College credit is often given for strong performance on these exams.

SAT—11th and 12th Grade

- Three sections: Critical Reading, Math, and Writing
- Subject tests: Some selective colleges/universities either recommend or require a student to take two or more subject tests or the Reasoning Test.
- Test Sites: UTK and local high schools

ACT—11th and 12th Grade

- Sections: English, Math, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Section
- Scoring: Range is from 1-36. The Composite scores is considered an "overall" score. There is no penalty for wrong answers so it is in the student's best

interest to answer ALL questions.

- Test Sites: CHS and other KCS high schools.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Colleges/universities will accept either the ACT or SAT. They do not look more "favorably" on one particular test.
- Typically, spring of the junior year is when a student begins taking college admissions tests. However, if a student is taking Algebra 2 in the fall semester, it may be a good idea to test near the end of that semester since students typically perform better at the completion of a math class.
- Students needing to take SAT Subject tests often take them in May or June because they have just prepared for and taken the AP exam in the same subjects.
- Registration for these tests may be done online (www.act.org or www.collegeboard.com).

