OTHS CONNECTS NIGHT
SOPHOMORE CLASS OF 2029

Presented by Shannon Lickenbrock
OTHS School Counseling Department

PRESENTATION KEY POINTS

- Overview of School Counseling Department
- Additional Supports at Smiley Campus
- Sophomore College/Career Planning
- Career Interest Inventories
- Junior Course Selection and Graduation Requirements
- Academic Eligibility and Policies
- College Credit Opportunities
- Standardized Testing

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
SMILEY COUNSELING TEAM

Mrs. Dismukes
Dept. Chair
A-B



Mr. Hayes
C – G



Mrs. Lickenbrock
H – L



Mrs. Schreffler
M – P



Mrs. Veath
Q-T



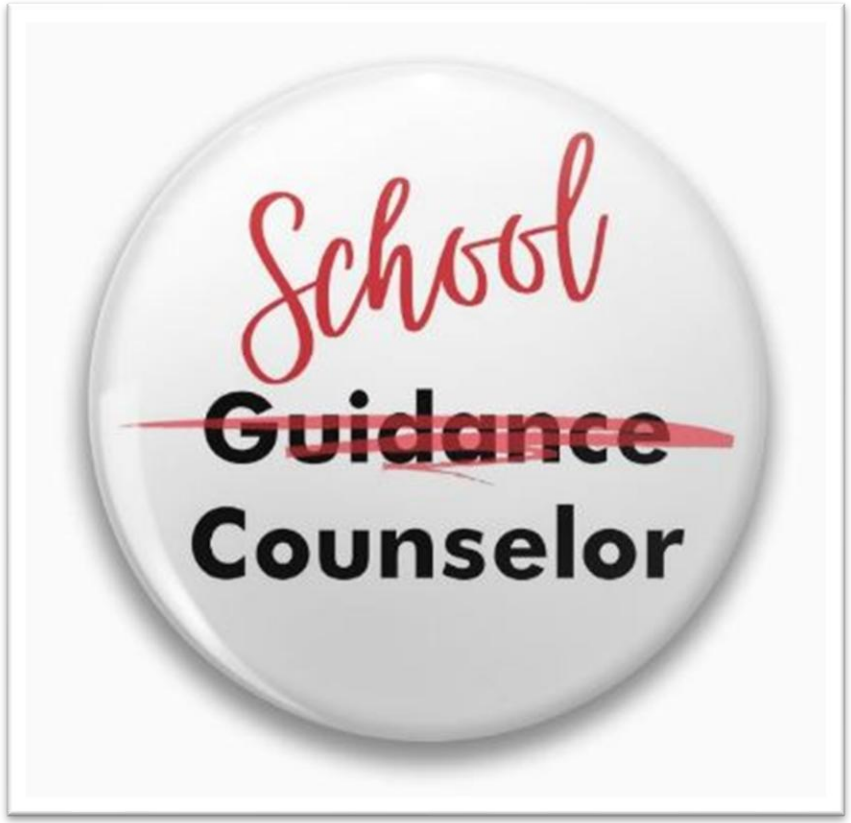
Mrs. Ritzel
U – Z



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES



Academic Planning

- Class Selection
- Post-Secondary Plans
- Credits and Grades

Academic Support

- Tutoring Resources
- Academic Assistance Center (AAC)
- Math Tutoring Lab (MTL)

College and Career Planning

- Academic and Career Goals
- Abilities and Interests
- Aptitude Assessments

Parental Support

- College Application Process
- FAFSA Completion Nights
- Referrals for Additional Supports





OTHS

Social Work

SOPHOMORE SOCIAL WORKERS MALLORY PRINDABLE & NICOLE FLAAR

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE CENTER

Are you struggling in classes?

Come to the AAC for help!

Walk-ins welcome after school!

Advisory hours by recommendation only

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Thursday Afternoons

Room 410

3:00pm-4:00pm

Bus transportation also available!

Visit http://www.oths.us/aac for more information

Email: AACSmiley@oths.us

OTHS

MATH TUTORING LAB



- Free Math Tutoring
- Open every day during advisory periods (3A, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B)!
  - *Attendance at the MTL will be on a recommendation only basis*

TITLE I SUPPORT

- Title I Course Offerings at OTHS include Appreciation of Literature, Appreciation of Rhetoric, US History, Written Communication, and World Literature
  - Courses offer additional support for students performing below grade level
  - Smaller class size, more one-on-one time teacher
- Essential Study Skills (ESS)
  - Additional support for all academic classes
  - Focus on study habits, test taking skills, student organization, etc.
- Academic Assistance Center (AAC)
  - Offers support in all academic subject areas
  - Open before and after school as well as during advisory
- Social Work Services
- IMC Services
- Opportunities for Parent Input
  - Conversations Over Coffee, Parent Teacher Advisory Committee, Board Meetings, Parent Nights

SOPHOMORE COLLEGE/CAREER PLANNING



- Focus on Academic
- Explore Interests & Careers
- Get Involved
- Research Colleges
- Start Learning About Colleges
- Use Summer Wisely
- Talk with Your Counselor & Family
- Keep Record

CAREER INTEREST INVENTORIES



- Pathful
- Illinois Career Information System (ILCIS)
- O*NET OnLine
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Illinois Work Net Center: (This one is free, but requires an account)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 21 credits and complete the minimum course requirements set by ISBE
  - 4 years English (2 years writing intensive/2 years non-specific ELA)
  - 3 years Math (1 year must be Algebra 1/1 year must be course that includes Geometry content)
  - 2 years Science (1 year must be life science/1 year must be physical science)
  - 2.5 years Social Studies (1 year US History/1 year social study electives/1 semester of Civics/Gov.)
  - 2 years PE
  - 1 year electives (2 semesters from Art, Music, World Language, or CTE)
  - 1 semester Personal Finance
  - 1 semester Health

COURSE SELECTION PROCESS

- **Advisory Presentation** – December 1st
  - Distribute course selection materials, review graduation requirements, review new courses and scheduling options
  - Parents/Guardians→ Take an active role and review the choice of classes with your student.
    - What are your student's interests?/ What are their goals for after high school?
- **Individual Meetings**: Students meet with their assigned school counselor December through February.
- **Schedule Changes and Deadlines**
  - A student may make changes to their future year schedule ***prior*** to the first day of school in Aug. 2027.
  - Once a semester starts, students may not make changes to their current semester courses.
- **Dual Credit Opportunities** are available at OTHS, as well as AP courses
  - OTHS Website
  - Curriculum Guide

DROPPING CLASSES & WITHDRAWAL DATES

- How to request dropping a course **on or after first day of attendance**:
  - Meet with school counselor to ensure dropping will not jeopardize graduation requirements or eligibility
  - Drop slip must be completed by both teacher, student and parent/guardian
  - Drop slip returned to school counselor with all signatures and student moved into study hall
- Important Withdrawal Dates:
  - 1st day of attendance – 10th day: course withdrawn without reflection on transcript
  - 11th day – end of 9-weeks: receive "W" on transcript
  - After 9th weeks:
    - If passing, receive "WP" on transcript. "WP" grades not calculated in GPA
    - If failing, receive "WF" on transcript. "WF" grades **ARE CALCULATED** in GPA

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- IHSA Eligibility Requirements
  - Weekly: Students must be passing at least 5 academic classes (equivalent to 2.5 credits) each week to remain eligible for athletic, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.
  - Semester: Students must pass a minimum of 5 academic classes (equivalent to 2.5 credits) each semester to maintain eligibility for the following semester.
- Ineligible Students
  - Regular meetings with school counselor
  - Summer School opportunities (can allow a student to regain eligibility for the fall semester)
  - On-Site PACE credit recovery coursework (does not count towards eligibility)

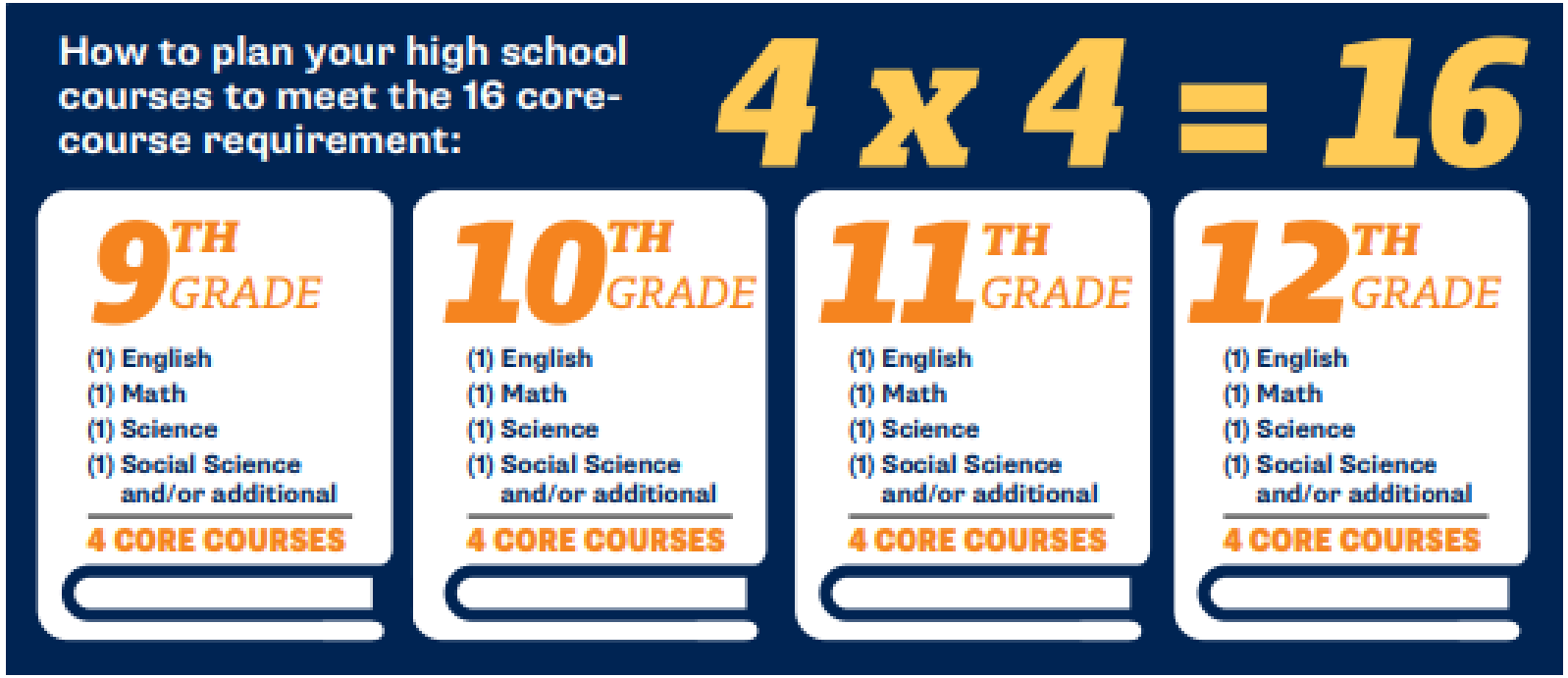
NCAA ELIGIBILITY

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is an organization dedicated to providing a pathway to opportunity for college athletes.

There are three NCAA Divisions:

- Division I, Division II and Division III

If you want to compete at an NCAA D1 or D2 school, you must meet academic and/or amateurism standards set by NCAA members.



NCAA eligibility is a wholistic process, involving the student, parents/guardians, school counselor, high school athletic coaching staff, NCAA eligibility center staff and post-secondary institutions. More information about NCAA eligibility can be found on our Guidance website.

COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

- SLU 1818 Classes
- Dual Credit Classes
- Advanced Placement Classes (AP)
- Running Start

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE

SLU 1818 Advanced College Credit Program

AP CollegeBoard Advanced Placement Program

Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC)

- Advanced Applications (Excel/Access)
- Advanced Applications (Word Processing)
- Advanced Digital Marketing
- AP United States History
- Carpentry/Construction
- Computer Programming/Networking/ Cybersecurity
- Technical Drawing & Engineering Design
- Drafting & Engineering Design
- Engineering Design - CAD1
- Welding 1
- Foundations of Multimedia Prod. & Comm.
- Yearbook Design

CEO Program

- Only available senior year
- Local Partnership w/surrounding schools
- Meet with local business professionals to develop class and individual businesses!
- See our CEO Facilitator tonight!

CAVC Program

- JR/SR interested in vocational fields (auto to cosmetology)
- Skills learned to go directly to work or continue at college

And Many More!

COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Saint Louis University – 1818 Program



- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Chemistry
- AP Language & Composition (Sr.)
- AP Statistics

COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Advanced Placement Courses

- AP Music Theory
- AP Physics 1
- AP Physics 2
- AP Chemistry
- AP Biology
- AP Literature and Composition (Jr.)
- AP Language and Composition (Sr.)
- AP Pre Calculus
- AP Calculus AB & BC
- AP Statistics
- AP European History
- AP Studio Art: Drawing
- AP 3D Art & Design
- AP United States History
- AP Psychology (Sr.)
- AP Macroeconomics
- AP French Language and Culture
- AP German Language and Culture
- AP Spanish Language and Culture

COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

RUNNING START

- Dual Enrollment program for qualified high school students to attend Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) for their junior and senior years.
- Meets requirements for both high school diploma and an Associate of Art or Science degree from Southwestern Illinois College simultaneously.
- Maximum of 20 students per grade level; selected during sophomore year for enrollment in their junior and senior years.

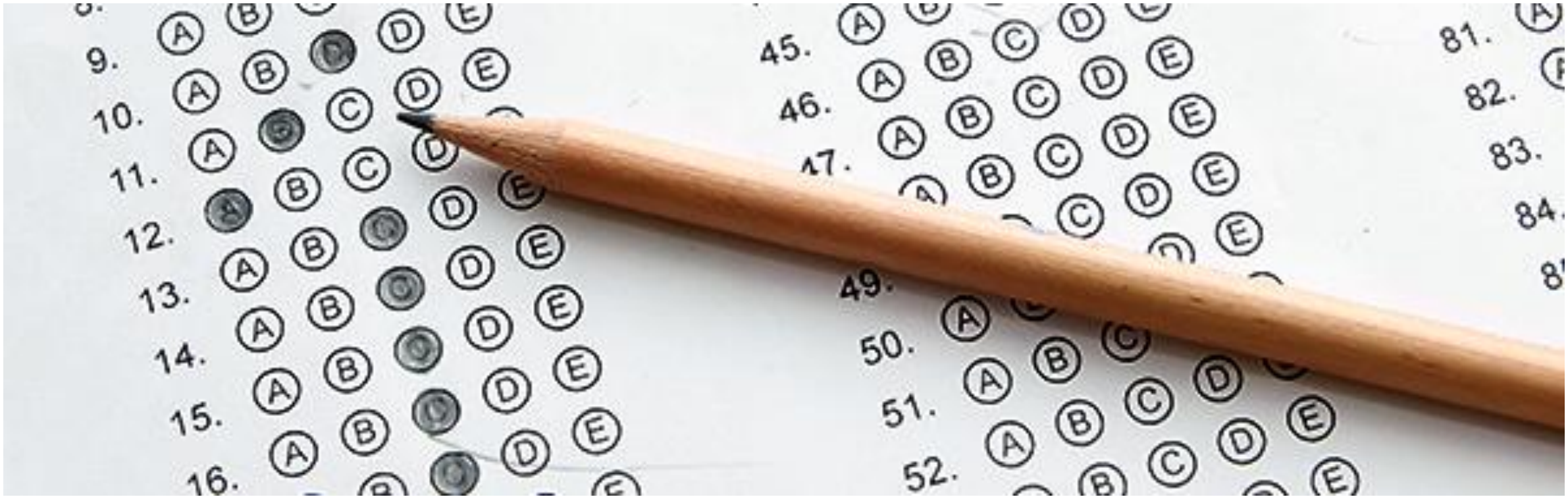
RUNNING START-OTHS HS ELIGIBILITY

OTHS

- Cumulative GPA of 3.7
- Completed one year of high school Honors Geometry with a B or higher
- Attend OTHS during the second semester of their sophomore year
- On-track for HS graduation
- Test into college English and math



- Complete SWIC application
- Completes all Running Start forms
- College-ready English and math placement based on SWIC placement criteria



STANDARDIZED TESTING

preACT10

The preACT10 will be taken by all sophomores on campus on Wednesday, April 14, 2027. Benefits in taking the preACT10 includes:

- Practice for the ACT
- Can see improved student readiness for college and careers
- Provides baseline for measuring growth and determine improvement efforts
- Optional testing includes PSAT/NMSQT, ASVAB and AP exams

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
Aug. 22, 2026	Aug. 7, 2026	Aug. 11, 2026
Sept. 12, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026 Register	Sept. 1, 2026
Oct. 3, 2026	Sept. 18, 2026 Register	Sept. 22, 2026
Nov. 7, 2026	Oct. 23, 2026 Register	Oct. 27, 2026
Dec. 5, 2026	Nov. 20, 2026 Register	Nov. 24, 2026
March 6, 2027	Feb. 19, 2027	Feb. 23, 2027
May 1, 2027	Apr. 16, 2027	April 20, 2027
June 5, 2027	May 21, 2027	May 25, 2027

CollegeBoard

SAT Weekend August 2026–June 2027 Test Dates

TEST PREP RESOURCES

SYLVAN LEARNING CENTER

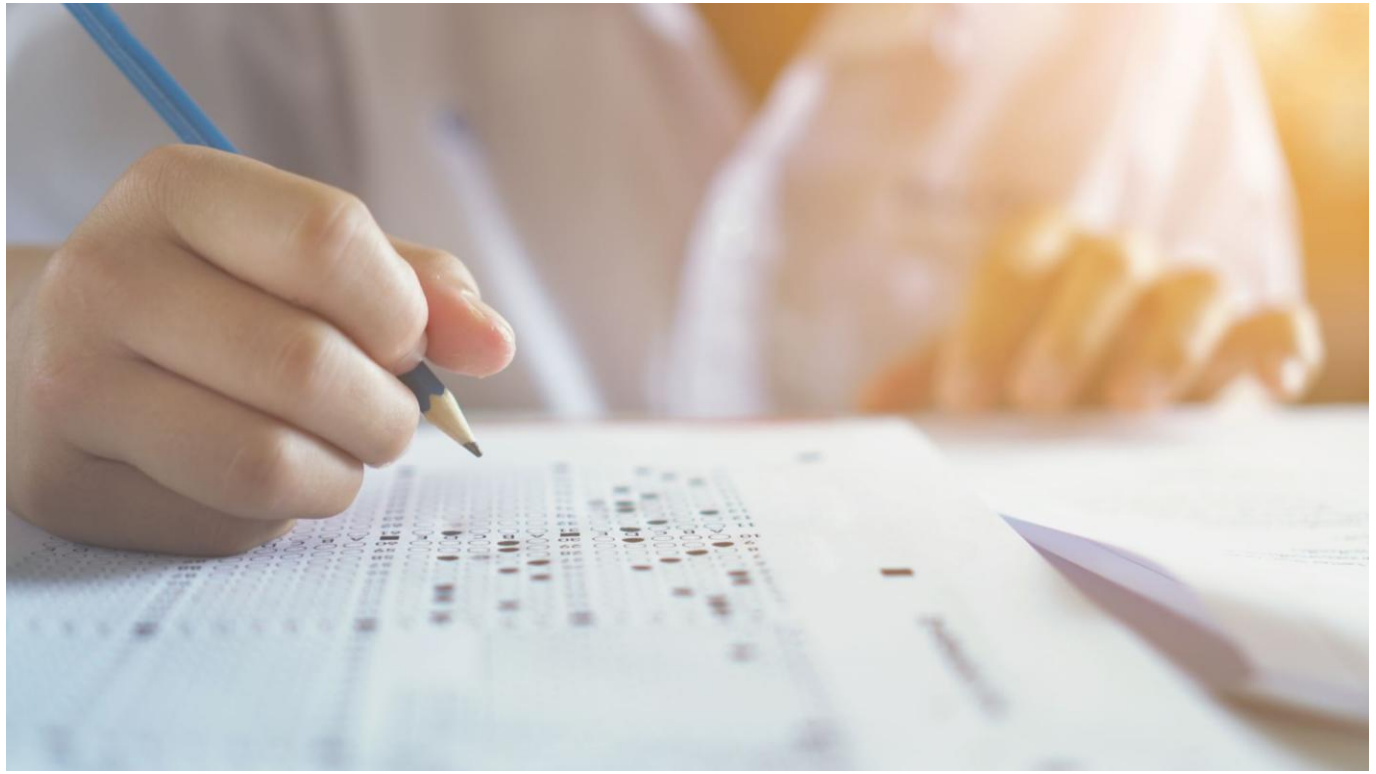
- O'FALLON, IL
- GLEN CARBON, IL

COLLEGE PREPARATION STATION

- MARYVILLE, IL

MATHNASIUM

- O'FALLON, IL



WHERE TO NEXT?



📌 **Review your student's schedule on Skyward to find room numbers. Administrators will be in the halls to help locate classrooms.**

OTHS teachers will be available in their classrooms from 6:30pm – 7:30pm

- Free- Flowing = No Bell Schedule
- Families may move at their own pace and visit teachers in any order.
- This is a **Meet and Greet** format where you can introduce yourself, share contact information, and teachers can briefly share information about their classes.
- Please do not form lines in the hallways → More than one parent can be in a classroom at a time.

⚠️ Please note: Teachers and counselors will **not** be available for extended meetings or one-on-one conferences. Parents are encouraged to follow up via email with specific questions.