**GUIIDELINES FOR SENIORS**

**2016-2017**

From the Bement Guidance Department

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER**

 \*Participate in conference with counselor concerning post-graduation plans

 \*Columbus Day Open Houses at most state schools

\*Complete online applications (preferred); guidance office does have Parkland paper applications

 \*Get applications completed as soon as possible (return to Guidance Office for

transcript and letters of recommendation if applicable and a stamp); if applying online you must notify guidance office to send your transcript

 \*Take ACT on Oct. 22; must register by Sept. 16.

 \*U of I will take applications from Aug. 24 to Oct. 1 for early decisions.

 \*Plan to apply to state schools.

\*Attend Financial Aid Night here on Sept. 19 at 6:00 p.m.

\*Complete FAFSA starting Oct. 1.

**NOVEMBER**

 \*Continue visiting with college reps

 \*Plan with your parents for college visits. Some Open Houses are planned

 on Veteran's Day.

\*Register by Nov. 4 for Dec. 10 ACT if applying to a school with a late admission or open door policy.

**DECEMBER**

 \*Take ACT on Dec. 10 if registered

 \*Prepare for semester exams. Grades are still important to keep semester

 averages high. A final transcript will be sent to the college you attend.

**FEBRUARY to end of year.**

 \*Applications still accepted by some colleges (mostly private and community

 colleges) CHECK DEADLINES!

 \*March 1 is the priority date for some state college financial aid forms--first come

 first served on some monies.

**MAY**

 \*Eighth semester final class rank is recorded on transcript and it is sent to colleges

 you plan to attend.

**ONGOING**

 \*Watch for deadlines on housing contracts and financial aid. Check with your

 college. Also check with the department of your major for special monies.

To: Seniors 2016-17

From: Guidance

ACT TEST DATES REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Oct. 22, 2016 (SR) Sept. 16, 2016

Dec. 10, 2016 (SR) Nov. 4, 2016

Feb. 11, 2017 Jan. 13, 2017

April 8, 2017 (JR) March 3, 2017

June 10, 2017 (JR) May 5, 2017

ACT fee is $42.50. You may register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

With Writing: $58.50

 Contact ACT at 319-337-1270 Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm.

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**School Code 140-280.**

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SAT TEST DATES REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Oct. 1, 2016 Sept. 1, 2016

Nov. 5, 2016 Oct. 7, 2016

Dec. 3, 2016 Nov. 3, 2016

Jan. 21, 2017 Dec. 21, 2016

Mar. 11, 2017 Feb. 10, 2017

May 6, 2017 Apr. 7, 2017

Jun. 3, 2017 May 9, 2017

SAT fee is $45. You may register at sat.org/register.

With Writing: $57.

Contact SAT at 866-392-4086.

The Bement High School code 140-280 must be recorded on all forms.

**COLLEGE DAYS—CAREER DAYS—MILITARY DAYS**

1. Do not miss school unless it is NECESSARY.
2. Parent permission must be in the guidance office at least two days before you go.
3. No visits after the end of April except for placement tests or recruitment.
4. A maximum of 2 days are allowed.

**COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

1. **Apply early**. Most schools prefer you apply online.
2. Notify guidance office when you apply so your transcript can be sent.
3. If a recommendation is needed, give notice at least 3 days.
4. Take note of entrance requirements (ACT, class rank, core subjects). Don’t pay application fees to schools where you will not be accepted.
5. Most schools take housing applications before sending acceptance letters. Don’t wait! Housing may fill up early.
6. FAFSA can be completed starting Oct. 1.

**COLLEGE REPS**

1. Attend as many as you want but be prepared for them to ask you questions. You should also have questions for them.
2. Permission slips **must be turned in one day ahead of each visit.**
3. Teachers do not have to give permission to attend. Be sure to check on assignments you miss during that class time.

**FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

1. National and state scholarships are posted on the bulletin board outside the guidance office.
2. Local scholarship info will be given to you in April.

Free federal and state financial aid forms (FAFSA) are available online starting in October. The address is fafsa.gov. You and your parents need to have your income taxes figured before you apply.