

TO: Freshman Parents/Guardians  
FROM: College Career Counselors – Mrs. Haley (A – K), Mrs. Parkins (L – Z)  
DATE: August 2010  
RE: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Focus

The Comprehensive Guidance Program at Saint Joseph High School assists students in acquiring and using life-long learning skills in a developmental systematic format. As College Career Counselors we utilize the American School Counselors Association (ASCA) National Standards as a guide. Our focus during the freshman year includes:

- Academic expectations and requirements that apply freshman year

College A-G Requirements:

Category A – History/Social Science	2 years required
Category B – English	4 years required
Category C – Mathematics	3 years required, 4 recommended
Category D – Laboratory Science	2 years required, 3 recommended
Category E – Language Other than English	2 years required, 3 recommended
Category F– Visual and Performing Arts	1 year required in the same area
Category G – Elective	1 year required

Saint Joseph High School Graduation Requirements:

Social Studies	3 years	Foreign Language	2 years
English	4 years	Physical Education	1 year
Mathematics	3 years	Health	1 semester
Science	2 years	Computer Science	1 semester
Visual & Performing Arts	1 year	Religious Studies	4 years

9<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses: Religion, English, Math, Foreign Language, Physical Education, Health, Visual & Performing Arts or VPA and Computers

- Involvement in athletics and extracurricular activities – [www.sj-jester.org](http://www.sj-jester.org)
- Christian Service – Religion Teacher/Campus Ministry Team – 2 service projects per year
- Standardized Testing – October 13<sup>th</sup> – EXPLORE  
The EXPLORE assesses academic development and is constructed with common features of the ACT – curriculum basis, content areas, score scales, interest inventory, educational profile, student needs, thus providing a comprehensive base of guidance information.

Family Connection/Naviance – Second semester students will be given an access code to use this program. Students can log on through the Saint Joseph web site and access colleges, careers, SAT test preparation, and eventually apply for college.