

Sophomores and Sophomore Parents,

Greetings from the School Counseling Department! We hope this letter answers some common questions sophomores and their parents have. Please take full advantage of our school counseling website as we provide a lot of information for parents and students. The website is located at <https://bentonschoolcounseling.wordpress.com/>.

Sophomore year is a great year for “dreaming” about the future. We encourage students to begin making lists of potential colleges that they might like to attend, and to research those colleges via the web and by initiating contact via the mail, email, and the web. It is important to have conversations between students and parents regarding college options. We encourage students and parents to utilize two websites for college and career planning. The 1st website is <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/> where students can complete career inventories and find colleges that match those careers. The second website is Iowa specific, and can be found by googling “Iowa Career Coach.” We also provide a career and college organizer for every student and spend time on this site to keep career and college plans updated. Students, please share with your parents your Naviance information. Naviance is located on student chromebooks. Students need to click on the 9 dots on the top right hand side of the screen, and then scroll down until the purple NA symbol is located. Contact Mr. Cretin or Mrs. Nesbitt with questions or concerns related to Naviance.

Sophomores need to focus on keeping their grades up and remaining involved in school activities. College admissions counselors look at all four years of a student transcript when making admissions decisions. Admissions counselors are also looking for well-rounded individuals, so it is important to maintain involvement with school activities.

Each year, students will review and revise their 4 –year plan in December, and then register for high school classes online in January. Students should consider their 4-year plans as a roadmap through their high school career. The 4-year plan is a fluid document that can change, but we want all students to have an idea of where they are headed in terms of coursework. Schedule changes can be made throughout the year. Students must email Mr. Cretin or Mrs. Nesbitt to change a schedule and must adhere to deadlines. Schedule change requests are processed in the order they are received. Further information can be found by going to www.benton.k12.ia.us, clicking on school counselors, and then clicking on Schedule Changes. Counselors monitor graduation progress closely and course changes will not be made if they jeopardize graduation progress.

We look forward to a great class of 2025, and please contact Mr. Cretin or Mrs. Nesbitt at 228-8701 or acretin@benton.k12.ia.us or nnesbitt@benton.k12.ia.us with any questions or concerns.

Mr. Cretin, Mrs. Nesbitt, and Mrs. Bear