

Dear Junior Parent,

The 2018-19 academic year is off to a great start! As your junior's English teacher and career exploration coordinator, I want to share just a brief update about a couple of important topics.

The junior year is such a pivotal one, with a number of standardized tests including the ACT, PSAT, ASVAB and Common Core. All juniors will be taking a free practice ACT on Thursday, September 27th at 8:30 am in the auditorium. This test will establish a baseline from which students can set goals for improvement. Please be sure your junior gets good sleep the night before and eats breakfast that morning. Juniors nationwide will also be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 10th. Your junior can tell you more about that exam, which is a scholarship qualifying exam.

Juniors have also begun the career exploration process. Students completed numerous self-assessments and inventories to help them start matching interests and passions with potential careers. For 20+ years, West Central has run a career exploration program through our English department. By the time they get to be juniors, students have the opportunity to job shadow in a career of interest. The junior job shadows serve as a springboard to a potential senior internship. We do numerous follow up activities that correspond to English Language Arts content standards including resume writing, conducting a face-to-face interview, writing a thank you letter and a job shadow journal.

West Central's Career Link Coordinator Kristy Jackson has visited with all of our juniors and will soon begin the process of placing your junior in a shadow. Please take a few minutes to visit with your junior about his/her shadow. We will need your permission for participation. Below is the link to the online permission form. Please complete by Friday, September 7th.

To learn more about West Central's career program and to hear about where recent West Central graduates job shadowed, check out a class project created by one of my junior classes. They wrote the script, did the filming and editing, utilized our library's new drones, and surprised me with their efforts! I'm looking forward to working with your juniors this year as we focus on the future! If you have questions or concerns, please email me at [Karin.Renner@k12.sd.us](mailto:Karin.Renner@k12.sd.us).

Career Link Video Project: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q\\_WAxGqFxFg&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_WAxGqFxFg&t=1s)

Online Permission Form: <https://goo.gl/forms/eMC7sqMCZ92IQqEo1>