

# AIMS Times



ADVENTURES IN MATH & SCIENCE

Volume 11, Issue 6

September 2011

## Director's Chair



Greetings AIMS Family!

I hope each of you enjoyed viewing the summer highlight videos that we sent you last month! There were some great moments captured on film! I enjoyed looking at tall of the Adventures we took part in over the summer! As you settle into the school year remember to stay focused (keep your eyes on the prize)! I want each of you to excel academically. Make sure you balance out your social life with your

academic life. This will make things easier for you during this school year and in life.

You should have received a link for the online test taking workshop we have scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month. If you did not receive the link, please contact the AIMS office ASAP. We need to make sure that each of you is able to access the workshop on this day. The workshop will be conducted in real time! This will be operated through the MSU Blackboard online campus environment. For those of you have never participated in an online class or video or teleconference, this will be a great opportunity to not only learn the material about the upcoming national test but to

get experience with online education.

Have a great month! We look forward to seeing you as we visit your schools over the following months!

Yours in education,

*Doris*

### Special points of interest:

- ACT PREP INFORMATION
- FORENSIC SCIENCE
- SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

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## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

MARTINE LOPEZ

TERRISHA MAYES

MEGAN MINTON

QUAYVON SANDERS

JADE TOWNSLEY



# AIMS Times

## Coordinator's Corner—AIMS 1



Hello AIMS!

It's hard to believe that another school year is up and running and Evan and I are making plans to visit your schools in the near future! The AIMS Office has been hard at work welcoming back our Murray State family and preparing for Summer 2012. Seniors, you should have received an informational Bridge Packet with very important materials for you to fill out and return to me. If

you are a Bridge Student that has not received a packet, please contact the AIMS Office as soon as possible so that I can mail the packet to you.

Please work hard this semester and prepare yourselves for all of the upcoming tests. Sophomores should be gearing up for the ACT PLAN while juniors are preparing for the PSAT and ACT. Seniors, you should be preparing to retake the ACT

and getting college applications ready if needed.

Always remember that we are here if you need assistance. We look forward to catching you all online next Saturday during our 1st Webinar!

Sincerely,

*Stephen D. Keene,*

Coordinator  
AIMS I

A MAN SOONER

OR LATER  
DISCOVERS THAT  
HE IS THE MASTER  
-GARDENER OF  
HIS SOUL, THE  
DIRECTOR OF HIS  
LIFE.  
JAMES ALLEN

## Coordinator's Corner—AIMS 2

Greetings AIMS Family!

I hope you have all gotten off to a great start to school this year. Please remember to take advantage of the free live homework help on the McCracken County Public Library web page. If you haven't sent your library card application back to the AIMS office please do so ASAP so you can access the homework help. If you need another application you can give me a call or shoot me an email.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the AIMS ACT Workshop on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. We are trying something new that we think you all will enjoy. The workshop will be completely online and is totally interactive. You will be able to ask questions (by "raising your hand"), "LOL", give "thumbs up" (or down), give applause, and all sorts of stuff. All the while learning valuable information about the ACT so you can be ahead of the

curve in the college admissions process (you want to get ahead, right?). We will send a link for the workshop to your email account, so keep an eye out.

"See" you all on September the 10<sup>th</sup>! Call or email me with any questions.

*Evan O'Neal,*

Coordinator

AIMS II

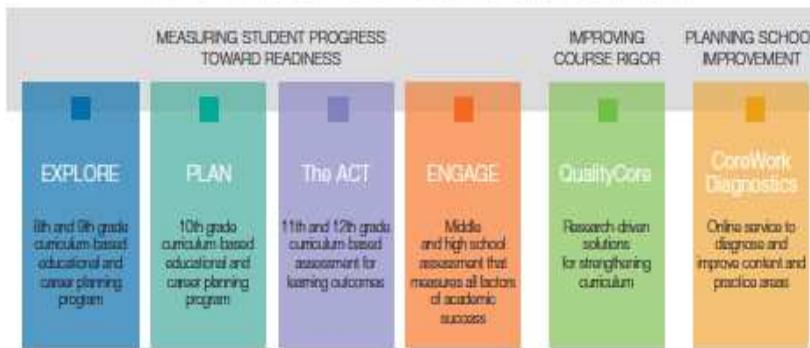


## College and Career Readiness System

# At a Glance

The ACT College and Career Readiness System provides a longitudinal approach to educational and career planning through student assessment, curriculum support, and school improvement. Our research-based solutions help schools, districts, and states improve academic measurement, student readiness, and instructional designs.

### ACT's College and Career Readiness System



#### EXPLORE®

Designed to help 8th and 9th graders explore a broad range of options for their future, EXPLORE is a curriculum-based educational and career planning program that measures achievement in English, math, reading, and science. As an early indicator of college readiness, EXPLORE gives educators the means to structure high school planning and career exploration for students and parents.

#### PLAN®

PLAN helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success. PLAN is a curriculum-based educational and career planning program that measures achievement in English, math, reading, and science. PLAN is designed to help 10th graders build rigorous high school course plans and identify areas of academic need so they can stay on track for college and work success.

#### The ACT®

The ACT is designed to assess 11th and 12th graders' general learning outcomes. The ACT is a curriculum-based educational and career planning tool that assesses mastery of state and college readiness standards. Accepted by all four-year colleges and universities, it is the college entrance test most preferred nationwide.

#### ENGAGE

Suitable for middle and high school students and educators, ENGAGE is an ACT assessment that measures behaviors that affect academic success. ENGAGE captures students' perceptions of themselves, their families' commitment to education, school-related factors, and important biographical information.

#### QualityCore®

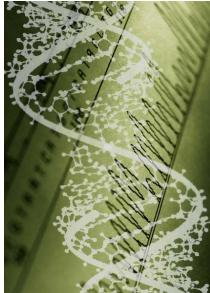
Compatible with all high school core subjects, QualityCore is a research-driven solution used to raise the quality and intensity of high school core courses. QualityCore supports your current curriculum through rigorous ACT Course Standards, instructional resources, a formative item pool, end-of-course assessments, progress monitoring, and professional development.

#### CoreWork® Diagnostics

CoreWork Diagnostics is a research-based school improvement program designed to help district, school, and core content leaders prioritize their initiatives and create concrete strategies to increase student learning. The online program brings together more than 10 years of research on higher-performing schools and provides leaders with actionable steps and a map for systemwide improvement.

DO NOT DWELL  
IN THE PAST, DO  
NOT DREAM OF  
THE FUTURE,  
CONCENTRATE  
THE MIND ON  
THE PRESENT  
MOMENT.  
BUDDHA



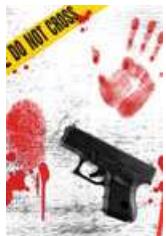


AND THIS, OUR LIFE,  
EXEMPT FROM  
PUBLIC HAUNT,  
FINDS TONGUES IN  
TREES, BOOKS IN  
THE RUNNING  
BROOKS, SERMONS  
IN STONES, AND  
GOOD IN  
EVERYTHING.  
**WILLIAM**  
**SHAKESPEARE**



## Forensic Science Careers Are Hot!

### WARNING: Don't Read This if You're Squeamish



Spent bullets. Maggots. Blood spatters. Crime scene evidence can be gruesome. But if you're passionate about science and can stomach the gory details, there are many great forensic science careers that might be just what you're looking for.

Using science to help identify criminals and analyze evidence against them, forensic scientists are detectives with microscopes. From matching shell casings to the gun that fired them, to using hair samples to identify a suspect, forensic scientists help determine the facts of a legal case. Forensic science careers offer criminal justice jobs that will really keep you busy.

Forensic evidence is often center stage during criminal trials, but it can be hard to understand. That's why forensic scientists are needed: they act as expert witnesses to explain scientific evidence to legal personnel, judges and juries.

Forensic scientists are sometimes also referred to as [criminalists](#), and the field is sometimes called criminalistics. While they may not be exactly as they appear on TV, forensic science careers do play a crucial role in our legal system.

### What Forensic Scientists Really Do

Due to the popularity of shows like *CSI* and *Law and Order*, forensic science careers are hotter than ever. But misconceptions about the field are widespread.

Forensic scientists essentially do two things:

- They analyze physical evidence collected at crime scenes
- They provide expert forensic testimony before and during trials

When a crime is committed, investigators collect evidence such as blood, hair samples and other trace evidence, and send it to crime labs to be examined. Forensic scientists use chemical and biological techniques to analyze the evidence and document their findings.

They then prepare reports on their findings and provide expert opinions for people within the judicial system. Forensics experts must accurately document everything they do so that their testimony holds up in court. If this field interests you, find a [forensic science school](#) and start your studies today.

### Forensic Science Careers

- There are many [forensic science schools](#) and career options to go with them. Forensic scientists can work in any one of the following fields:
- They can become forensic scientists and work in a forensics lab evaluating trace evidence and poisons, sometimes presenting their findings at trial.
- Those more interested in computers and technology can work in the world of [computer forensics](#), scouring deleted hard drives for evidence that will help convict criminals.
- Students interested in psychology can work in [forensic psychology](#). Forensic psychologists evaluate the psychological state of those on trial, convicts seeking parole, and witnesses, who may or may not be telling the truth.
- Finally, there are [forensic pathologist](#) careers for students with a more scientific bent who want to learn how to identify human remains.

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All of these forensic science careers are important in the realm of [criminal justice](#). Learn more about forensic specialties by clicking on the links above.

## Forensic Scientist Workplaces

Forensic science careers offer a variety of job opportunities. Forensic scientists work in the forensic labs of [police departments](#), sheriffs' offices, district attorneys' offices, regional and state agencies, medical examiners' offices, private companies, colleges and universities.

They may also find employment in:

- Hospitals
- Toxicology labs
- Federal law enforcement agencies such as the DEA and the FBI

## Forensic Science Job Growth and Salary

Forensic science careers are increasingly popular. There were 12,870 forensic scientists in the U.S. in 2009 and according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), job growth for forensic scientists will increase by 20 percent or more between 2008 and 2018.

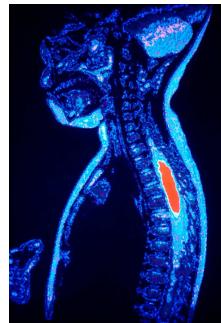
Most work for local governments (7,140), followed by state governments (4,290), hospitals, investigation and security services, and labs.

As of May 2009, forensic scientists earned an average salary of \$55,070. The top 25 percent earned \$66,240 and the top 10 percent earned \$84,260.

However, the highest paid forensic science technicians work for the federal government. They earn an average annual salary of \$92,100, according to the BLS.

Salaries vary depending on your specific forensic science career. Read about salaries for [forensic psychologists](#) and [computer forensics experts](#).

If you're interested in any of these salaries or specialties, get the [best forensics training](#) you can and start your forensic science career today.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

EARTH AND SKY,  
WOODS AND  
FIELDS, LAKES AND  
RIVERS, THE  
MOUNTAIN AND THE  
SEA, ARE EXCELLENT  
SCHOOLMASTERS,  
AND TEACH SOME  
OF US MORE THAN  
WE CAN EVER LEARN  
FROM BOOKS.  
JOHN LUBBOCK



Caption describing picture or graphic.

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## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

### **September**

10<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 12:00pm  
ACT/Test Taking Workshop  
(ONLINE) MSU Blackboard  
29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> MSU Fall Break

### **November**

5<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 1:00pm  
Bridge Workshop I  
251 Blackburn Science  
Building  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Break

### **February**

4<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Financial Aid/Scholarship Workshop  
– Bridge Workshop II  
251 Blackburn Science Building

### **April**

21<sup>st</sup> 9:00am – 12:00pm  
Orientation  
251 Blackburn Science Building

### **May**

28<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm – 4:00pm  
Bridge 2012 Move-In Day  
TBA  
29<sup>th</sup> Summer Classes Begin

### **June**

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Bridge Weekend  
10<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Move-In Day  
27<sup>th</sup> Bridge Graduation  
28<sup>th</sup> Cultural Extravaganza  
29<sup>th</sup> Closing Symposium  
29<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup> End of Summer Trip -  
TBA