



Shelby Senior High School
Guidance Department
Mike Grady, Counselor
Grades 11~12

2007 ~ 2008
November 16, 2007
Cindy Roby, Counselor
Grades 9~10

GUIDANCE UPDATE ~ FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION
(December 14, 2007)

All links can be found on the guidance website. Additionally, there are other informative links on the guidance website that are not mentioned here. I believe it is important for you, the student, and a parent to attend the financial aid information night on January 17 (note new date).

A word regarding the FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is your access to need-based financial aid. I suggest you complete the FAFSA even if you think you will not qualify for any need-based aid. The primary reason is that income and asset thresholds rise each year. Even if you had a sibling who did not qualify, you may. Additionally, if you have an older sibling still in college next year, the EFC will be effectively cut in half from when only one student was in school. Also, a number of the scholarships in the second phase of the local scholarship process require you to include a Student Aid Report (SAR). It is to your advantage to include this document which can only be created by completing the FAFSA. A useful tool, new this year is the FAFSA4caster at: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov.

A word regarding local scholarship requirements: The description of the local scholarships is, in most cases, submitted by the awarding entity. Sometimes criteria are included that the awarding entity considers, but does not necessarily use entirely in awarding the scholarship. You should check with Mr. Grady if you wish to discuss the applicability of certain criteria to your circumstances.

EVENT/TASK	TIMELINE	NOTES
Apply for PIN	December through filing your FAFSA	A parent and the student should apply for the Personal Identification Number to sign the FAFSA when completing it on the web. www.pin.ed.gov
Complete applications to colleges/universities	Before you complete the FAFSA	While I encourage you to complete the application process for those schools in which you are interested as soon as possible, the FAFSA actually asks which schools should be sent the information. If information is sent to the schools from the Department of Education, and you have not applied, you will not be offered a financial aid package from that college/university.
Find out the priority filing deadline for the FAFSA for the schools to which you applied	December and January	You can find this out on the college/university website or I can find it for you. You should submit your FAFSA by this deadline; however a student who does not meet a school's priority deadline should still file the FAFSA. A school's use of a priority deadline does not necessarily mean less aid after the deadline.
Complete the FAFSA	After January 1, 2008 and before your school's priority filing deadline.	I strongly encourage you to complete the FAFSA on the web: www.fafsa.ed.gov . Students are able to obtain a paper FAFSA by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or by visiting www.edpubs.org . Paper FAFSAs are no longer sent to schools.



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Complete your federal tax returns	After January 1, 2008 and before you complete the FAFSA	Completion of federal tax returns for both the student and parent makes completing the FAFSA much easier. However, if this is not possible, it is more important to complete the FAFSA by the priority filing deadline. Use final year pay stubs and/or W-2 forms.
Attend the financial aid information night at Shelby High School	Thursday, January 17 at 6:30. (This is a change from the original January 16 date.)	Mr. Hank Thomas, Director of Admissions at OSU-Mansfield will present. (Mr. Lawrence Matthews is recovering from an accident and is unable to present at Shelby this year.) The information meeting will last about 90 minutes. I encourage parents <i>and students</i> to attend.
College Goal Sunday	Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 2:00pm	This event, held at 38 sites around the state, offers help in completing the FAFSA form. North Central State College is a site. For further information and to register go to: www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org
Apply for Richland County Foundation Scholarship Grants	Beginning in January. Deadline for the foundation to receive scholarship applications is April 1, 2008	Richland County Foundation's undergraduate college scholarships are based on financial need. Students must be attending an accredited college or university on a full-time basis, maintain primary residency in Richland County, Ohio. New applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 to apply. www.richlandcountyfoundation.org/grantseekers/scholarshipgrants.html
Begin Phase One of the local scholarship process	December 14, 2007	Students were given a local scholarship update on December 14. Most scholarships in this phase require the standard application form found at: www.shelbyk12.org/shs/Guidance . Students should begin completing applications for the appropriate local scholarships.
Return Phase One local scholarship applications	January 25, 2008	All materials for phase one of the local scholarship process should be returned directly to Mr. Grady or Mrs. Dick by this date.
Begin Phase Two of the local scholarship process	February 22, 2008	Information for phase two will be distributed on this date.
Return Phase Two local scholarship applications	March 28, 2008	Phase two scholarships will require considerably more materials than phase one. This will require your utmost attention.

Definitions:

FAFSA ~ Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The gateway to all need based financial aid.

SAR ~ Student Aid Report. Produced by completing the FAFSA. Contains the EFC.

EFC ~ Expected Family Contribution. The EFC is a measure of your family's financial strength and indicates how much of your and your family's financial resources should be available to help pay for your education. You should think of the EFC as an index that colleges use to determine how much financial aid you would receive if you were to attend their school.