

## **GUIDANCE UPDATE (NOVEMBER 18, 2008)**

Seniors: You will note that every item on this update applies to you. Kindly read this update carefully and share it with your parents/guardians. Also, you may want to locate your *College Admission Process* handout that I gave you in September (the first page is a timeline of your tasks this year). If you lost it, I can give you another copy. As always, see me for questions or issues.—Mr. Grady

### **COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

As of November 18, I have sent 51 mailings containing your application credentials to various colleges and universities. I have transmitted supporting documents via the internet for two students. That is a very good number, indicating that many of you are not procrastinating. However, many of you have yet to send any application materials. Perhaps the Thanksgiving break will be a good opportunity for you to complete an application on-line or on-paper.

I remind you to let me know when you apply on-line so that I may send the proper supporting documents. I note when a document is sent and you should check with me to verify that it has indeed been sent.

*In general*, I do not recommend committing to a school before you are aware of the financial aid you may be awarded, but your situation may dictate otherwise. Be aware that any acceptance fee or deposit needs to be fully refundable from the college/university up until May 1, 2009. See me if you have questions.

I appreciate knowing when you have decisions from colleges/universities.

Finally, I remind you again to be aware of deadlines. Check the university website or see me.

### **LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Recall from our meeting in September and the handout you received at that time, the local scholarship program will be administered in two phases this year. The first phase will begin on Monday, December 15. Information will be presented at the financial aid meeting on that day.

### **FINANCIAL AID MEETING PART 1**

I will meet with seniors during homeroom on Monday, December 15 to discuss information regarding financial aid and local scholarships. PSEOP students should plan to attend since your classes for the quarter will be completed.

### **FINANCIAL AID MEETING PART 2**

As you were informed in your college admission packet in September, the evening financial aid information session is scheduled for Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 P.M. in the Dave Jones Little Theater. This program is for STUDENTS along with your parents. A financial aid administrator from an area college will be presenting information, so you will get a different perspective on this important subject. Since YOU are the individual receiving the financial aid (rather than your parents), I encourage YOU to plan on attending. Since your parents/guardians have a vital interest in this information also, please encourage them to attend.

## **FAFSA AND PIN NUMBERS**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is your gateway to need-based college financial aid. I will go into more detail at our December 15 meeting. Further and more specific information will be presented to you and your parents at the January 8 meeting. I recommend that you complete the FAFSA on the web. You cannot submit the FAFSA until January 1, however, in order to “sign” the form, you and a parent will need to have a PIN and you can apply for this now. Apply for a PIN at <http://www.pin.ed>. This link and others are on the guidance home page: <http://www.shelbyk12.org/shs/Guidance>.

## **SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**

Let me again remind you that the Financial Aid Sort on the OCIS website (link from the guidance webpage) can inform you of national scholarship opportunities which may be appropriate for you. You may also want to look at the guidance updates from October and September for national scholarships that have not yet passed the deadline. However, your best source of merit scholarships will be from your university and local scholarships (see above.) Your best source for need-based financial aid is through the completion of the FAFSA form (see above) and the Richland County Foundation (information at the December 15 meeting).

**DAR Scholarships**—A number of scholarship opportunities are available through the national organization of Daughters of the American Revolution. More information on the numerous scholarships is available at: [http://www.dar.org/natsociety/edout\\_scholar.cfm](http://www.dar.org/natsociety/edout_scholar.cfm). Additionally, the Ohio chapter offers five \$1000 scholarships. This application is available in the guidance office. Further, the Jared Mansfield Chapter is offering a \$300 scholarship to a student who will be attending OSU-Mansfield, NCSC or any local nursing school. This application is also available in the guidance office.

**The Ohio Association of Career Colleges and Schools Legislative Scholarship Program**—More than 180 scholarships are available to students attending specific career schools (for example, ITT Tech). More information may be available through their website, ([www.ohiocareercolleges.org](http://www.ohiocareercolleges.org)), but I cannot check it out because the school filtering system blocks the website. I’ve requested that it be unblocked. Paper applications are available in the guidance office.

**Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship**—The Elks National Foundation awards more than two million dollars annually in college scholarships to 500 high school seniors nationwide, through the Most Valuable Student contests. The largest award is \$60,000. Recipients are at or near the top of their class; active in school and community activities; recognized as leaders by their peers; and need financial assistance to attend college. Applications are available at <http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars/>. Deadline is January 9, 2009.