

GUIDANCE UPDATE (NOVEMBER 10, 2009)

PANIC!—December 1 is a significant deadline. Many colleges have December 1 as the deadline for maximum consideration of university scholarships. Many colleges have December 1 as a deadline for admission to honors programs. Many colleges have December 1 as a deadline for application to certain majors. Among the colleges to which a significant number of Shelby students apply that have a December 1 deadline for some of the previously mentioned programs/majors/scholarships are: The Ohio State University, Ohio University, The University of Toledo, Miami University and Ohio Northern University. This listing is by no means all inclusive.

- To date, I have sent 63 mailings containing your application credentials to various colleges and universities. Last year, at this time, 51 mailings had been sent.
- Remember, you need to know the deadlines that are applicable for you. I can help you, but you must take the initiative.
- The last day of school before Thanksgiving is Tuesday, November 24. When you return on November 30, it will be December First Eve. If you have materials that I need to complete or send by December 1, I would appreciate having more than 24 hours to complete those tasks.

DON'T PANIC!—Most application deadlines are after January 1. For example, the OSU deadline is February 1. A significant number of application deadlines are even later. Don't use that as an excuse to procrastinate, however. In general, it is in your best interest to have applications and supporting materials submitted before the end of our first semester.

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 Friday, December 11. 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 Friday, December 11 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 14 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 11 meeting. Further and more specific information will be presented to you and your parents at the January 14 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>

HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY, GENTLEMEN—Federal law mandates that you register with Selective Service. You can do this easily at www.sss.gov.