

GUIDANCE UPDATE FOR PARENTS

January 2010

Several important guidance activities take place during the next two months. We are providing this update to keep you informed. Of special importance are the first two meetings listed below. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Mr. Grady or Mrs. Roby.

The Shelby High School Guidance Department website can be accessed at:

www.shelbyk12.org/shs/guidance

Guidance Updates are posted periodically. These updates contain important information for all students and their families. Students who do not have internet access at home can print these updates at the high school or pick up a copy in the guidance office

JANUARY 14th FINANCIAL AID MEETING (11,12)

Ms. Becky Shinaberry will present financial aid information for parents and students at Shelby High School on Thursday, January 14 at 6:30 PM in the Dave Jones Little Theater. While the program is of particular interest to seniors and their parents, the information presented during the program can be helpful to anyone approaching this issue.

POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION MEETING (9,10,11)

Shelby High School and Pioneer Career and Technology Center students may take college courses (generally at OSU-Mansfield, NCSC or Ashland U.) for college credit and high school credit. Students must meet admission requirements of the college. A meeting for students and parents who wish to pursue this option will be held towards the end of February or the beginning of March. An announcement of that date will appear in an upcoming guidance update.

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION (11, 12)

Included with this newsletter is a two-page financial aid/scholarship information handout given to seniors at a meeting in December. Among other issues, this handout contains information regarding the FAFSA form.

FINANCIAL AID OFFERS (9,10,11,12)

It is appropriate to again remind all parents to be cynical of financial aid offers you may get through the mail. With few exceptions, scholarships do not require an application fee. All need-based financial aid is determined by completing the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you have a question regarding a mailing, speak with Mr. Grady.

FAFSA4caster (9,10,11,12)

If you want to begin exploring your financial aid options and get an early start on the financial aid process, FAFSA4caster is for you! By using FAFSA4caster, you and your family will receive an early estimate of eligibility for federal student aid. This Web site provides you with an opportunity to increase your knowledge of the financial aid process; become familiar with the various types of federal student aid that are available; and investigate other sources of aid, such as grants and scholarships.

Visit: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS (12)

The Shelby community is incredibly generous in supporting an extensive local scholarship program. The local scholarship program will be administered in two phases this year. The first phase began on December 11. Further dates are specified in the Financial Aid/Scholarship Information page. Scholarship awards will be presented at our Annual Recognition Day Assembly on May 20.

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY (12)

College Goal Sunday offers families free, professional help filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Ohio State University-Mansfield will be a site for this February 14th event. To register or learn more, visit www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org.

SCHEDULING FOR 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR (9,10,11)

The scheduling process for the 2010-2011 school year will take place during February. Parents must sign the course request form which students receive as part of their scheduling package. Parents may call the guidance office during March to verify their student's request. It is important to note that because decisions are made based on student course requests, only necessary changes will be made after June 15th. An updated course selection booklet will be on our website in February. Because of changes in personnel, financial considerations, curriculum changes or other factors, it is possible that course offerings may change by the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

PIONEER CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER (10)

All sophomores will visit Pioneer Career and Technology Center on the afternoon of January 28, 2010. Rather than touring the facility, students will spend time in three instructional areas that they have selected prior to the visit. For those students who have an interest in attending Pioneer, this activity will help them to clarify which technical area they wish to pursue. All students will have an opportunity to explore a career area and gain information to help in future educational and vocational decisions. The application process for Pioneer will begin in February.

ACT PREPARATION SOFTWARE (10,11,12)

ACT-developed software to prepare for the ACT test is available in the library.

PLAN TEST RESULTS (10)

The PLAN test is a test similar to the ACT (one of two college admission test options; the other being the SAT test), but designed for 10th grade students. Sophomores who took the PLAN test will receive their scores and an explanation of those results during homeroom meetings with Mr. Grady and Mrs. Roby in January. Parents should look for the results from their students. You are welcome to contact Mr. Grady or Mrs. Roby for any questions you may have regarding the PLAN test.

MRS. ROBY RETIREMENT

After a 25-year education career, Mrs. Roby will be retiring at the end of February. We appreciate her service to the students of Shelby and wish her well in her retirement. Her position will not be filled for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Grady will be the counselor for all grades after February.