

GUIDANCE UPDATE FOR SENIORS (December 3, 2010)

YOU'VE APPLIED TO ONE OR MORE COLLEGES; NOW WHAT?

As of yesterday morning, 115 mailings containing transcripts, college prep forms, counselor recommendation forms, secondary school reports, letters of recommendations and/or other documents have been mailed from this office. Additionally, a number of you have submitted the common application to various universities. When will you hear regarding your acceptance? Many colleges/universities notify on a rolling basis. Some notify on a specific date. You can visit a particular university website or ask me to find out. Also, many colleges/universities offer links so you can check on the status of your application. Remember, this is an incredibly busy time for college admissions offices, so it may take a while to update your status. Specifically, OSU had 26,000 applicants last year and they expect 30,000 applicants this year. That is a lot of data and paper to process.

While waiting to hear from your colleges, it is time to start thinking about financial aid. See the articles below.

YOU HAVE NOT APPLIED TO ANY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY; NOW WHAT?

I know for some of you, going to college is not in your plans immediately after high school. That's fine. Or, you intend to apply, but have not done so. Most admission deadlines occur after January 1. Remember, after you apply to sign up on the list in the guidance office so your transcript and other credentials can be sent. It is important to note, that the first step in applying for financial aid is to actually apply to a college. Stop and see me...

ACT SCORE REPORTING AND WRITING TEST SCORE

You are again reminded that several universities require ACT test scores to come directly from ACT (rather than reported on the transcript). And, several universities require a writing test score. You need to make certain that the ACT test date that includes the writing test is sent to your university directly from ACT in these cases. You can do this from your ACT account. You can check with me to see if you sent your test scores from ACT when you originally registered for the test.

ACT ONLINE PREP ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE

You can prepare on-line by accessing an ACT online prep account. Usernames and passwords are available in the guidance office. This is being paid by a grant so there is no cost to Shelby students.

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 10. 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 10 to discuss information regarding financial aid and local scholarships. PSEOP students should plan to attend since your classes for the quarter will be completed. (TURN OVER FOR PAGE 2)

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 13 at 6:30 P.M. in the Dave Jones Little Theater. This program is for STUDENTS along with your parents. In the past, I have had very knowledgeable financial aid advisors from various colleges present this program. Extensive knowledge was good; length of program was bad. I will present the program this year. As such, you can assure your parents the program will last no longer than 60 minutes. 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. Did I mention it would last no longer than one hour?

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 10 meeting. Further and more specific information will be presented to you and your parents at the January 13 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 www.pin.ed. This link and others are on the guidance home page: 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.