

GUIDANCE UPDATE FOR PARENTS

December 2011

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 three meetings listed below. You will note the financial aid meeting date has been changed from the original date due to the rescheduling of the Wynford basketball game. If you have questions, feel free to contact Mr. Grady (grady.mike@shelbyk12.org) or Mrs. Stefaniuk (stefaniuk.luann@shelbyk12.org).

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

www.shelbyk12.org/shs/guidance

Links to OCIS, colleges and financial aid can be accessed through this site. Guidance updates are posted periodically.

JANUARY 19th FINANCIAL AID MEETING—rescheduled from January 12th (11,12)

Mr. Grady will present financial aid information for parents and students at Shelby High School on Thursday, January 19 at 6:30 PM in the Dave Jones Little Theater. This date has been rescheduled from the previous week due to a make-up basketball game on the original date. 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. The meeting will last no longer than 60 minutes.

PLAN AND PLANNING FOR SOPHOMORES AND PARENTS (10)

The PLAN test (a pre-ACT assessment) was administered to most 10th grade students at the beginning of November. Parents and students will have an opportunity to receive their PLAN results and to discuss college planning appropriate for 10th grade students and their families on January 30 at 6:30 in the Dave Jones Little. Information on college costs and finances will be part of the program. This program will last no longer than 45 minutes.

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 on Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 in the Dave Jones Little Theater. The meeting will last 30 minutes.

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION (11, 12)

Included with this newsletter is a two-page financial aid/scholarship information handout given to seniors 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 receive through the mail or internet. 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.

OTHER QUESTIONABLE OFFERS (9,10,11,12)

A healthy dose of cynicism is appropriate for any “offer” you or your student may receive by mail, phone or internet. For example, some families have been contacted about purchasing test-prep material recommended by the school. While the materials may be worthwhile, the claim of a school recommendation is bogus. If you have any questions about “opportunities” feel free to contact Mr. Grady or Mrs. Stefaniuk.

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 in December with applications due on January 24. Further dates are specified in the Financial Aid/Scholarship Information page. Scholarship awards will be presented at our Annual Recognition Day Assembly on May 17.

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 12th event that begins at 2 PM. To register or learn more, visit www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org.

SCHEDULING FOR 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR (9,10,11)

The scheduling process for the 2012-2013 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 2012-2013 school year.

PIONEER CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER (10)

All sophomores will visit Pioneer Career and Technology Center on the afternoon of January 26, 2012. 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 with this visit.

ACT PREP ACCOUNTS

Shelby students can utilize ACT on-line preparation by getting an account in the guidance office. ACT on-line prep includes:

- Practice tests with real ACT test questions
- Practice essays for the new optional ACT Writing Test, with real-time scoring
- Comprehensive content review for each of the ACT's four required tests—English, Math, Reading, and Science
- Diagnostic test and personalized Study Path
- Anywhere, anytime access via the Internet

The ACT prep accounts have been paid from a grant from SPARC.

Students without internet access can use computers in the library or Marvin library. Preparation materials on CD-ROM are also available.

ACT TEST DATES

Shelby High School is a test site for the ACT test. Test dates for the remainder of the year are February 11, April 14 and June 9. The first test of the 2012-2013 school year will occur on September 8. Students should register on-line at www.actstudent.org. Students can also register by mail by picking up a registration packet in the guidance office. College-bound juniors should consider one of the upcoming test dates.

OHIO CAREER INFORMATION SYSTEM (9,10,11,12)

Students have been using the Ohio Career Information System (OCIS) since grade eight, but parents can also find value in this website. It is a tremendous resource for information about occupations, majors and colleges. “Undergraduate School Sort” is a great tool for narrowing the more than 4000 post-secondary institutions to a manageable number. The “US Colleges and Universities” link can give you information (such as cost) for specific colleges. One tool allows the user to do a side-by-side comparison of up to three schools. OCIS can be accessed through a link on the guidance website. Our username is: shelbyhs; our password is: ohioicis03 (case-sensitive).