



GUIDANCE PARENT UPDATE December 20, 2004

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 two meetings listed below. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact the guidance counselors, Mr. Grady and Mrs. Dixon or the guidance secretary, Mrs. Dick.

The Shelby High School Guidance Department website can be accessed at

www.shelby-city.k12.oh.us/shs/guidance.

Guidance Updates are posted each month. These updates contain important information for all students and their families and should be read monthly. Students who do not have internet access at home can print these updates from the Shelby High School or Marvin Memorial libraries or can pick up a copy in the guidance office.

Three federal links can be accessed directly from our homepage. The first link has valuable college and financial aid information for students and parents at all levels, while the final two links are of importance to seniors and their families.

JANUARY 3RD FINANCIAL AID MEETING

Mr. Lawrence Matthews, Director of Financial Aid at Bluffton College, will present financial aid information for parents and students at Shelby High School on Monday, January 3 at 7:00PM in the Little Theater. The first part of his program deals with general financial aid issues. The second part of the program deals specifically with the FAFSA form. While the program is of particular interest to parents of seniors, the information presented in the first part of the program can be helpful to anyone approaching this issue.

POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION MEETING

Shelby Senior High School and Pioneer Career and Technology Center students may take college courses (generally at OSU-Mansfield or NCSC) for college credit and high school credit. Students must meet admission requirements of the college. A mandatory meeting for students and parents who wish to pursue this option will be held on Tuesday, February 15 at 7 P.M. in the High School Little Theater. Representatives from OSU-Mansfield and NCSC will also be present. This meeting will last less than thirty minutes.

FAFSA FORMS AVAILABLE

FAFSA forms are available in the guidance office for seniors who will be attending a post-secondary educational institution next year. It is desirable to submit the FAFSA as early as possible after January 1, 2005. It is also possible to complete the FAFSA over the internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is to your advantage as the aid report and corrections can be processed more accurately and rapidly. The student and parent can apply for a personal identification number (PIN) now at www.pin.ed.gov.

FINANCIAL AID OFFERS

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 or Mrs. Dixon.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

We are fortunate that the Shelby community supports our graduating seniors with numerous scholarships available only to Shelby seniors. Local scholarship information and the application process will be



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available to seniors in mid February. Scholarship awards will be presented at our Annual Recognition Day Assembly on May 26.

FAMILIES' GUIDE TO FEDERAL AND STATE TAX CREDITS AND DEDUCTIONS FOR EDUCATION

Included in the parent update mailing is information regarding federal and state tax benefits for families with college expenses.

COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY

College Goal Sunday offers families free, professional help filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). North Central State College will be a site for this February 13th event. To register or learn more, visit www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org or call 888-833-1133.

SCHEDULING FOR 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR

The scheduling process for the 2005-2006 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 16th. An updated course selection booklet will be on our website in February. It should also be noted that some courses offered in February might be limited or eliminated by the start of the school year based on personnel reductions.

PIONEER CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

All sophomores will visit Pioneer Career and Technology Center on the afternoon of February 5, 2004. 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.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Students intending to apply to a four-year college must have scores from a college entrance exam. The ACT test is acceptable at most universities throughout the United States and at every Ohio college or university. The ACT test is administered five times a year during October, December, February, April and June. Shelby High School is a test center for all five administrations. With some exceptions, college-bound juniors should take the test for the first time during the April administration. The April 9, 2005 test date has a registration deadline of March 4, 2005. The June 11, 2005 test date has a registration deadline of May 6, 2005. Students can pick up registration packets in the guidance office or register on-line at www.act.org. ACT is adding an optional writing test beginning with the February 12, 2005 test. Two detailed articles regarding this option are in the September 8, 2004 Guidance Update.

ACT PREPARATION SOFTWARE

ACT-developed software has been installed on every computer in the media center. Students may make use of this resource in preparation for the ACT test.

PLAN AND PSAT TEST RESULTS

Sophomores who took the PLAN test in November and Juniors who took the PSAT test in October received their score report and an explanation of their scores during a meeting with a counselor.