

December 2009

1 *Early Reading/ Early Action deadline for many schools*

4 **Two Senior Portfolio** deadlines:

- a) For first presentation of project and portfolio to advisor, including completion of any 3 components; and
- b) For presenting certification of preliminary meeting with Guidance Counselor regarding Career Plan.

5 SAT Administration date

12 ACT Administration date

15 Deadline to register for January SAT's

30 Late registration deadline for January SAT's (\$23 extra fee)

January 2010

1 **FAFSA** can be filed anytime now!

5 Registration deadline for February ACT's

8 **Senior Portfolio** deadline for completion and documentation of 20 hours of Community Service

Senior Portfolio deadline for final changes to project plan- NO MAJOR changes permitted after this date.

Senior Portfolio Issues

December 4th is the next deadline for two aspects of Portfolio-see calendar above. You must meet this deadline in order to be eligible to stay at home during any finals for semester courses. If you are not up-to-date with your portfolio, you will be required to come in during midterms to work on it.

Have you had an initial meeting with your guidance counselor to begin your *Senior Career Plan*? You will need a lavender slip of paper from your counselor certifying that you have accomplished this which you then show to your portfolio advisor to meet the deadline.

Winter Arts Festival, coming right up on Wednesday, December 2nd, would count as a Cultural Event, if preapproved by your advisor.

Sources of verification for Senior Portfolio components:

Your own counselor can verify that you have taken the PSAT's, SAT's, ASVAB's or other tests- there is a specific letter about these that needs to go into your portfolio.

Mrs. Wolf (Guidance Resource Room) has information for your 4-year Course of Study.

Mrs. Aube (front office) has your Community Service sheets (*if you gave them to the office...*).

Your Town Hall can verify that you registered to vote.

Sra. Cerecedo-Newman should have verification that you paid your class dues.

Other **forms** are posted on-line or in the files in the Multi-Purpose Room, or if those are empty, in the main office.

DO NOT BE SURPRISED by two January 8th deadlines which will come at the end of your first week back at school after vacation:

- 1) **20 hours** of your **Community Service** must be completed and documented.
- 2) This is the project "lock-in" date. You may **not** substantially change your project after this point.

Testing News

- 1) **SAT's** - The **January 23, 2010** testing may be the last feasible testing date for colleges with later deadlines.

You must register now in December -see calendar above.

Applicants to the UNH Thompson School need SAT's or ACT's.

The next SAT test date is not until March 13th, too late for all but rolling deadlines this year.

- 2) **ACT's** - The next testing session will be **February 6th**, with the registration deadline on Tuesday, **January 5th**.

- 3) If you need to achieve a certain SAT score for scholarship or program admission purposes, the SAT Prep Workshop is still ongoing, run by Mrs. Mennelle during periods 1 and 4 and after school.

College Search

Many colleges have long breaks at Christmas and rarely do much in terms of touring or visiting then. Over vacation, talk with recent CBNA graduates about their college experiences.

* You should be in contact with your counselor well before you want to submit your application. Even if you are applying on-line, there are still elements of the application which will need to be submitted by Coe-Brown and we need to be kept informed of this via the tan Application Tracking Form that is in your red folder.

Information on Coe-Brown to fill in many of the blanks on applications is on the green sheet in your red college folder. It is also posted on the CBNA Website under Guidance.

While many two-year Community Colleges have no firm application deadline, some of their programs do, or they may fill up if you do not apply earlier rather than later. Get geared up to do this in January!

If you are applying to the Thompson School at UNH you will need to use the Common Application (www.commonapp.org). Many students are finding they need assistance with some aspects. We are willing to help!

Reference requests to teachers and Guidance Counselor must be made in a timely manner with two to three weeks advanced warning and a completed *Senior Questionnaire* sheet (lavender) for your counselor or pink request form for the teachers. **Do not wait** until you have finished your part of the application to bring this to your counselor.

Fee Waivers are available for families with need if application fees are a burden.

If the whole college application process is confusing to you, be sure to use your counselor as a resource.

College Visits, Military Induction, etc.: To have an excused day for postgraduate planning purposes, you must bring a note from a parent *in advance*, see your Guidance Counselor, have all your teachers sign off that you are caught up with your class work *prior to your visit*, and leave the signed sheet and note at the main office before you leave.

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Financial Aid - If you are applying for aid, *you or your parent must carefully read* about exactly what each of your schools require. **Yes**, you *do* apply for aid *before* you know whether or not you've been accepted. Make sure to keep copies of everything you mail out or submit electronically: IRS forms, FAFSA, Profile, etc. You may need them later for the verification process in the spring.

Pay particular attention to the Priority Financial Aid Deadline at your school to ensure that you have submitted your financial aid materials in time to meet this; otherwise the institutional grant money might be gone (and that's the money you do NOT have to pay back!) Finally, if you or your parents do not have all of your 2009 financial information together in time for a deadline, please ask your parents to *estimate* and send it anyway in time so you can meet the deadline. There is time later to file a corrected version.

FAFSA application is required to receive any need-based aid at almost all schools. This year there are no paper applications distributed to schools. FAFSA on the Web Worksheets will be available from your Guidance counselor, but the FAFSA cannot be filed until January 1st, 2010.

Scholarship Opportunities-

- a) Your best money usually will come from the financial aid package from the college you attend.
- b) Keep checking the bulletin board in the Guidance area for other opportunities.
- c) Most local scholarship information will not be out until the spring.
- d) Check with your parents to see if their workplaces offer any specific scholarships.
- e) View the postings on Paying for College on our website.

Keep up your class work: at the end of senior year, we must send out transcripts to all schools which you plan to attend. A dropped class or a poor performance has been known to occasion reversal of admission decisions.

*** All that said, if you are truly struggling and want or need to make a change, please note that there is a process to go through with your counselor and teacher that may take several weeks. **DO NOT** arrive in your counselor's office on December 22nd and expect to drop a class immediately! Meet now to discuss your concerns.



Self-respect is a product of doing difficult things, and doing them well.

George Bernard Shaw