

Coe-Brown Northwood Academy

Guidance Department

Senior Planning Newsletter

Two-Year Colleges

January 2009

- 1 **FAFSA** can be filed anytime now!
- 6 Late registration deadline for January SAT's (\$23 extra fee)
Registration deadline for February ACT's
- 9 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.
- 16 Late registration deadline for February ACT's (\$20 fee extra)
- 24 SAT Administration date (last test date feasible for many colleges)

February

- 1 *Application deadline for UNH Thompson School*
- 6 **Senior Portfolio** deadline for completion of 10 or more components and meeting with advisor to finalize project plan

College Search

Seniors: At this point you should have met with your Guidance Counselor regarding plans for next year. *Even if you are not going on to college, you should be meeting to create a Senior Career Plan, as required by the Senior Portfolio process.*

Even though most two-year colleges and certification programs have rolling admissions and later deadlines, some particular programs may fill up faster and it is a good idea to get your applications in soon.

UNH applications are due February 1st and anyone applying to the Thompson School should try to meet that deadline. *Since February 1st falls on a Sunday this year, this means everything will need to be mailed out of Coe-Brown by Friday, January 30th which is only 19 school days away from the start of this semester.*

Common Application Issues: If you are applying to UNH and have not yet begun, do not leave this until the last moment since you might need some assistance!

Reference requests: If any of your schools or programs do require references, please give the pink Student Reference Request form to teachers and a completed *Senior Questionnaire* sheet (lavender) to your counselor 2-3 weeks in advance. We cannot do a good job for you if you don't give us enough warning since the whole process of soliciting input from teachers and writing a good reference for you may take up to two weeks. It is also helpful to politely remind reference writers a week before things are due, *and* if, by any chance, you change your mind and do not need a reference or decide not to apply to a certain school, it would be courteous to let the teachers and counselor involved know so that they do not expend unneeded effort!

For an excused day for a college visit or a military induction or taking the Accuplacer at a Community College once you are accepted, you must bring a note from a parent *before you go*, see your Guidance Counselor, and have all your teachers sign off that you are caught up with all your work *prior to your visit*. Martin Luther King Day as well as the upcoming faculty work days when you do not have school (February 6, March 20, and March 27) or February vacation would be good times to visit schools you are considering in order to gather more information as you make your decision.

Acceptances: Please let your Guidance Counselor know when you hear from your schools so that we can recognize you (or not, if you wish) and know how you are doing with your applications.

Financial Aid: For optimum outcome,

- #1 Know which forms are required (FAFSA, CSS Profile, institutional forms) and submit them all!
- #2 Both you and your parents should apply for a PIN for the FAFSA now at www.pin.ed.gov!
- #3 Meet priority deadlines for your schools. Ask for assistance with this from your counselor if you need it.
- #4 Estimate 2008 information if necessary to meet the deadlines. Revisions can be submitted later.

#5 Keep copies of everything!

#6 If you are in a low income family and applying to a public college in New Hampshire, be very sure to file the FAFSA before March 1st in order to be eligible for a new program: ACE (Affordable College Effort) under which you will automatically be considered for extra grants which would reduce your loan burden.

FAFSA applications are now only on-line. If you will need a paper version, you need to request that in advance. The FAFSA can be filed any time now. If you need help with the Title IV numbers for designating colleges, please check the list in your red folder first, then see your guidance counselor if it is not there.

*Many schools are limited in their scholarship funds, so **make sure you meet any "priority" financial aid deadlines!** Yes, you *do* apply for aid *before* you know whether or not you've been accepted. If you do not have all of your 2008 financial information together in time for a deadline, *estimate* and send it anyway. There is time later to file a corrected version and colleges expect this. If your parents use a tax preparer, have them emphasize the need to get their data early so you can meet deadlines.*

Scholarship Opportunities- Your best money usually will come from the financial aid package from the college you attend, but keep checking the bulletin board in the Guidance hallway for other opportunities. Local scholarship information will not be out until the spring. Yes, there are some scholarships for those studying at two-year institutions. Check with your parents to see if their workplaces offer any specific scholarships. Also check through www.fastweb.com and www.nh93.com.

It is wise to review your own transcript once before it is first sent out. Make sure to have Mrs. Wolf add any new honors or activities you might have acquired since you submitted the blue sheet to her in September (e.g. art, music, sports, or FFA honors or awards).

Testing News

SAT's - The late deadline for January 24th testing is on the 6th. The next test session is on March 14th (deadline February 10th). While this is too late for most colleges, if you have decided to go to college late in the process, this might work for some schools with *continuous processing* or *rolling admissions*.

ACT's - Next testing session will be February 7th, with the registration deadline, January 6th and the late registration deadline on January 16th.

SAT Prep Workshops- These are still ongoing, run by Mrs. Mennelle, and require about a three-week commitment. Sign up with her to begin ASAP!

Senior Portfolio Issues

January 9th- Deadline for

a) Making major project changes, and
b) Turning in documentation to your advisor of first 20 hours of Community Service. (All hours must be complete by **March 6, 2009**.) Make sure to have your December journal entry signed off as well.

February 6th is the next deadline for Portfolio with 10 components due. *How's your project coming?*

Job Shadows and Informational Interviews are good components to help you choose a career direction. They both need pre-approval and organization ahead of time.

General Reminders

Beware of accruing excessive absences in classes you need for graduation. File extensions as needed, but remember that having certain days excused does not give you permission to take more off for no good reason. There is no provision to make up time until summer school, so going over absences in required classes may mean not walking in the graduation ceremony with your class.

DO NOT SLACK off in your course work. Colleges will be getting your midterm grades and also final transcripts. ALL ACCEPTANCES are CONDITIONAL and may be revoked for poor work.

Accept the challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory.

George S. Patton