

*The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.
~Chinese Proverb~*

Calendar Highlights

October

- 2** Deadline to register for November SAT's
College Fair at Southern New Hampshire University 7-9 PM
- 5** **Senior Portfolio** deadline for Project Proposal and preliminary plan to advisor
Late registration deadline for October ACT's (\$19 extra late fee)
- 6** **ASVAB Testing- this is the ONLY test date for the year!**
SAT Administration date
- 9** Mini-College Fair at Coe-Brown 2:00-2:45 PM
- 11** Late registration deadline for November SAT's (\$22 extra)
- 23** Mini-College Fair at Coe-Brown 1:45-2:45 PM
- 27** ACT Administration date
- 30** Deadline to register for December SAT's

November

- 1** *Deadline for some Early Decision applications*
- 2** **Senior Portfolio** deadline for Personal and Project Narrative I
Deadline to register for December ACT's

Testing News

1) SAT's - October 11th is the late deadline to register for the November testing if you need to test in both November and December. October 30th is the deadline for the December 2nd testing. **Please note**, since the next test date is not until January 26th, the December test date is the last one that is viable for most of the competitive colleges. Students applying to highly competitive colleges should double check whether or not they require SAT Subject tests. If so, December may be the last feasible test date. ACT's may sometimes be substituted- double check the testing requirements or specifically ask the college.

UNH is now requiring that you submit scores directly to it electronically. If you are testing in October, and applying to UNH, make sure to add it as a recipient of your scores with the code #3918.

2) ACT's - October 5th is the deadline for registering with a late fee for the October 28th testing. Next testing session will be on December 8th, with registration deadline on November 2nd.

3) SAT Prep Workshops- These are ongoing, run by CBNA staff, and require a three-week commitment. Sign up in with a faculty member during any study hall in either Math Lab or Writing Lab to begin ASAP. If you do not want to do the whole workshop, and you have the results from a previous testing session, you can still get help on your weak areas.

4) ASVAB's will be given on Saturday, October 6th. Please register for this free opportunity with your guidance counselor. This is the only time they will be given here this year, so check now to see if you need this for a Portfolio component!

College Search

This should be well underway! You should be whittling down your initial list to 4 to 6 schools with a good balance of entrance level difficulty. A good rule of thumb is 1-2 Stretch/Reach schools, 2-3 Target schools, and 1-2 Safeties. Unless you are totally in love with just one school *that you and your counselor are certain you will get into*, you will feel better next spring if you have some choice about where you can go. A list of all Stretches can bring spring heartache in this uncertain college admissions world, especially since we have been warned that the competition has been toughened with a significant number more high school graduates currently competing for entrance. *Thus it is even more important to consult your counselor to get a reality check about your list!* You can also use the Admissions portion of the Choices Planner information on each school to get a visual picture of your SAT scores fit in with the students who attend a particular school.

Make sure you also include some “financial safety” schools as well: ones that you *know* you and your family will be able to afford. (These do not necessarily have to be here in New Hampshire. There are many affordable public institutions out of state.)

Keep in mind: You can get an excellent education in many places- the most important thing is the **match** between you and the school!

Contact your top choices. Visit. Tour. Interview if possible. Attend Open Houses: many are posted on the bulletin board in the Guidance hallway; you can always check a college’s website for upcoming events scheduled there.

Remember that there will be two more mini-college fairs here at Coe-Brown. These will be held from 2:00 to 2:45 PM, Tuesday, October 9th and Tuesday, October 23rd. Check the lists of colleges which are coming that is posted in the lobby. In order to be excused from class to attend at 2:00, you must meet with your counselor to get a plan **before the last minute on the day of the fair!** This is part of accomplishing your Senior Career Plan required for your Portfolio.

To have an excused day for a college visit or to sign up with the military, you must bring a note from a parent *in advance*, see your Guidance Counselor, have all your teachers sign off on the colored sheet that you are totally caught up with all your work *prior to your visit*, and take the signed slip to the front office. The number of days excused is limited, so make sure to choose wisely. You may want to save some time for spring visits to schools at which you have been accepted.

Early Decision deadlines for highly competitive schools are in November, as early as the 1st. Certain schools in other parts of the country also have earlier deadlines; for instance, the California state system’s deadline was November 30th last year *for all applications*, not just Early Decision. In addition, as announced earlier, UNH has moved its Early Reading deadline up to November 15th this year. Get organized now to meet any of these deadlines!

\$\$\$ If you are applying for Financial Aid and your school requires the *Profile*, request this form from your Guidance Counselor or register for it over the Internet at the web site: collegeboard.com.. It is a two-step process; so do not postpone doing it until the last minute! (The FAFSA cannot be filed until January 1st, 2008, but the *Profile* can be done with an early application.) Anytime now you can go to fafsa.ed.gov to register for a PIN for the FAFSA and then complete it either on paper forms (not available until late November or early December) or on-line after January 1st. Definitely *keep copies of anything you submit for Financial Aid and BE*

SURE to keep both your PIN number and that of your parent in a place you can find it as you'll need it for four years.

If your family needs help determining how much a college may ask your family to pay towards your education, do the EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) calculator at www.finaid.org. Click on **Calculators** on the first page, and then go to **Needs Analysis, Estimated Family Contribution**.

Keep checking the Scholarship Board in the Guidance offices. Most local scholarship information will not come out until the spring.

Reference requests to your teachers (on the pink Reference Request Form) and Guidance Counselor (with the completed lavender *Senior Questionnaire* and *College Resume*) must be made in a timely manner with plenty of advanced warning (2-3 weeks) in order for us to do our best for you.

- Applications:
 - If you are using the *Common Application* (www.commonapp.org) and filling it out by hand, please see your counselor first for semi-completed School Report and Mid-year Report forms. *N.B. UNH and several other state universities have started to accept the Common Application in addition to many private colleges. (See notes on UNH below.)* Also be sure to download and complete any *Supplements* to the Common Application required by your schools. Your application will not be complete without them!
 - Keep a copy of your application to use for a Senior Portfolio component in lieu of the Job Application.
 - Make sure to review *all* essay topics requested by your various schools before starting to write. Often there is overlap to the questions or a way to make one essay work for all applications, particularly when one essay is specific and other schools will accept any essay on a “topic of your choice.”

Special Notes on Applying to UNH

UNH has notified us of several points about their procedure this year:

1. You **MUST** use the Common Application to apply along with the supplement for UNH. There is no longer a separate UNH application available.
2. SAT or ACT scores must be sent electronically via the College Board or ACT. Scores from the transcript will no longer be accepted. If you are still testing this fall, make sure to list UNH as a recipient of the scores.
3. Only **ONE** reference letter is requested and it should be from a subject matter teacher or a guidance counselor.
4. The Proof of Residency form is no longer required at the time of application. If you are accepted and choose to enroll, it will be requested then so that you can have the in-state tuition rate.
5. The Early Action deadline is November 15th. Any highly qualified students desiring consideration for the Governor's Success Scholarship **MUST** apply by this date.
6. The admissions office really does not want any extra materials unless requested: no CD's, DVD's, newspaper articles, books. Also avoid staples whenever possible.
7. Every piece of paper submitted should have your name on it, and if your name is at all common, also include either your birth date or Social Security number. (This is good advice for **ALL** college applications!)

Senior Portfolio Issues

October 5th is the deadline to get a written Project Proposal to your advisor. Remember to use *common courtesy* to schedule appointments ahead of time with your advisor. He or she may have other advisees or obligations after school and otherwise *may well be as busy as you are*.

The lavender Senior Questionnaire should be turned in to your counselor ASAP as well as a rough draft of your College Resume. These are first steps in working on your required Senior Career Plan.

Looking ahead, November 2nd will be the deadline for completion of your first Portfolio Narrative, submitted to and reviewed by your Portfolio Advisor.

Community Service - Do **you** have your 40 hours done? This is one facet of Senior Portfolio that cannot be rushed through. You might be sad if you have to spend all of one vacation finishing them up!

Portfolio Forms are now available on the Coe-Brown Website by clicking on the banner title in gold italics, *The CBNA Senior Portfolio Project*, so that you can access them from home or school! Save everything for portfolio on a disk for back-up throughout the year.

Journals of your portfolio experience should be maintained and signed off by your advisor monthly. Did you complete your September entry and get it signed by your advisor?

Do or do **not**. There is no "try".

Yoda