

November 2011

4 Senior Portfolio deadline for Personal and Project Narrative 1

*Remember, **common courtesy** dictates that you make an appointment with your advisor in advance. You can use e-mail to be in touch to arrange a time if you rarely see your advisor, but you still need to meet! Make sure to fill in your Journal and have your advisor sign it when you meet.*

Deadline to register for December ACT's

8 Deadline to register for December SAT's

Since the next SAT test date is not until January 28, 2012, the December test date is the last one that is viable for most colleges.

11 Veteran's Day- a school holiday, thus an excellent time for college visits!

15 Financial Aid Night at Coe-Brown 6:30 P.M. Remind your parents to be there with all their questions.

18 Late registration deadline for December ACT's (\$21 extra)

19 ASVAB Testing - Open to seniors as a Portfolio component. Must attend interpretation session later.

20 Late registration deadline for December SAT's (\$26 extra)

December- A Look Ahead!

2 Two Senior Portfolio deadlines:

- a) For first presentation of project and portfolio to advisor, including completion of any 3 components; and
- b) For preliminary meeting with Guidance Counselor regarding Career Plan. All seniors should be meeting periodically with their Guidance Counselors to plan for next year, whether or not you're going to college. You will need a slip stating that you've done this to take to your portfolio advisor by 12/2. *This is your key to being excused from finals in your semester classes.* Keep in mind that each counselor has multiple seniors, so please do not leave this meeting until the last moment because it will take at least part of a study period.

6 Winter Arts Festival- another great chance to get a component for Attendance at a High School Level Cultural Event. Preapproval required.

College Search- Review of Procedure

Although we have given much of this information before, some seniors are still unclear about the process, so here are some important points:

- A. Reference requests** (if you need one) must be made in a timely manner with plenty of advanced warning (2-3 weeks) and a completed *Senior Questionnaire* sheet (lavender) for counselors and pink Reference Request sheet for teachers. **Do not wait** until you have finished your part of the application to bring this to your counselor or teachers
- COMMON COURTESY should prevail through this whole process:
- Ask *first* if someone is willing to write; do not *assume* that they will.
 - Give writers plenty of time.
 - Check first about what kind of references your schools want and how many. Some two-year schools will not require references or they have their own forms for particular programs.
 - Do not ask more writers than the number of references you need -that is a serious imposition on the limited time of teachers.

Finally, how about expressing your appreciation to those adults who spend time doing this for you????

B. Paper applications: Coe-Brown will provide manila envelopes and mail out each complete application packet for you. Official transcripts and any confidential references must be mailed directly anyway, so have references turned in to counselor, and then bring in the completed application, essay, fee, and any supporting materials, and we send everything out, along with a Profile of Coe-Brown.

C. On-line applications: Common Application or those from college websites. Keep counselor informed well in advance- at least two weeks ahead, so that we can get our part ready!

Common Application details are available from any guidance counselor. If you are applying to the Thompson School at UNH, see a counselor for help- it's tricky!

D. Transcripts: Review your own transcript once before it is first sent out. Make sure you submitted the blue sheet to Mrs. Wolf or your transcript could be blank in the Activities section.

E. Check your deadlines! Most two-year schools have "rolling admissions" which means that they will accept your application any time now and give you an answer about acceptance within a few weeks. Exceptions to this are the more competitive programs at the NH Community Colleges, such as nursing or dental hygiene.

F. Sending Test Scores: If your schools need SAT scores, remember to take advantage of the four free chances to send scores to colleges that must be used within a restricted time-frame after testing.

G. Review your potential college list with your Guidance Counselor for a reality check about whether it gives you a good range of Safety, Target, and Reach schools. Meeting with your guidance counselor will also satisfy the senior portfolio deadline for an initial planning meeting to be done before December 2nd.

H. College Visits: To have an excused day for a college visit or to sign up with the military-

- Bring a note from a parent *in advance*,
- See your Guidance Counselor,
- Have all your teachers sign off on the blue sheet, and
- Turn it into the front office before you leave.

The number of days excused is limited, so make sure to choose wisely.

If you plan to visit three or more colleges, this can be used as a Portfolio component *if you plan it in advance with your guidance counselor and get the preapproval sheet signed.* The intent of this component is to visit schools that would be a good match for you, not just to visit places that your friends are going!

Check the bulletin board outside of Mrs. Aseltine's office for scheduled college **Open Houses**. Check the websites of colleges in which you are interested to find out about their Open House dates.

I. Financial Aid - If you are applying for aid, *you or your parent must carefully read* about exactly what each of your schools requires regarding both forms and deadlines.

- All schools will require the FAFSA for any need-based aid – it cannot be filed until January 1st, 2012.

Yes, you do apply for aid *before* you know whether or not you've been accepted.

Pay particular attention to the Priority Financial Aid Deadline at your school to ensure that you have submitted your request in time to meet this; otherwise the institutional grant money might be gone. **Keep copies of everything** you submit in any step of the financial aid application process.

Refer also to the posting about various aspects of Financial Aid which is on the CBNA website under *Guidance*.

J. Scholarship Opportunities- keep checking the bulletin board in the Guidance offices for opportunities or go to www.fastweb.com.

Local scholarship information will not be out until the spring. Check with your parents to see if their workplaces offer any specific scholarships.

Senior Portfolio Issues

Optional Component #3- Save a copy of your college application to use for this instead of filling out the job application!

Community Service - Do **you** have your 40 hours done? 20 hours are due by January 7th. Don't be the one spending *your* Christmas and February vacations completing them!

How's your Portfolio Project coming? If you have had second thoughts about your choice, or are coming up against financial or time constraints, now is the time to revise your plans, in consultation with your advisor, before too much time has passed.

Taste the joy that springs from labor. ~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow