

December 2009

Progress Reports for second nine weeks went out the week of November 16. These are handed to the student in class. If you did not receive one, you could email the teacher or please go onto our website through progress book. If you do not have the password, please call Mr. Goodwin.

Upcoming meetings:

Wednesday, December 9, 2009
7 PM in the Auditorium for parents of **seniors** regarding Financial Aid. Ms. Deb Divers, a financial aid representative from Firelands College, will explain the process and how to fill out this year's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Both students and parents are welcome. The meeting is expected to last, one and a half to two hours. **If you can not make our meeting, or if cancelled because of weather, please see dates for other area high schools as listed below.**

Unless noted meetings start at 7 PM

January 4 Norwalk (FTMC learning center) 6 pm

January 6 Willard H.S. 6:30pm

January 7 BGSU Firelands

January 13 BGSU Firelands

January 13 Perkins High School

January 20 Margareta H.S. 6:30pm

January 25 New London H.S. 6:00pm

February 14 College Goal Sunday at Firelands College 2-4 pm

Check out www.bgsu.edu/offices/sfa for additional assistance for financial aid questions.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010 7 PM in the Auditorium for parents primarily interested in the **Post Secondary Educational Option Program**. This option is available to current 8-11 grade students, for taking classes at college for high school and college credit. This will be a **one time** meeting this year, with **attendance by a parent considered mandatory** by the state

for **participation for any** or all semesters for the **2009 - 2010** school year. Scheduling for Edison will also be covered. The meeting will last about 1 hour and **this includes parents of students already participating in PSEOP.** *This program involves students leaving Edison during the school day. This is not KAP(Kenyon), AP or Findlay credit classes.*

Minimum Requirements to participate are:

1) **Must have a cumulative 3.25 GPA at end of current grading period, first semester, (this is a Firelands requirement other colleges may be higher or lower).**

2) **Must have a 3.0 average in courses wishing to take at Post Secondary school. (State requirement, monitored by post secondary school.)**

3) **Must attend and sign form for the district sponsored informational meeting. (PARENTS--Please note Firelands is interpreting this meeting as mandatory for each year of participation. So you need to attend even if you have in the past!)**

4) **Maintain six classes between college and high school both semesters.**

Freshmen:

Students will start a career unit in Freshman English after Christmas break. It includes a career interest inventory, career summaries of over 360 careers (civilian and military), information of over 3500 colleges and universities across the country, and scholarship information. The students will research one or more careers, interview a person in their field of choice, write a mini research paper and give a short speech. This should also help them make decisions for their class choices next year.

Sophomores:

The PLAN test was administered Oct. 7th. Those results were returned and explained to students. This should help students with career planning, EHOVE considerations, and next year's scheduling. Please review with them and go to www.planstudent.org

Tuesday, November 3, EHOVE visited Edison and through a 40 minute presentation explained various programs to the students, including TECH PREP. Courses taken at a college while in TECH PREP may receive college credit, but only after testing into a credit granting course. This is “similar” to Post Secondary Options Program where you earn college and high school credit. Initial program requirements are similar with the exception being a 2.5 GPA at time of acceptance by EHOVE. All interested students will be visiting EHOVE Tuesday, December 1st. Each student will observe activities/lab in their top four career choices with no obligation to attend next year.

OGT tests will be given to all sophomores as well as juniors and seniors that have not passed any or all parts the week of March 15th. For practice at home please use the Berlin-Milan website, go to high school and go on OGT practice or use this website: http://www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/ogt/OGT_Website_for_Students.asp

Juniors:

The PSAT test was given in October and results will be returned to students the first week of December. The information is especially good for preparing for the SAT or ACT because all the answers are given to the test questions and the questions were returned as well. If you have any questions please call me. **National Merit Qualifiers** are **not** announced or notified until late September or early October of the senior year, and only from the junior results.

First Scholarship for Juniors:
Discover Card see website: www.discovercard.com/ttribute.htm for details.
Deadline 1-31-10.

Seniors:

Applications for college should have already been sent, if not, please take time now and apply before Christmas break. This will help put you in line for some financial aid and quicker acceptance.

In the past, I have listed open house dates for various colleges that have sent them to me. This time, however, I am suggesting you check www.mystudentedge.com.

There you can access any school nationwide and obtain their address, open house dates and apply on line if you so desire.

College Visits:

No matter what year you visit a college there are certain questions you should have answered. Try getting these answers when visiting your top choices.

How many freshmen returned for their sophomore year?

What % of the freshman class obtained a 2.0 C average or above last year?

What procedure is used to assign a faculty advisor?

Are freshman classes taught by professors or by graduate assistants?

What academic services does your college offer at no additional cost to the student?

How accessible is your computer lab to freshmen? How many dorms or dorm rooms are wired to the internet? Cost of this service?

What procedure is used to select roommates?

What is the college’s policy concerning alcohol on campus?

What % of a typical financial aid offer is in the form of a loan?

What is the average amount of debt accumulated by graduation by your students?

What % of students who enroll as freshmen, graduate in 4 years? 5 years? later?

What % of those that graduate has a job through your placement office within 2 months of graduation? 3 months? 6 months?

These are all questions that colleges should have answers to. **Please ask.**

The American Legion annually publishes “Need a Lift?” (College Financial Aid Handbook) as a service to all young people. “Need a Lift” is mailed free of charge to more than 24,000 guidance offices in private and public high schools. I have one copy to share. Or, you can order your own copy for

\$6.00 by sending a check to **The American Legion Emblem Sales, PO BOX 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** The American Legion's involvement in education began in 1921 and grows stronger each year.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM :

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF PRIVATE COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS through the participation of its member schools is making available scholarships to cover one half or full tuition for specific programs. Awards will be made for each of the specific scholarships and they are not transferable to other programs or other schools.

These scholarships are intended for a one-year certificate program, or a two-year associate degree and are not for use at any four year college, nor two-year branch or community college and are for specific programs.

Some requirements are: 2010 graduate; C average or better; nominated by his or her State Senator; for tuition only. **The deadline for application is March 1, 2010** (which includes State Senator signature and then returned to Edison for signature and student transcript).

Additional Scholarship Information.

Local Scholarships -- A packet, including all available local scholarships, will be **distributed to each senior during English on Monday, February 1st. Forms will be mailed to EHOVE students the same day. Deadline for return of all local scholarships is Friday, March 12th 2010.**

Financial Aid -- Scams

Unfortunately, with seniors turning their interests to college applications, and eventual financial aid, phony organizations take advantage of students' searches for financial aid to gouge them for little or nothing in return.

Here are some insights on how and what to expect or what you as a parent may encounter.

Phony scholarship matching services

These services use different tactics. They charge students a fee for a list of scholarship leads. Typical claims include, "You can't find this information anywhere else"; "We'll do all the work for you"; or "We guarantee that you will win an award if you use our services." The outcome? The student receives *nothing for their money* or they receive a useless list of awards for which they do not qualify or which may or may not exist.

Free Seminars

Like the phony operations above, free seminars about financial aid offered by such groups are often thinly disguised sales pitches for a bogus scholarship search or insurance offer. Although the seminar may be held at an official or educational facility, this does not mean that the company or scholarship search is legitimate, the group may not be sanctioned by the institution.

When looking for a financial aid consultant (not affiliated with any college or university) students should be wary. Michael Alexander, founder of Student Financial Services, recommends that students find out how long their consultant has worked in the industry. Additionally, students should consider the consultant's qualifications (are they a Certified Public Planner, or a Certified Financial Planner?) and call their school's financial aid office to see if they have had trouble with any particular consultant. **Most importantly, students should *never* use a consultant that encourages *unethical behavior*, since the student and his or her family will ultimately be held liable for any financial misconduct.**

If you have any questions regarding the agency, or person's credentials do not get involved.

