

September 2009

Welcome to Edison High School for the 2009-2010 school year.

Whether you are new to the school district or to the school there are many activities to get involved in. Your children have probably informed you of all the clubs and sports, but **have they advised you of our peer tutoring program?**

Ms. Davis is the person to contact if you think your child needs some extra help. She will attempt to match your child with another student, during their study hall. Call between 1:45 and 3:15 and leave a message, her voice mail is 1039.

Freshmen Parents

First Year of High School? Get your teen off to a good start!

The first year of high school is a defining moment for teens but oh-so hard to define in terms of individual experience. The heady adventures and awakenings that constitute the beginning of high school affect different students in different ways. Nevertheless, a few recurrent themes characterize these new kids on the block.

Friends and social activities rule. Cliques and peer groups take the place of family, and more often than not parents find themselves scorned and rejected. This is entirely normal and -- if you're lucky-- passes sooner rather than later.

Individuality gives way to conformity: "Everybody's doing it" becomes a mantra. Many parents watch helplessly as ninth graders spurn anything that might set them apart from the pack. What appears to be social bondage, however, is actually more like a social refuge where kids build confidence and self esteem.

Confrontation is inevitable, encompassing everything from the ridiculous to the relevant. At this stage, kids are learning to think in abstractions and are often desperate to test out their advanced thinking in the form of endless debate. "I hope she grows up to be a lawyer," remarks one father. "Then she can be paid to argue!"

Entering high school brings drama to the smallest events. The rumor mill is in high gear, mundane occurrences assume huge proportions, and the repercussions are endless. It's an ongoing spectacle of tragedy and comedy. Who needs to spend money on theater tickets? For more tips at any age level check out <http://familyeducation.com/article/>. Parents have an important role to play whatever the age. Here are some suggestions:

Attend Parent - Teacher Conferences Nov 3 and Nov 5 from 1 to 7 PM.

You will have an opportunity to meet your child's counselor and teachers.

Help your teen learn time management. High school teachers are likely to give long term projects. Teens need to learn how they can manage their time to meet their responsibilities for six or more classes.

Encourage your teen to get involved with at least one activity. Students who are in at least one extracurricular activity have better attendance and better grades.

Get involved yourself. There are so many things a parent can do to make the high school a more exciting place. Sell popcorn at a football game or help the school set up a site on the World Wide Web. Whatever you do, you'll be playing a role in your teen's education.

Don't always believe what your teen--or his friends--tells you. Teens are not above trying to convince their parents that they are the only one in the world with a curfew. By calling another parent, you are likely to find that your rules are not so unusual.

PSAT-NMSQT

This is a "Practice" SAT for juniors only. This test is also used to select students for National Merit Scholarships and for students to request information on their proposed career and future college, by way of a mailing list. Given on one day only, Wednesday, October 14 there is no make up time. The test will start promptly at 7:50 a.m. in the cafeteria. Three years ago we had a student earn a full ride to OSU from this \$13 test.

Please **note**:

Payment of \$13 is due between September 14 and October 7. We are sent a specific number each year; those tests are allocated to juniors attending Edison. **After October 7, any remaining test openings will be offered to the top Edison sophomores depending on availability of tests.** Last year's teachers will give me a list and I will contact the identified sophomores during homeroom. Even though this is voluntary, it is **highly** recommended for college bound students. All juniors were given a student fact sheet and practice test in their English classes the second week of school along with suggesting using mystudentedge.com

ACT and SAT

These tests are geared for juniors in the last 9 weeks of their junior year, and current seniors for college admission and scholarship purposes. The next ACT test is scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2009 with the ON TIME registration fee of \$32 due by September 18 (postmarked), additional \$15 for writing portion. Late fee is an additional \$20 if postmarked by October 2. The next test date is Saturday, December 12. Please see other test dates on Edison web site. Registration booklets and all fee information are available in the guidance office. Edison was a test site for September 12, 2009 and will be for June 12, 2010 with room for 50 students.

Our High School Code is 363-425

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

Open to any junior or senior interested in military, can also be used for career exploration. This test will be given Monday, **October 5** at 7:45 am in the auditorium. There is no cost but students must be registered to take this test to order proper number.

State Tests

Any student who has not yet passed all parts of the Ohio Graduation Tests will be the week of October 26. **Please make every effort not to schedule appointments during these dates.** All tests will be given in the morning. Make up testing is time consuming and could put

some students at a disadvantage because of missing class time.

PLAN TEST

This test is exclusively for sophomores and is required, except for those on an IEP. The Plan test measures academic performance and identifies individual strengths and weaknesses. It helps the student identify the kind of work they might enjoy and learn about jobs that interest them. This helps them, as well as their parents and counselors, to look at setting future goals. The cost of the test for each student is \$5 payable to the main office by October 6. The remaining cost of \$5 is paid by the district. The test will be held on **Wednesday, October 7**, in the cafeteria beginning at 7:45 am. All students were given information flyers in Sophomore Language Arts class.

Junior /Senior Information Nights

Monday, September 28th at 7pm in the High School Auditorium will be an evening for interested parents of juniors and seniors to learn about information on various college related topics.

Topics will include how to register for the ACT/SAT, choosing a college, college admission practices, scholarships, NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse, and any questions you might have at this time in the school year. This meeting will be less than one hour in length. Please bring any questions with you.

Also, **please mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 7pm** for a Financial Aid Seminar in co-operation with BGSU Firelands. Filling out Financial Aid Federal forms and how Aid packages are awarded will be covered. Plan on about one and half to a two hour program presented by Ms. Debra Divers.

Financial Aid Computer Search Services

An increasing number of companies are offering, for a fee, to match students with sources of financial aid. These companies claim to find untapped educational dollars and charge from \$35 to \$150 for this "service." In most instances

your son or daughter can find the exact same information on a free Web site.

Students have access to the internet in the computer lab at Edison. Check out www.students.gov, www.fastweb.com and www.ohiocap.org and www.mystudentedge.com

Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse

Any senior interested in participating in athletics in college at the Division I or II level needs to register through the **NCAA** Clearinghouse **before** going on any recruiting trip! Please go to their Web site to complete the application on line. That web address is new for the 2009-2010 school year and is www.eligibilitycenter.org. After applying please print out request for transcript and bring to guidance office.

Applying to College

When seniors are ready to apply to one or more college(s), please follow these steps.

1. Fill out the application form as completely as possible
2. If applying to a State school in Ohio include the "College Prep" form with **only** section ONE filled in
3. Write a check to the school applied to for the correct amount of the application fee
4. Complete the Transcript request form, which is available in main office or if attending EHOVE give to your counselor there and they will forward to Edison.
5. **OR** Apply on line instead and sometimes the fee is waived especially for private schools. This saves time and payment can be made by credit card if a fee applies.

These procedures will help expedite the process for all students and allow us to keep up to date records for applications. My suggestion for applying to college is to apply early -- before the end of October. If you are not sure which one, then maybe apply to two or three. This could help by way of financial aid in the form of scholarship contests available only to early or current applicants, and will help ease the student into choosing a college at a later date.

College Open House/ Visitation Days

Juniors and seniors are permitted two days each year, non cumulative, to visit their college(s) of interest. It is a good idea to accompany the student on these visits to meet with financial aid and academic advisors and to take a tour of the campus your child plans on spending their next four or more years. Forms for this privilege are in the main office and should be completed two days prior to leaving. Please call the college admissions office for dates.

Contests/Scholarships/Awards From time to time State and National contests are offered for specific grades and/ or careers. Throughout the year I will pass on any contests to the specific subject area teachers who will announce the contest in class and request the students see me for further details. If there is any fee involved, no matter the amount, do not apply.

EHOVE instructors will also pass on any relevant materials they are made aware of for their students.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 3, and Thursday, November 5 from 1 to 7 p.m.

EHOVE students and Parents:

Please refer to this and future newsletters for updates from Edison.

Morning announcements from Edison are faxed to EHOVE and Firelands before 8:15 am each morning and are read in student's homeroom @ EHOVE and/or posted for students to read. If they have not seen or heard these morning announcements please ask them to see the people in charge at each building so they can be made aware of the daily happenings at their home school. Or check our website, as they are posted there as well, again on a daily basis.

A Majority of the dates appearing in this newsletter also are in your district calendar, and on our website.

Please check our web site at www.berlin-milan.org for Daily announcements.