

GUIDANCE TRACKER

Columbia High School

News from your Counselors

November 2009

Asst. Prin. Guidance – K. Dekle

B. Moseley - 9th 755-8085 ext. 148 D. Bradley - 10th 755-8085 ext. 147 D. Godbold - 11th 755-8085 ext. 149 B. Saunders - 12th 755-8085 ext. 152 V. Ellis - 9th - 12th IEP 755-8085 ext. 145 P. Green - Occ. Spec. 755-8085 ext. 153



SPRING REGISTRATION FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual enrollment registration for the spring term begins November 12th at the community college but students can choose their classes and fill out the registration forms at CHS now. Students new to dual enrollment need to bring their CPT scores with them when they come in to register. Seniors need to see Mrs. Green in the Career Center and underclassmen need to see Mrs. Godbold in guidance. All spring dual enrollment registrations must be completed by December 16th.

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program establishes three lottery-funded scholarships for Florida high school graduates who demonstrate high academic achievement and enroll in eligible Florida public or private postsecondary institutions. A student's most important responsibility is to stay informed.

MAKE THE GRADE – It is the student's responsibility to earn the necessary Grade Point Average (GPA) in the required high school classes. Not all classes can be used to qualify for the Bright Futures Scholarship! Students may visit www.facts.org for a comparison of their transcripts with Bright Futures academic requirements.

EARN THE SCORE – Different award levels within the Florida

Bright Futures Scholarship Program require different test scores. You must earn the required test score on either the SAT, ACT, or CPT. You may refer to the Bright Futures website www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org (click on State Grants, Scholarships, and Applications) for course information and testing guidelines.

APPLICATION – To apply for a Bright Futures Scholarship, a student must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application during his last year in high school (after December 1 and prior to graduation). The application will be available online at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org (click on State Grants, Scholarships, and Applications).

FACTS.org

FACTS.org is Florida's Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students. Sponsored by the Department of Education and the Florida Center for Advising & Academic Support, this free online advising website helps students plan and track their education progress from middle school through college. The site enables students to:

- plan their high school courses,
- track their progress toward graduation,
- check their eligibility for Bright Futures and other scholarships,
- explore careers,

- learn about Florida's postsecondary opportunities,
- apply online to state universities and community colleges, and
- apply online for state and federal financial aid.

SCHOLARSHIPS! SCHOLARSHIPS! SCHOLARSHIPS!

Information for scholarships is updated each day as they come to CHS by mail and from community organizations. Seniors need to go by the Career Center at least once a week to check it out as deadlines are critical when applying.

ACT

TEST DATE	DEADLINE	LATE FEE
DEC 12	NOV. 6	NOV. 7-20
FEB.6	JAN.5	JAN 6-15
APR. 10	MAR. 5	MAR. 6-19
JUN.12	MAY 7	MAY 8-21

SAT

DEC.12	NOV. 20	NOV 21-27
JAN. 9	DEC. 18	DEC.19-25

I.E.P. CORNER

If you are a student with a current I.E.P. you may be eligible for accommodations on the S.A.T., the A.C.T. and A.P. Tests. You need to see Mrs. Ellis in Guidance immediately. There are deadlines (usually six weeks prior to the test) and extensive documentation required in order to access these services. (For the AP Tests, College Board is changing to on-line application for accommodations. The forms for AP testing will not be available until January and they are due in February.....let us know NOW if you are interested in these accommodations so we will be prepared!)

We at Columbia High School believe the purpose of education is to prepare students for the next step in a successful life: furthering their education, joining the workforce, or entering the military.





ALERT – CALLING ALL SENIORS:

1. Do you know what classes (credits) you still need to meet the graduation requirements?
2. Do you know all there is to know about financial aid and scholarships?
3. Have you been given a tour of the career center and do you know we have 30 computers just for you to use for research and/or to create other documents?

These are just a few things that were presented to the seniors September 24th and 25th. There was much more information about local scholarships and college requirements given to classes and there was a chance for the students to ask any questions that they may have concerning these issues. At the end of the power point presentation each student had the opportunity to go over their academic history and address any personal questions regarding future plans.

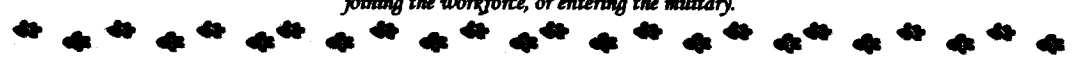
If you were unable to attend this meeting or could not see Mrs. Green or Mr. Saunders during this meeting, please stop by the career center at your convenience to view your academic history and to receive information that was covered during the presentation. You can contact my office at 755-8085 ext. 152 for further information.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

Approximately 80% of our graduates plan to continue their education at post-secondary institutions: 22% at 4-year colleges and 58% at 2-year or vocational schools.



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JUST A REMINDER

Don't forget to pre-order your Columbia High Yearbook. It is \$75.00 until December 1, 2009 when it goes up to \$80.00.

Don't forget to buy your Seniors their graduation Ads!

Finally, for the first time ever, you can buy a "buddy/friends ad" for underclassmen ranging from a business card size to a half page. Call Ms. McMahon, Yearbook Advisor at 755-8103 for more information.

FRESHMEN TACKLE AP GEOGRAPHY

This is the first year that 9th graders have had the opportunity to take an Advanced Placement course. Approximately 130 freshmen are enrolled in AP Human Geography and challenging themselves with college-level work. Mr. Cox and Mr. Cooper are teaching this course and report that most students are working hard to develop and refine the study habits and organizational skills necessary for success in advanced course work.

9th GRADE LEARNING COMMUNITIES

The freshman class is participating in a new program designed to help students transition from middle to high school. The 9th grade has been divided into four learning communities each consisting of English, science, and social studies teachers who share common planning periods and instruct in adjacent classrooms. Teachers are enthusiastic about the new teaming approach to core course instruction. They report that the proximity of classrooms has eliminated tardiness, and they like the common free periods which allow interdisciplinary planning and an opportunity to discuss

individual student progress and concerns. Teachers say that teaming/grouping seems to be helping students feel more connected to each other and to their teachers and is providing a positive environment for educational growth.



Parents We Need Your Help

Cell phones are great to talk to your students before and after school. The problem is during school. The rule is cell phones must be turned off and put away before you come on campus. They may not be taken out until the 3:10 bell. Early bird students may not use their phones on campus until the 3:10 bell rings as well. Students are using their cell phones during tests, during class and in the hallways. When they are texting or receiving texts during class they are not concentrating on their education.

The rule is students are not to have cell phones out at any time during the school day, whether they are using them or not. The consequence for the first offense is referral with counseled/warned; the school keeps the phone until the next day, to be picked up by the parent. The second offense will result in a referral for insubordination which is two days of in-school suspension and the school keeps the phone for one school day.

Please talk to your students about the Cell Phone Policy. Check your student's cell phone for call and texting times. Their education is the most important reason to be at Columbia High School.

IMPORTANT DATES

NOV. 11TH – Student/ Teacher Holiday
NOV. 25TH -27TH -Thanksgiving Holiday
DEC. 2ND – Student Early Release Day
DEC. 17TH-22ND – Semester Review and Exam Days
DEC. 23RD - JAN. 5TH – SYSTEM CLOSED FOR STUDENTS