

December Guidance Memo



Seniors: The Guidance Office strongly recommends that **all College applications regardless of application deadline be completed prior to the Christmas break and mailed out before January 1st. The VERY LAST DAY to submit requests for Guidance recommendations and Transcripts before Christmas is December 19th.**

Many colleges have **January 1st application deadlines** so please plan early and take in consideration the **Holiday break when school is closed** and documents that you might need will not be available. The **December 19th SHHS deadline** guarantees that your request for all supportive documents can be met and that they will arrive there on time to the college or university by their application deadline.

Mrs. Hartman has met with many seniors already and is continuing the process to discuss post-high school plans. All Seniors planning on attending a four year school next year, should have completed and applied to their first choice college by now. If you still have not done so, please do as soon as possible. Please be sure to use your reference form to help teachers and Guidance write a more personal and in-depth recommendation letter about you to perspective colleges. Students using the Cumberland County Option will be assisted with that process which includes submitting an application, placement test prep, actual placement testing, academic advisement and class registration during the third quarter Guidance Class. Applications for four-year colleges and universities with a later winter or rolling admission deadlines can be submitted after Christmas break for processing. There still is time to apply to many excellent colleges and universities. Use the Christmas break to finalize your choices and return ready to apply.

FAFSA Worksheets will be given out before Christmas break.

You cannot submit your online FAFSA information until January 1st.

For best financial aid consideration file your FAFSA by March 1st.

There will be a FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP on Jan. 4th to help with this form and to answer other general Financial Aid questions. The workshop begins at 7:00p.m. in Room 103.

SAT Testing Dates and Deadlines

SAT: January 28th, registration due by Dec. 30th

ACT: Feb 11th, registration due by Jan 13th

All Seniors should plan on taking the SAT by the January Test Date. Many if not most colleges will need results for the 2012 admission decisions by the end of January. Test results from later-given test can be used for rolling-admission and late deadline school's are still an option. You can register for the tests on www.collegeboard.com . or www.actstudent.org

Many Colleges and Universities hold open-house events in December and January. Check their website for visit days or open-house events. Attending a on-campus event always helps you gain new information and insight which allows you to make a better decision regarding your future. Whenever...wherever.... VISIT! VISIT!! VISIT!!!! Please bring a note back from your visit to account from your absence.

Scholarships

Scholarship Opportunities received by the Guidance Office are posted on the Bulletin Board outside the Guidance Office. Get more details about these scholarships online or by reading the postings on the Bulletin Board.

This month, Seniors in Guidance Class will be establishing personalized scholarship search web accounts. There are **many more Scholarships** which are not made available through the Guidance Office and require the student to seek them out and apply for them on their own initiative. For example, Walmart Community Scholarship require that you pick up an application in person. Money is out there, but you have to be willing to look for it and apply.

Some of the Scholarships currently available to apply for are:

National CO-OP Scholarship Program: available only to students accepted to one of the ten NCCE partner colleges and Universities. Drexel, Northeastern, Johnson&Wales Pace are four of the ten universities eligible. www.co-op.edu

American Red Cross: for a student who has participated in an American Red Cross Blood Drive at SHHS. 500 word essay, application and references required. It is available online at www.pleasegiveblood.org

Burger King Scholarship: For a working student with a 2.5 minimum GPA, financial need and community service www.bk.com/scholarship ; Access code BKS

American Legion Auxilliary Scholarships: There are several scholarships available from this organization but you must be a child or grandchild of a US war veteran. Please check online about these scholarships at the American Legion website and see if you meet that criteria.

Failure to plan is Planning to fail!

Pay attention in class, do your homework, study for your tests, and start now to prep for up coming exams. Senior year has a lot of distractions but your ultimate goal and duty is to be a successful student and graduate with your class. Failure is not an option. Please ask me, your teachers and your classmates, for academic help if you need it and please offer academic help if you are able to one of your fellow classmates. The Class of 2012 wants everyone at Graduation ! Keep your eyes on the Prize! May 31st will be here before you know it.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with great things to come!