

Creek's Corner News for Parents From Your Counselors

Hello to all of our Patriot Families! We are having a great year because of the tremendous support "Patriot Parents" give to our school! As counselors, we want you to know that we strongly believe in the "team approach" by involving students, parents and Sandy Creek staff in helping all of our students achieve SUCCESS!

Senior Parents!

We met with all of the seniors and gave them information related to applying for post-secondary schools and discussed procedures for obtaining recommendations and for applying for scholarships. In this session, they are received several handouts that YOU NEED TO SEE! We also pointed out information that is available in the Guidance Office to assist them in their transition from high school into life. Please ask them about this information.

The procedure to apply to post-secondary schools is as follows:

1. Obtain applications from the Guidance Office or apply on line.
2. Request a transcript from Guidance by completing the "Transcript Request" form.
 - The TRANSCRIPT includes a record of the student's grades and their test scores.
 - Mrs. White, the Guidance secretary, will call the student to the office to pick up the transcript. **IT WILL BE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE THAT SHOULD NOT BE OPENED.** If opened, it will not be considered an official transcript by the post-secondary school.
3. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to mail the application, application fee, and sealed transcript to the post-secondary school.
4. Even if a student **HAS NOT TAKEN THE SAT/ACT OR RECEIVED SCORES** from one of these tests, **it is still a good idea to apply now.**
5. Students who are interested in Early Admission should see their counselor.

Some students have no idea what they want to do after high school. We have given the students websites where they will find career interest inventories. In addition, the Guidance Office houses a wealth of information related to careers. Students should see their counselor for assistance.

Seniors are allowed to have two college visits per year during the school day. These absences will not count against the student's exemption. We encourage you to set up appointments with the post-secondary school's admissions office and to **accompany your student on the day of the visit. The day prior to and just after a school holiday**

may not be used for a visit. If a visit is taken on one of these days, it could count against the exemption. According to county policy, there will be no visits after March 29, 2007. Any after this date could effect exemption.

Junior Parents:

We will be meeting with the juniors in the next few weeks to encourage them to work hard this year. We constantly remind them that when they apply to college the fall of their senior year, the school only sees their 9th, 10th and 11th grades. This is a crucial year for them! Please help us by encouraging them to work hard and maintain good grades. **Remember that the HOPE Scholarship will not allow any grade point average to be rounded up!**

We will be administering the PSAT on Wednesday October 18th during the school day. Please be sure that your Junior signs up for this important test. The deadline to sign up is Friday, October 6, 2006. **Even though your students took the test in 10th grade, it is very important to note that the 11th grade PSAT score is used for many scholarships including the National Merit Scholar. .**

Sophomore Parents:

Our Sophomore students are really enjoying not being the youngest anymore!! Please join us in encouraging these students to use their time wisely and to complete all of their work. You can help by discussing class assignments and monitoring the agenda/planner where all students should be recording their assignments.

All sophomores will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 18. There is no cost for 10th grade students to take this test. Please be sure your student is present and on time that day.

Freshman Parents:

Welcome to Sandy Creek! This class has already demonstrated that they are excited about being in high school. In continuing our efforts to ease transition from middle school, we will be focusing on various goals this year specifically chosen for the Class of 2010. We are stressing the importance of organizational skills as well as time-management skills. Please look at your student's planner to insure that assignments are being recorded daily. In addition, you could check the notebooks for order and neatness. To support this effort, we will be hosting **"9th Grade Patriot Success Night on Thursday, October 17th at 7:00. Please note the change of date.** In this hour session, we will go over some strategies for parents to use in helping their students achieve success.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP CHANGES:

Beginning with the Class of 2007, all students entering college must have graduated from high school with a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale, meeting the college preparatory track requirements, or a 3.2 average, meeting the career/technical track requirements, for all core curriculum coursework.

GCollege411:

One very important tool for students and parents is www.GCollege411.org. This website provides free, personalized, online, high quality SAT and ACT test preparation. In addition, it can help a student explore careers, plan high school courses, compare Georgia Colleges, apply to colleges and learn about financial aid. Check it out!!!

REGISTERING for the SAT or the ACT on line:

SAT: go to www.collegeboard.com

ACT: go to www.actstudent.org

Sandy Creek High School Code: 113052

SCHOLARSHIPS:

www.fastweb.com

www.sandycreekhighschool.com