

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS OF SENIORS

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

Daily announcements regarding community service opportunities, college representative visits, college open houses, financial aid, and scholarships are accessible on AHS' website (www.alleganpublicschools.org)

Graduation Requirements

Guidance counselors meet with each student each year to review graduation requirements:

- 3 ½ credits language arts
- 2 credits math
- 3 credits social studies
- 2 credits science
- 1 credit P.E.
- 2 credits fine or practical arts
- ½ credit computer education
- 13.5 credits elective

27.5 total credits

Community Service Requirement:

20 hours community service

- Due by May 1 of senior year
- Must be pre-approved
- Non-profit organization
- Outside the school day
- Documentation form

Researching College (any post-secondary training)

If your student needs to begin researching post-secondary schools-- **Attend College Night**

- **Tuesday, Oct. 14**
- Allegan Technical Education Center
- 6:30-8:00
- Representatives from universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational schools, and the military will be present.
- Parents welcome!
- College Night, KVCC, Oct. 13

Other ways to research colleges:

- College Catalogs
- Online websites of schools
- Free online college search services
- College representative visits
- College open houses

- Recruiters schedule monthly visits to the high school during lunches

Researching Careers/Career Resource Center

- Career counselors available
- "Career Cruising" access to explore career interests
- Internet access is available for students to explore college, trade and technical schools, and scholarship opportunities.

Applying to College

- Paper vs. online application
- Online applications preferred by colleges; sometimes offer fee reduction or waiver
- Download "counselor page" or "transcript page"
- Guidance counselor will return this page with student's official transcript to the college
- If paper application, fill application out completely, provide check written out to college for application fee, and return all to guidance counselor

College Entrance Exams

- May choose to retake ACT or SAT; score will only change if you prepare differently
- Prepare by taking challenging courses in high school and knowing the test
- Collegeboard.com (SAT)
- ACTstudent.org (ACT)

NCAA Clearinghouse

- Eligibility to play Division I or Division II college sports
- Must be filled out senior year
- ncaaclearinghouse.net (download transcript release form and deliver to your counselor)

- College applications ask for current year schedule
- Colleges may revoke admission of students who drop academic courses or let grades fall

Financial Aid/FAFSA

- **Parent Financial Aid Information Night, December 1, AHS**
- Apply for pin # for FAFSA form at fafsa.ed.gov
- Fill out FAFSA after January 1, 2009 and before the priority deadline date
- Use fafsa.ed.gov (free website)

Scholarships

- Scholarships listed on daily announcements
- Scholarship applications/website information available in the guidance office
- Check workplaces, community organizations, churches etc. for scholarship
- Be wary of scholarship scams. **Never pay money to get money!**
- Many online free scholarship search services

Senior Information Meeting

- Guidance counselors met with seniors regarding this information and more
- **Seniors received a booklet of this information on Friday, 9/19...please review with your son or daughter**

Guidance Counselors

Students are assigned to a guidance counselor by their last name:

Military R

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- A-G Mrs. Ellis, 673-7002, 5811
- H-O Mrs. Zeter, 673-7002, 5524
- P- Z Mr. Ziemelis, 673-7002,5523

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