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COUNSELOR'S CORNER — October 2008

High School Guidance
 by Sue Lamour, Counselor
 Jennifer Conrad, Guidance Assistant

PROGRESS REPORTS & PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Progress reports for the first nine weeks were delivered by mail to parent's homes Sept. 20. Parents should review the report prior to parent-teacher conferences in order to make arrangements to attend. Conferences were conducted at the high school on Thursday, September 25 and will also be held Thursday, Oct. 23 from 3-7:30 pm. The progress report will also indicate if a teacher has requested an individual conference. If you did not receive a progress report in the mail, please call the guidance office at 644-2951, ext. 1107 and we will send you another copy.

Conferences consist of two formats. Individual meetings with teachers in their assigned classrooms will be available by scheduled appointment on both days from 3-5 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling the Guidance Office at 644-2951. From 5:45-7:30 p.m., "arena-style" conferences will be conducted in the media center. Most teachers will be available during this time. There are no individual sign-up times for the evening session.

In addition, this mailing contained an informational letter regarding the Ohio Graduation Test for the juniors and seniors if your son/daughter has one or more sections to pass of this test.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

It is time to begin thinking about the financial aid process for college bound seniors. Evergreen High School will be hosting a Financial Aid night on Thursday, October 23, 2008 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the high school band room for seniors and their parents. A college financial aid officer will discuss the financial aid process and how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

College-bound seniors will meet with Mrs. Lamour and Mrs. Conrad in December to discuss the financial aid process. Each student will receive a folder of information to take home and share with parents.

The new FAFSA forms should be available in November in the guidance office. The completed FAFSA form is not to be submitted until after January 1, 2009. It is strongly recommended that families take advantage of filling out the FAFSA form on the web at the following address: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Although the FAFSA forms cannot be submitted until after the first of the year, the US Department of Education suggests the student and a parent request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) now at www.pin.ed.gov. This will speed up the financial aid application process. The PIN may be used as an electronic signature for FAFSA on the Web, Renewal FAFSA and Corrections on the Web, and to access the National Student Loan Data System. It is very important that this PIN # be kept confidential because access to the PIN allows access to all of

the financial information you submit on the FAFSA form.

VIKING 21 PROGRAM

All families should have received a mailing regarding the Viking 21 program. This program, made available through the federal Century 21 Grant, provides morning library access, afterschool OGT preparation, homework help, and various other services. Students interested in participating in the Viking 21 program need to turn in a sign-up form to the main office. Bus transportation home will be provided for students in the after school program as long as they have signed-up for transportation in advance. Again, it is very important that the office has the sign-up form on file before any student is able to participate in the Viking 21 program.

TESTING

October is the month for testing. Please carefully review the following dates and mark your calendars for these important tests. Remember, it is important for students to be well rested and to eat a good breakfast prior to taking any test.

PSAT/NMSQT — This test is designed for juniors. It will be given on Wednesday, October 15 at the high school to any interested junior. The cost is \$13.00 and payable to the Guidance Office by cash or check made out to Evergreen High School. Registration deadline is Monday, October 6. The test measures verbal and mathematical reasoning skills that are important for success in college. A writing skills component is also included. This test provides practice for the SAT and ACT tests which are used by colleges for admission purposes. The test also enters the student into the National Merit Scholarship competition. Interested students need to sign up to take the test in the Guidance Office by the October 6 deadline. Detailed information regarding this test and a study guide was distributed to all juniors on September 9.

ACT — This test is designed for juniors and seniors who plan to attend college. This test is required by most four-year colleges in order to gain admission. Tests will be administered at various local high schools and colleges. Test dates are October 25, December 13, February 7, April 4 and June 13 — check the registration materials for details. Interested students should stop by the Guidance Office for registration materials and a study guide. Students are encouraged to take the writing portion of the ACT at least one time.

SAT — This test is also designed for college bound juniors and seniors. It is used for admission purposes by some colleges. Students should check in the Guidance Office if they are not sure which test is required. SAT has several test dates throughout the year: October 4, November 1, December 6, January 24, March 14, May 2, and June 6.

Students can obtain registration and study materials in the Guidance Office.

Ohio Graduation Test — All high school students will need to pass the five sections of the OGT (reading, math, writing, science, social studies) in order to meet graduation requirements. Students in the class of 2009 and 2010 who did not pass all sections of the OGT last March will retake those failed sections the week of Oct. 27. One test will be given each day in the following order: Monday - reading, Tuesday - math, Wednesday - writing, Thursday - science, Friday - social studies. Students who still need to pass one or more sections of this test should have received more information in the progress report mailing in September.

Students who do not successfully pass all sections of the OGT in October will have an additional opportunity to test in March. For seniors, this March test will be their last opportunity to test prior to graduation.

All students from the class of 2011 will take the five sections of the OGT for the first time in March.

Study Island — Evergreen High School has purchased a test service that students and parents can access via the internet. All students in grades 11 and 12 should be reviewing the sections of the test they still need to pass for the October test. Students in grade 10 can begin to review in preparation for their tests in March. All Evergreen High School students and parents can have access to Study Island from any computer with internet access. Go to <http://www.studyisland.com> then connect via the student's Evergreen user name and password.

Viking 21 Program — The Viking 21 after-school program is conducted by a certified staff member who will assist students preparing for the OGT and/or help students who want additional tutoring/home-work assistance. This program runs from 2:45 pm - 4:45 pm Monday through Thursday. Students interested in participating in the Viking 21 program need to turn in a sign-up form to the main office.

PLAN Test — The PLAN test will be given at the high school, at no cost, to interested sophomores on November 10 or 12. This test is designed as a practice test for the ACT exam and provides information regarding career interests. Detailed information regarding this test was given to students on September 30. If students are not planning to attend college they may choose not to take this test. Students who intend take the PLAN test need to inform the guidance office by October 6. A detailed letter, which included a sign-up form, was sent home in the progress-report mailing on September 20.

SOPHOMORE UPDATE

On September 30, the sophomores meet with Mrs. Lamour to learn about the opportunities available during their junior and senior years at the Four County Career Center. Sophomores, who are interested, will also sign up to visit specific trade programs at Four County on December 5.

SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR & SENIOR NEWS

Even though school has just resumed, things are moving fast. Now is the time to be making decisions and firming up plans for the future.

Campus Visits — Many colleges are conducting campus visit days this fall. Students are strongly encouraged to spend some time on campus and take advantage of the visitation days. Students should stop in the Guidance Office often and note the many colleges offering open houses and specific dates.

Admission Representatives — EHS will be hosting admission representatives from many colleges and universities this fall. Representatives will give presentations and answer questions about their respective schools. A complete list of visits is hanging outside the Guidance Office and includes the University of Toledo, Bluffton College, Ohio University and Defiance College. Announcements will be made prior to each representative's visit and interested students need to sign up in the Guidance Office. Please check your schedule before signing up, if you have PSO or work release and will not be in the building, please indicate that you would like information, but are unable to attend. This will help us assure a more accurate account for the reps. Thank you.

Scholarship Opportunity — "Lunch 101: Food for Thought" presented by ProMedica Health System. This scholarship is open to students in grades 10, 11 and 12. This contest enables students to work in teams of 2 to 4 members to redesign an elementary school lunch program. Each member of the winning team will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship. The winning high school will receive \$1,000 towards its health and science curriculum. For the contest rules and entry form, go to: www.promedica.org and search: Lunch 101. Deadline is December 1, 2008.

Toledo Blade's College Night — The Toledo Blade is hosting College Night 2009 on Thursday, October 9, 2008 from 6:30 - 9:00 pm at Holland Gardens, 6530 Angola Road (.5 mile east of McCord Rd). Representatives from colleges and universities from Ohio, Indiana and Michigan will be available to answer questions and provide information. This is a FREE event.



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