

Seabreeze High School Guidance Parents News Letter – November 2009

Dear Senior Parent/Guardian,

A student's senior year is especially hectic and seems to go by very quickly. This newsletter is to provide you with some idea of the assistance our Guidance Department is providing your student and to give you a "heads up" about important upcoming events, dates and activities that relate directly to your senior's graduation and his or her plans for next year.

Beginning back in September, the guidance counselors have been meeting with our seniors to review our "senior check list". The purpose of this conference is to help the student understand what they need to be doing throughout their senior year. It is also to help them understand they are ultimately responsible for completing all of the senior requirements and meeting any and all upcoming college deadlines. Some of the information that we have been addressing in these checks is listed below:

- Confirm the correct spelling of their name for their diploma.
- Confirm the student knows what their graduation status is – in other words what they need to complete this year to graduate. The requirements to graduate are – 24 specific credits, 2.0 or higher GPA and pass both the Math and Reading FCAT – We want to make sure that an appropriate plan is in place to meet these graduation requirements and that the student is aware of their responsibilities.
- Discuss with the seniors their plan for after their high school graduation- two or four year college, technical or vocational training, military service or work. If the senior is hoping to attend a four year college or university immediately after high school, we discuss with them their plan to meet the application deadlines for the schools of their choice. The priority application deadlines for some colleges are in October and November but there are still many four year colleges and universities that they can apply to. We are helping them to formulate a plan to select and apply to colleges that are appropriate for their abilities and needs. Each college and university has their own admission process. Daytona State College is an excellent option to begin college for many of our students. The application time table for DSC would be March through May of 2010 and we will have an on-site registration for DSC here at Seabreeze on April 8, 2010.
- Review their status for the three Bright Futures scholarships and remind them they can still take the SAT or ACT tests if necessary and that they can begin registering for the BF Scholarships after December 1 of this year.
- Remind them to regularly monitor the school web site and morning announcements so they'll know what is going on with senior activities.

These meetings are a follow up to last spring's pre-registration meetings when we determined with the student what credits were needed for graduation, set the graduation plan in place and selected appropriate classes relative to their future plans.

We would also like to invite any senior parent that is interested in finding out about ways to help pay for college to our College Financial Aid night which will be held on December 16th in the SHS cafeteria. Starting at 5:00pm, the meeting will cover general senior information for about an hour and then at 6:00pm the financial aid portion of the evening will begin. We have invited college financial aid people to talk about ways to pay for college as well as specifically to discuss how to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, which is the starting point for all need-based financial aid.

In closing, we encourage you to communicate with your student's counselor with any questions you may have. We want to work with you to make sure that each and every senior has a successful, rewarding and fulfilling senior year.

Sincerely,

The Seabreeze Guidance Staff

- If a **yellow** SRRA form is included in this mailing, please fill out the highlighted sections and return to the SHS Guidance Office **as soon as possible!** This form is necessary to process transcript requests.

Registration for **FAFSA** begins **January 1, 2010** - on line at

www.FAFSA.ed.gov

Registration for **Bright Futures Scholarships** begins **December 1, 2009** -

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

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