

Tuscola High School

Junior Newsletter

March 2009

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IT IS ALMOST TIME TO APPLY TO COLLEGE . . . ALONG WITH 17 MILLION OTHER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. HERE ARE 10 QUALIFICATIONS THAT CAN HELP YOU STAND OUT.

1. A transcript that includes rigorous courses
2. Grades that show academic growth
3. Solid scores on standardized tests
4. Passionate involvement in extracurriculars
5. Participation in community service (This shows integrity and motivation to make a difference.)
6. Employment, volunteering, and good work ethic (Colleges look at employment records as historical view of how you follow through and get along with authority.)
7. An honest, mature essay demonstrating your aspirations
8. Unique letters of recommendation (Your favorite teachers, counselors, coaches and employers can compose letters of recommendation that describe you perfectly. When you begin requesting recommendations, remind your teachers of classroom discussions or standout projects and ask them to describe your involvement in the letter.)
9. Organization
10. A diverse student



A college campus is more than a place for smart kids. It's a place where smart kids meet interesting kids, which makes for a fascinating experience. Therefore, as you compile your resume, include the honors and awards you have received, plus anything else that makes you stand out.

For more information visit www.nextstepmagazine.com/

Announcing a FREE Online College Fair

Sign up today and learn about schools, admission, scholarships, and more! Did you know that a recent college survey indicated that using the Internet was the #1 method for students to learn about college? Now you can learn more about the different schools and INTERACT with school representatives online, in the comfort of your home, and for FREE. Check out the last event and sign up for the next one at: www.educationxpo.com.

Things to Do This Month

Continue Researching Colleges.



By now, you will probably have a preliminary list of colleges that interest you. Keep reading and learning more, even about schools that are not on your list. At the same time, start looking further into the schools on your list. Try to answer these questions:

- What financial aid is available?
- What percentage of students graduate?
- What are the job placement rates for recent graduates?

This information may be included in a college's brochure or handbook or on its web site.

Visit CollegeWeekLive.com on March 25 or March 26 for an online college fair.

Talk about financial aid options with your parents.

These mainly include loans (that you have to pay back) and grants or scholarships. There are also college work study programs, so you can earn money to help pay for expenses. Talk about all options with your parents. Discuss how much financial assistance they can give you, and how much you will need to take care of yourself.

Welcome responsibility and leadership opportunities.

Colleges favor students who have shown they can handle responsibility and leadership. As you approach your senior year, consider what opportunities may be within your reach.

Sign up to take the SAT or the ACT.

It is recommended that you take the SAT or ACT at the end of your junior year, if you are planning to attend a 4-year college after graduation. (If you have not done this, please see Mrs. Sollie.) SAT: www.collegeboard.com and ACT www.actstudent.org.

Have You Been Suspended?

Many college applications now ask the student and the counselor whether the applicant has ever been suspended or taken a leave from school. The school will respond truthfully. All suspensions from school appear on a student's transcript. We encourage students to include an explanation of their suspension in their applications. Please remember that some schools are asking if students have ever been given ISS? We have to respond truthfully, even if students were given ISS for a cell phone violation.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- **North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service:** Who is eligible? Any individual whose volunteer activities in North Carolina benefit the community or the State of North Carolina in a substantial, important, or unique way. Forms can be picked up in the Counseling Center. Forms should be returned to the Haywood-Jackson Volunteer Center, 2143 Asheville Road by April 1st.
- **Future Leaders in Healthcare Conference—Youth Violence: Healing Not Hurting.** Dates/Location: May 29-31 at UNC Chapel Hill. The program cost is \$65.00; \$25 for students on free or reduced lunch. Fees include transportation, lodging and meals. Applications can be picked up in the Counseling Center. The application deadline is April 10.
- **The Shelton Challenge:** A one-week summer adventure for high school students. Shelton's cornerstone of values-based leadership—honesty, integrity, compassion, diversity, and social responsibility—are the foundations for the experience. The core curriculum focuses on Leadership Roles and Accountability. To obtain an application or for more information, please go to www.ncsu.edu/sheltonleadership.
- **Randolph College's Spring Visit Day** is April 18th. For more information and to register, go to www.randolphcollege.edu/visit.
- **Summer Science Adventure at Montreat College.** For more information and to apply visit www.CLIMBE.org.
- **MeritAid.com** is a free source for \$11 billion in merit aid scholarships from thousands of colleges across the country. Go to www.meritaid.com to find merit scholarships from colleges that fit you.
- **UNCA Open House:** Saturday, April 25. To register, visit unca.edu/admissions.
- **Montreat College Open House:** March 27 and April 17-18. Register by calling 800-622-6968 or visit www.montreat.edu/openhouse.
- **Department of Engineering at East Carolina:** visit www.tecs.edu/engineering. For more information or a brochure stop by the Counseling Center.
- **Congressman Heath Shuler Intern Program:** Please stop by the Counseling Center to pick up an application if you are interested in working as a volunteer or in a volunteer position with the members of the Congressman's staff in the Asheville District Office.
- **Great Smoky Mountains National Park Summer Intern.** All applications must be postmarked by March 21 and sent to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, P.O. Box 357, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745. For more information visit www.nps.gov/gram/naturescience/rlc-research.htm.

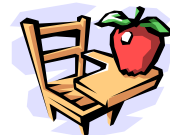


SAT PREP COURSE

Experienced teachers offer class to prepare for 2009-2010 SAT. Classes begin on Sunday afternoons in August, 2009. Call Susan Kingshill at (828) 421-4862, Lisa Clifford at (828) 734-8148, or Lynn Smith at (828) 734-0895.

Limited Registration.

Private sessions can be scheduled.



Graduation Project Information



- Parents are an important part of the NC Graduation Project. Parents must remain attentive to all aspects of students' involvement and progress throughout the entire project.
- The only component that needs to be completed by the end of the junior year is the research paper, which is completed in English class.
- All teachers are following the guidelines required by the state, but the time lines and instructional practices may vary.
- Students need to acquire their mentors as soon as possible. A graduation project mentor is a community and/or faculty member who has expertise and experience within the project topic.