



Tuscola High School Junior Newsletter February 2011

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Would You Mind if a College Admission Officer Viewed Your Facebook Account?

In a 2008 survey of 320 admissions officers from top colleges, the education experts at Kaplan learned that roughly 10% visit social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace to learn more about applicants. The bottom line: an applicant's web information made a positive impression about 25% of the time and a negative impression 38% of the time.

These numbers should be cause for reflection, but they don't mean you should quickly pull the plug on your Facebook or MySpace account. In fact, many college staff members and professors have Facebook accounts and enjoy using them to network and connect with students. Also, more and more colleges are using Facebook to get accepted students in touch with each other before classes begin in the Fall.

As you apply to college, however, keep in mind who might be looking at your social networking sites:

- College admissions officers
- Teachers who are writing you letters of recommendation
- Potential employers for summer jobs and internships
- Your friends
- Classmates who aren't your friends

Many people will suggest that you block access to your account so that no one but your friends can view your site. This is good advice, but some housecleaning is still a good idea. It's hard to keep track of your online friends once you have hundreds of them, and it's hard to know who might be looking over the shoulder of one of your "friends."

Also, realize that you can actually turn the tables on those nosey employers and admissions officers who might be snooping around your site. Use your site to make yourself look good. Think of it as a free place to promote yourself and *increase* your chance of acceptance. If approached thoughtfully, social networking sites can be one more tool to *help* you get into your top choice colleges.



Visit <http://collegeapps.about.com> for more information.

SENIOR NIGHT

I am in the process of planning a "Senior Night" for the class of 2012. I would like some feedback from students and parents on what type of presentations you would like to see or people you would like to hear speak.

I am also trying to decide if we should have it at the end of this year or the beginning of next year. Please email me your thoughts at jsollie@haywood.k12.nc.us.



John Deere Career Opportunities

Did you know that Wake Tech Community College and John Deere Company have partnered up to provide an exciting career opportunity? The John Deere TECH program at Wake Tech Community College provides a two year associate degree and prepares students to become a skilled technician at one of the many John Deere Agriculture Dealers in the area. If you have questions, please call 919-866-5258 .



NEED HELP REGISTERING FOR THE SAT OR ACT?

Come to the Media Center on Wednesday, February 16th at 3:00. Mrs. Sollie and Mrs. Ward will be helping students register for the SAT or the ACT. We will have paper registration forms, or you can register online.

BRING A CREDIT/DEBIT CARD IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON REGISTERING ONLINE.

Please come take advantage of this opportunity.



Find Scholarship Money

Nearly 3 billion dollars — that's how much college scholarship money is out there. How can you find it? Start with Collegeboard's free Scholarship Search. This online tool helps you identify scholarships, internships, grants and loans that match your child's talents, interests and background. Even one of your child's hobbies or extracurricular activities could lead to a scholarship.

Numerous organizations, from employers to religious groups to civic associations, offer funding to deserving students. There are scholarships dedicated to students in the arts, state-sponsored scholarships and more.

Visit www.collegeboard.com to search a database of more than 2,100 sources of college funding.



What Should You Consider When Choosing a College?

Choosing a college is a major decision. It is also a personal one. What may be the perfect college for your best friend may not be right for you. Look at the criteria listed below and decide which is most important to you. Then, keep that criteria in mind when you're looking at colleges. There may be one school that rises to the top in every category, but there also may be several colleges where you will find success.

- (1) Diversity of Academic Offerings:** Larger schools will have more professors and usually offer a wider variety of courses, specialized equipment, and larger research libraries. However, smaller schools develop special programs in selected fields and can match the opportunities at the larger school in a specific program.
- (2) Focus on Research and Graduate Students:** Most large universities offer master's and doctorate degrees, so their faculty members spend considerable time doing research and working with graduate students. This may lead to some courses being taught by graduate teaching assistants. At schools with fewer graduate degrees, faculty members are more involved in teaching undergraduate courses and may be more accessible.
- (3) School & Class Size:** At larger colleges and universities, there may be more cultural events and a greater variety of activities. With a larger student body, it might be easier to find a club or group of people with similar interests. Smaller colleges offer fewer activities and student groups, but you may have more opportunities for leadership roles.
- (4) Diversity of Student Activities:** Larger colleges and universities offer more cultural activities and a greater variety of activities. Smaller colleges offer fewer activities and student groups, but you may have more opportunities for leadership roles.
- (5) Student Body Composition:** While you are likely to meet interesting and different people wherever you go to college, it is important to consider the kind of student body you are interested in joining.
- (6) Location:** Things you may want to consider include distance from home, climate, recreational opportunities, cost of living, and opportunities for part-time employment and internships.
- (7) Cost of Attendance:** DO NOT rule out any school based on cost alone prior to finding out what you could receive in financial aid. North Carolina's public colleges and universities are supported by state tax dollars, while private colleges and universities are not. Even though initial tuition and fees may be lower at a public university, keep in mind that scholarships, grants and work-study opportunities might make an independent college or university just as affordable.



Source: The College Foundation of North Carolina (www.cfnc.org)

Registration Information

The time for your child to plan for next year is fast approaching. Encourage your child to sign up for a challenging slate of classes. Colleges pay close attention to senior year and expect to see schedules that include English and math. Your child should continue with other courses taken throughout high school, such as languages and the arts. Also consider college-level AP® courses. Use Academic Tracker to find out if your child is on track to meet the course requirements of particular colleges.

Which high school classes are especially helpful for students interested in specific college majors? Find out on MyRoad™, an interactive college and career planning website. Students who took the PSAT/NMSQT have free access through My College Quick-Start. Simply select a major, and then click on High School Courses. Visit www.collegeboard.com to access these useful tools.

Important Dates: * **FEBRUARY 17TH**—AP Class Lists Posted, * **FEBRUARY 23RD**—Final Day to Drop AP Classes, ***MARCH 3RD**—Students Receive Registration Sheets, ***MARCH 8TH**—Registration Sheets Due

SAT PREP PROGRAM 2011

Session I: February 21-March 9

Session II: April 11-April 27

Session III: May 16-June 1

Session IV: September 19-October 5

Class will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays for **three** consecutive weeks and will prepare you for the SAT offered at area high schools on March 12, May 7, June 4, October 1, November 5, and December 3.

Time: 6:00-8:30 P.M.

Tuition: \$295

Location: UNCA Campus

Registration sheets are available in the Counseling Center or at www.unca.edu/distedu/ce

