

Senior Newsletter

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August 31, 2018

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Guidance
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Senior Newsletter

- Welcome to your senior year! Come to the counseling office before or after school or during study hall so we can talk about your past, your present, or your future.
- My intention is to produce a newsletter as often as I have information that I think you might find useful. Sometimes it will be one every couple of weeks, and sometimes once a month. You can also get one from me in the counseling office, or you can see them on the school website, following the path above.
- If you didn't take the Compass at NECC last year and you haven't taken the ACT, but now you're thinking about attending a community college (like NECC, for example), then **you must schedule a test**. You can take the Compass or the ACT (the next item). If you took the Compass but didn't get a high enough score to get into the program you want, then you can **and should** take it again. Call (800) 348-9033 and ask for the testing center for a first test or a retake. Don't forget to take a photo ID and \$15 with you.
- If you're headed to a 4-year college and haven't taken the ACT yet, then register for it at www.actstudent.org.
 - For the Sept 8 test, you must have already registered, but don't forget to set your alarm.
 - For the Oct 27 test, register by Sept 28.
 - If your family qualifies for free/reduced lunches, ask in the counseling office for a fee waiver.
- Gentlemen - You must register for the selective service around your 18th birthday. Do this at www.sss.gov. It's the law, and because of that, federal student aid and student loans for college can be denied to you if you don't register. I'm told by last year's seniors that it takes *less than 5 minutes*. Just do it! (Do it *now* if you're within a month of your 18th birthday.)
- If you're thinking you might play college sports, you need to register with the NCAA and/or NAIA.
 - For NCAA D1 or D2: www.eligibilitycenter.org
 - For NAIA: www.PlayNAIA.org
 - * Just because you're going to graduate from high school does **NOT** mean you'll be eligible to play! Go to the website (above) to see if you've done what you needed to do to be eligible.
- Education Quest offers many services at no charge. You or your parent can access them directly at www.educationquest.org any time. Their phone number is (800) 666-3721.

Dates

Fri, Sept. 7 -- Seniors Careers Class (3rd hour)

Senior Parent Meeting for college planning

- **Make sure your parents know about this.** It's in the lecture hall at 5:30 and will last about an hour. You're welcome to come, too, but the information will be aimed at your parents.

Mon, Sept 17 -- Senior Class Meeting (during lunch)

Fri, Sept 21 -- Seniors Careers Class (6th hour)

Wed, Sept. 26 – Sr/Jr Financial Aid Meeting at 6 p.m. (Financial Aid and FAFSA covered at this meeting)

- **Make sure your parents know about this.** It's in the Media Center and will last about an hour. You're welcome to come, too, but the information will be aimed at your parents.

Sun, Sept. 28 – Deadline to register to the Oct 27 ACT. Go to www.actstudent.org

- The counseling office has practice books. You just have to ask!
- If UNL or UNK is a possibility for you, be sure you choose them as one of the schools that ACT send your score directly too. Those schools only accept scores that come directly from ACT. UNL and UNK won't accept the one on the back of your transcript.

Fri, Oct 12 – Seniors Careers Class (3rd hour)

Mon, Oct. 15—Senior Class Meeting (during lunch)

Fri, Oct. 26—Senior Careers Class (6th hour)

General information about the application process

Or..... "Where do I start?"

1. If you haven't already, make a couple of college visits. Valuable impressions/opinions/decisions come from visiting the college itself. Besides, it's a day out of school that you're expected to take! You arrange a visit by going to the college's website. Let Mrs. Hill know if you need help doing this. (She's really nice and wants to help you!)
2. After you've visited, apply soon to the one(s) in which you're interested. Most colleges want you to apply online.
 - * They won't really look at your app until they've received your HS transcript, though, so be sure and ask Mrs. Hill or Mrs. Hopkins in the counseling office to send your transcript.
 - * Some college won't take apps until Sept 1, so if you tried before but couldn't, try again.
3. It's important to apply to more than one school so you have options. After you've been accepted, you can make your final decision at a later date. (next spring, for example)
- 4) If you plan to apply to more than one of the state universities (UNK, UNL, UNO), you only have to pay one application fee. You need to apply to each one separately, but you only have to pay the first one to which you apply.
5. Make sure you've taken the entrance test that's needed (ACT or Compass for community college, ACT for 4-year college).
6. Don't have a clue what occupation you want to pursue? Explore careers at online.onetcenter.org

"...you're off to Great Places! Today is your day!
You have brains in your head. You have feet in
your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction
you choose."

Dr. Seuss
The Places You'll Go