

# COUNSELING and CAREER CENTER NOTES

October  
2011

## Parent Portal Access—Call 356-8302 to sign up!

Did you know that you can now stay up-to-date with your child's *assignments, grades, attendance and discipline* during each quarter? Be knowledgeable about specific projects, homework and tests. Grades will be updated in a timely fashion, but please remember that it may take several days for information to be posted. Keep copies of the class syllabus to refer to for grading policies and call/email teachers with questions. If there is an overall concern that effort/grades are not improving even with this improved communication between you, your student and the teachers, call your child's counselor at 356-8322 to discuss the option of a teacher/student/parent conference.

### College of St Rose Instant Admit Day October 25th

### HVCC Instant Admit Day October 26th

### SCCC Instant Admit Day November 16th

in the Counseling and Career Center AT MOHON. Sign up NOW. Students will interview with college representatives and be given an admissions decision on the spot! Bring the completed application to the interview with you.

### College Visits

*Listen to morning announcements, check the C& C C or the HS Guidance Website to see which colleges are visiting!*

Niagara University  
University of Connecticut  
Hofstra University  
Roberts Wesleyan College  
Nazareth College  
Union College  
Endicott College Newbury College  
Hamilton College

**\* Sign up in the Counseling and Career Center and get a pass.**

### Scholarship Information

Check with the following:

- ~Scholarship board in Counseling & Career Center
- ~on the High School Guidance link at Mohonasen.org
- ~CHOICES software at school or www.bridges.com and fastweb.com
- ~Through parent unions, affiliations, credit unions and employers
- ~Ask your potential colleges and look on their websites

### **HS Guidance webpages: Information Central!!** **mohonasen.org/HS/counselingcareercenter**

- √ Colleges visiting
- √ Scholarships that are posted in the C&CC
- √ Career and College Planning Guide—including answers to many questions about the college search and application process!
  - √ Information for college bound students
  - √ Course of Study Guide
- √ AM announcements are on the HS page on the right

### **Course Registration for Next Year— research your options now!**

Selection for next year's courses (Course Registration) will take place in mid January this year. Current teachers will present students with their options for next year on the first two days. Counselors will then facilitate the completion of the course registration sheet and collect them throughout the next 4 days.

Parents and students can access the Mohonasen Course of Study Guide online at <http://www.mohonasen.org/HS/counselingcareercenter/PDFs/MohonCourseStudy.pdf>. This is a good way to see what a course is about and projects included in the curriculum. Several of the elective courses have video/powerpoint presentations linked to their descriptions so that you are able to see the students in action and/or view samples of their work. **Parents should discuss student course selections with their child(ren) prior to January as final Scheduling Sheets DO NOT go home after electives are chosen.**

When registering for courses please keep in mind that all honors and AP courses are weighted and students must apply. Honors courses (including College Comp, Intro to Lit and Philosophy through SCCC) receive a weight of 2.5% and AP courses receive a weight of 5.0%.

Also keep in mind that you should continue in math and science, even senior year as colleges look for a strong academic program all four years!

### **PARENTS OF SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS AND SENIORS**

There is a **FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR COLLEGE INFO NIGHT** on **Dec 7th**.

It is most helpful to attend this **before** you are a junior! This is also critical for parents of seniors and juniors if you have not attended previously.

**The process of applying for Financial Aid is covered. December 7th at 7 PM** in the HS Farnsworth Technology Center (LGI).

### **SOPHOMORES and PARENTS**

Beginning the last week in October, counselors will **begin meeting individually with each 10th grader** to discuss career and college info, and progress this year. Conferences are scheduled to run until January, leading into the Registration Week in mid-January where students will select courses for next year.

Handouts are given to the students to share with parents. **Parents who would like to attend should call the Counseling and Career Center by October 21st.**

#### **ALSO,**

**The PLAN**, a practice test for the ACT college entrance exam, will be held on Saturday, November 5th. Registration will run from October 17th-28th. The fee is \$18 for regular registration and \$25 for late registration, which is October 31st through November 2nd. A flyer was mailed home with all of the PLAN information and the registration form is on the HS Guidance webpage.

### **JUNIORS**

Students who took the PSAT on Saturday, October 15th should expect to receive results before Christmas break. We will hold lunch time sessions to hand out the scores and info on how to interpret your results and improve for the SATs this spring!.

### **Financial Aid Forms**

#### **CSS/Financial Aid Profile Form**

Some schools require this form in addition to the FAFSA. Check online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to see if the colleges you are applying to require the CSS Profile. These are due **NOW** ! Do not wait!!

#### **FAFSA**

It is highly recommended that parents file the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Parents can register for a PIN, [pin.ed.gov](http://pin.ed.gov) & look at worksheets **NOW** online. These should be mailed or submitted online after January 1, 2012 but before February 1, 2012. There will be a **"Filling Out the FAFSA" Workshop January 4th at 7 PM** in the LGI at the high school; snow date: January 5th. Your tax returns do not need to be completed to do this process. You can estimate your taxes and finalize any changes in the SAR.