

SENIOR NEWS FROM GUIDANCE

August 2017

WELCOME SENIORS!!!

Welcome to your senior year! This will be a very special year for you as you prepare to enter higher education or the work force. The Guidance Department will be providing you with various information throughout the year. This information will come to you via morning and afternoon announcements, announcements made by your teachers, flyers, social media and newsletters. Pay special attention to deadlines for college and scholarship applications. It is helpful to keep a folder with your college, financial aid, and scholarship information. Keep copies of all of your applications. Please write down your username and password also. The Guidance Department is here to serve you. You are invited to come and use our services.

SENIOR CONFERENCES

Within the next few weeks each senior will be scheduled for a conference with his/her counselor. During this conference, education and career plans will be discussed, eligibility for graduation will be verified, and course selections will be reviewed. You will have an opportunity to review your transcript. A Senior Review Form will be mailed home for your parents. If your parents would like to attend this advisement session with you, please see call Guidance to schedule a time.

GAfutures

GAfutures is a powerful online resource provided by GSFC and its partners. It helps Georgians plan, apply and pay for college. The website is a one-stop-shop where students can: explore careers, research Georgia colleges, apply online for college admission, and learn about and apply online for financial aid. Students can also check their HOPE GPA. Please visit the website www.gafutures.org for more information. Most students have a username and password that transferred from GA College 411. You can use the “forgot username/password” feature if you do not know your log-in information.

FINANCIAL AID

Applications for financial aid will be available beginning October 2017. 2016 income tax information must be completed before you mail these forms. A workshop on Applying for Financial Aid will be held in January for students and parents.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Seniors should check with individual colleges for application deadlines. Some early decision application deadlines are as early as October 15th. College web pages should be consulted for specific requirements. If letters of recommendation are needed from teachers, counselors, principals, or community members, remember to request them early. Do not wait until the last minute to ask for these! You must include a stamped mailing envelope with any requests. Also, provide sufficient postage.

TRANSCRIPTS

In order to request a transcript, students will need to complete a form in the guidance department. Students are allowed up to ten free transcripts. After a student has received ten transcripts, any additional transcripts will cost \$2.00 for each.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS

Most colleges require an admissions test, usually the ACT or SAT. Be sure to check college websites for specific admission test requirements and deadlines. Seniors should take the SAT and/or ACT no later than the December test date. (It is okay to take it again after this date, but you should have taken it at least one time by December of the Senior year. The ACT will be given in October and April and the SAT will be given in December, March, and May at Upson-Lee High School. Registration deadlines are usually one month prior to the test date. Check posters and bulletins in guidance or visit the test websites for actual deadlines. Student study guide and registration bulletins for both tests are available in the Guidance Office. Register on-line.

www.actstudent.org (ACT)

www.collegeboard.org (SAT)

COLLEGE VISITATION DAYS

Seniors are eligible for two absences for college visitation days. These days must be approved at least 2 days prior to the date of the absences. Forms for “Visitation Days” are available in the Guidance Office. These absences are excused but will count as an absence. The student is responsible for making up missed work. After the college visit, a letter or brochure or flyer signed by a representative from the college should be turned in to guidance as documentation that the student completed the visitation.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Scholarship information will begin to arrive in the Guidance Office and will be provided to you monthly. If there are scholarships for which you are interested in applying, come to guidance for additional information. Remember scholarship application deadlines must be followed. There are many sources of scholarships available. You will be given information as we get it, but you are encouraged to search the internet and other sources for additional opportunities. Getting scholarships takes work on your part. You must make sure that you follow application directions and procedures fully. Be thorough and NEAT. Remember that you are trying to impress someone enough to award you money. Many scholarships require essays and student are often reluctant to write these. Don't miss out on an opportunity! GAfutures.org is an excellent resource. Utilize its features. Students **MUST** complete a FAFSA (financial aid application) after October 1st in order to receive any state or federal grant, scholarship, or loan, including the HOPE scholarship.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

In order to qualify for the HOPE Scholarship, a student's final GPA must be 3.0 or higher and the student must have taken at least 4 courses of academic rigor. The complete list of courses that count towards academic rigor can be found on the GAfutures website under HOPE information.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

From time to time, colleges will have admission representatives visiting Upson-Lee. The representatives will be in the commons area during your lunch break. Please stop by those tables and ask questions. That is why they are here!!

COMMUNITY SERVICE & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Get involved!! Many colleges and scholarship organizations are looking for well-rounded students. Of course, they do want students who have good grades, but many students fit into that category. Participating in a variety of school events and organizations and volunteering to serve your community can make a difference.

STAR STUDENT GUIDELINES

The STAR Student Nominee must meet the following requirements:

- 1-be a legally enrolled senior
- 2-take/have taken the SAT on any national testing date during the junior year through November of the senior year
- 3-score highest on one test date (scores may not be combined from different test dates) and the score must be higher than the national school average on both the critical reading and the math sections
- 4-be in the top 10% of the senior class or be among the top 10 students numerically

We hope you have a memorable senior year. Let us know if we can help you in any way.

ULHS Guidance Department