

SENIOR SCOOP

October 2008

College Essay Workshops in the Writing Lab!

English teachers will be available from 2:45-3:45 PM on the following dates in the Writing Lab (C-125) to help seniors review and improve their college essays:

Tuesday 10/14

Thursday 10/16

Tuesday 10/21

Thursday 10/23

Tuesday 10/28

Thursday 10/30

Bring your rough draft and get an 'on-the-spot' assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of your essay.

*** The essay workshop will be available in December with dates TBD ***



WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING NOW IF I PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE NEXT YEAR?

- ✓ Fine tune your list of colleges and universities. (Reach, Target, Probable)
- ✓ Visit colleges and attend college fairs.
- ✓ Gather the applications for the colleges that match your criteria for major, location, size, cost, etc.
- ✓ Review each application to understand exactly what you will be expected to complete.
- ✓ Request a recommendation from a teacher(s). Provide stamped and addressed envelopes to your teachers for each school to which you are applying.
- ✓ Develop your ideas for the essay questions on each application.
- ✓ Complete a pink transcript request form for each college to which you plan to apply and return it to the guidance office along with \$1 for each college.
- ✓ Complete the Senior Sketch and Parent/Guardian Questionnaire and return to guidance for a counselor letter of recommendation.
- ✓ Discuss financial aid with your parents. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the **ORHS Financial Aid Night Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 6:30 PM** in the Library

A FEW TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY



- * Allow yourself time to concentrate on the content, insights or theme that you would like to develop.
- * Write on anything that makes you unique to all of the other applicants. Include information about you that may not have been included on the rest of your application.
- * Write in your own voice. Use your own words and phrases. Do not rely on a thesaurus to sound impressive. Are you using words that you normally would use? Are you saying what you know is true instead of what you think others want to hear
- * Write several drafts until you're satisfied that you've expressed your thoughts or topic clearly.
- * Evaluate your organization, structure, transitions, language, sentences, and wording.
- * Check that your final draft remains focused and does not digress from your topic.
- * Edit for correctness. Check mechanics, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Remember to run your essay through spell check!
- * Have someone critique and edit your essay



BE AWARE OF YOUR DEADLINES!

Seniors with a college application **deadline of November 1st** must submit a transcript release form with \$1.00, a senior sketch and parent/guardian questionnaire to the guidance office **no later than October 10th**.

Have you requested your formal letters of recommendation? Remember to provide your teachers with plenty of time to write a letter. Don't forget to provide the teacher with envelopes that are addressed and stamped!

COLLEGE VISITS

October

1	NHCUC Fair-Multi-Purpose Rm.	9:30-11:00 AM
1	Thomas College	12:30 PM
1	University of Southern Maine	1:00 PM
14	Alfred University	8:30 AM
24	Montana State University	8:00 AM
28	Great Bay Community College	9:30 AM
29	Colgate University	9:15 AM
30	University of New England	8:00 AM
31	Endicott College	11:15 AM

Why attend a two-year college?

There are many advantages to attending a two-year institution versus a four-year institution. First, two-year colleges offer noncompetitive admission policies. This means students with lower grade point averages (GPA) that demonstrate potential for future academic success will most likely be accepted to many two-year colleges. Second, if you are a student who is unable to identify a particular career direction, attending a two-year college will allow you to explore all of your career options. Third, the tuition of a two-year college is significantly lower than most four-year institutions and can result in significant savings when credits are transferred.

After successfully completing a 2-year college program, most students will receive their associate's degree. There are many professions that require only a two-year degree, such as a paralegal. The guidance office has several resources to research careers that require an associate's degree.

Many two-year colleges have joint admissions programs with four-year institutions, commonly referred to as "2+2" programs or articulation agreements. A student could attend a two-year institution for two years and transfer the credits gained during those years to a four-year college towards a bachelor's degree. This program requires students to identify their interest in the joint admissions program at the start of their first two years and uphold a minimum GPA to enter a four-year college. We encourage you to discuss the possibility of a two-year college with your counselor.



Financial Aid Night

Presented by NHHEAF

Get step-by-step instruction on how to apply for financial aid

Wednesday November 19th, 2008
at 6:30 PM
in the Library



FALL SAT TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline
November 1, 2008	October 10, 2008*LATE*
December 6, 2008	November 5, 2008
January 24, 2009	December 26, 2008
March 14, 2009	February 10, 2009
May 2, 2009	March 31, 2009
June 6, 2009	May 15, 2009

Late Registration available for additional fee

FALL ACT TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline
December 13, 2008	November 7, 2008
February 7, 2009	January 6, 2009
April 4, 2009	February 27, 2009
June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009

RESOURCES

There are a number of books available to help with the college process both in the ORHS library and the Guidance Office. The titles include:

.....*ORHS Library*
 Acing the College Application
 On Writing the College Application Essay
 50 Successful Harvard Application Essays
 College Life: A down-to-earth guide to dealing with college life
 Admissions Confidential

.....*In the Guidance Office*
 Rugg's Recommendations
 College Board Book of Majors
 College Board College Handbook
 Colleges That Change Lives
 Looking Beyond the Ivy League
 368 Best Colleges
 College Guide for Students with Learning Disabilities
 Fisk Guide to Colleges