

Senior Year

The senior year is the time to make decisions about plans for college and careers. Most of you will enroll in college next fall. Some of you will choose other options: the military, on the job training, etc. I hope all of you have a plan, or at least an idea of what you want to do in the future. If you still don't have a clue, I have resources to help you explore options available.

For those of you looking at college, there are several upcoming events you may want to take advantage of: The Northeast Nebraska College Fair will be held Sunday, September 9, 2007, at Northeast Community College from 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. This is an ideal time to talk with college representatives and to learn more about programs of study and career training available at the various institutions. If you are unable to attend this event, several other college fairs will be held in other locations at later dates.

The Educational Planning Day will be held at Pierce High School this year on Monday, October 8, 2007, from 12:30-2:30. All juniors and seniors will attend this event.

College representatives will be stopping by Plainview High School this fall. Watch for their visits; they will normally be announced in advance in the daily bulletin, and will also be posted on the calendar outside my office. If you wish to speak with these representatives, stop and get a pass from me.

The ACT Test

Plainview School Code is 281-915. Many of you have already taken the ACT test last year, so you are familiar with the procedure. I would encourage you to take the test again this fall. The ideal testing date is October 27, 2007; however, you could wait until December 8, 2007, if the October test absolutely won't work for you. The registration for the October test must be postmarked no later than September 21, 2007, unless you wish to pay the extra fee. Registration packets for the ACT are available in my office, as well as the Preparing for the ACT test booklets, which have sample questions.

The test dates and registration deadline dates for the ACT are:

NATIONAL TEST DATES	REGULAR REGISTRATION POSTMARK DEADLINE (Regular Fee)	LATE REGISTRATION POSTMARK DEADLINE (Additional Fee Required)
October 27, 2007	September 21, 2007	Sept. 22—Oct. 5, 2007
December 8, 2007	November 2, 2007	November 3--15, 2007
February 9, 2008	January 4, 2008	January 5--18, 2008
April 12, 2008	March 7, 2008	March 8--21, 2008
June 14, 2008	May 9, 2008	May 10--23, 2008

To register on-line for the ACT, go to: www.actstudent.org

ACT research shows that of the students who took the ACT more than once:

- 55% increased their composite score
- 22% had no change in their composite score
- 23% decreased their composite score

NCAA Clearinghouse

If you are an athlete and hope to participate in athletics at a Division I or Division II school, the 2008-2009 NCAA Clearinghouse forms are now available in my office. You need to complete this form that is provided by the Clearinghouse which helps to determine your academic eligibility. You also need to send your ACT scores to the Clearinghouse. The best way to do this is by placing code 9999 on the ACT application form when you register for the ACT. The code 9999 is placed in the college and scholarship section of the ACT registration.

ASSET Testing

If you are planning on attending a community college (Northeast, Southeast, etc.) the ACT is not an absolute requirement. Northeast requires that you take a test called the ASSET. The test is used to determine a student's level of verbal and math skills, and students are placed in classes accordingly. The ACT will be accepted in place of the ASSET test provided the student's composite score is 19 or above. The ASSET test is given at Northeast by appointment.

College Visitation Days

Seniors can use two days for official college visits (One day each semester). Planned events--such as Red Letter Days at UNL are ideal--but if these days don't fit your schedule or your parent's schedule, individual tours can be arranged. Don't apply to any school unless you have been on the campus and have a sense of what kind of education you can receive at that institution. You should have me schedule these days for you.. These days will not count in the formula to determine taking semester tests.

Applying For College

I have a majority of Nebraska College and university applications on file. You can stop and check with me when you are ready to apply. Be certain that you are aware of application deadlines. Many college applications include a scholarship supplement--so when you complete the application for admission and the scholarship supplement, you will be considered for any campus-based scholarships. A number of colleges now have their applications on their homepage on the Internet. You can complete the applications on-line either at home or during school. If you do apply on-line, you must make arrangements with me to send your high school transcript.

It works much better if you bring your completed application and the check payable to the institution to which you are applying to me. I will make a copy of your Plainview High School transcript (your grades and ACT scores) and send all of this together.

Release of Information

Before I can release your high school transcript, I need to have a signed Request to Release Records form. If you are 18 you can sign the release. Persons under 18 must have a parent or guardian signature.

Resumes and Letters of Recommendation

Many colleges require a resume as a part of the application admission. If a resume is not required for admission, it most certainly will be part of the applications for scholarships. This is an ideal time to work on compiling the information and putting it together into this format.

You need to identify candidates who you will ask to write you letters of recommendation. Once again, you may wish to provide this person or persons with a copy of your resume, so that this person can incorporate kind words with examples of your outstanding work in all areas of your life. I have also provided you with a form which you may provide to the persons who are kind enough to take the time to support your effort by writing these letters.

Selective Service Registration

As you know, registration is required by law. Those who don't register risk losing the opportunity to receive student loans, to participate in federal job training, and to hold a federal job. The process of registering is a simple one. Men must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday and can do so on-line at www.sss.gov, at their local post office, or in many cases, at school. And now, men who are at least 17 years old can submit registration information early. Their registrations will be processed automatically as they reach age 18. For further information, please visit the Selective Service website at www.sss.gov.