

October

30 Deadline to register for December SAT's

November

1 *Deadline for some Early Decision applications*

6 **Senior Portfolio** deadline for Personal and Project Narrative I

Deadline to register for December ACT's

7 SAT Administration date

12 Late registration deadline for December SAT's (\$23 extra)

14 ASVAB Testing (cannot count as Portfolio requirement)

15 *Deadline for many Early Decision applications, including UNH Early Reading!*

17 **Financial Aid Night** at Coe-Brown 6:30 P.M.

Gap Year & Volunteer Fair 6:45 P.M. at Oyster River High School

20 Late registration deadline for December ACT's (\$21 extra)

30 *Application deadline for all of the University of California schools (regular admission)*

December

1 *Early Reading/ Early Action deadline for many schools*

4 **Two Senior Portfolio** deadlines:

a) First presentation of project and portfolio to advisor, including completion of any 3 components; and

b) Preliminary meeting with Guidance Counselor regarding Career Plan

5 SAT Administration date (last test feasible for most competitive colleges)

Testing News

1) **SAT's** - You can register for the December 7th testing until October 30th and with a late fee until November 12th. Since the next test date is not until January 23, 2010, the December test date is the last one that is viable for most of the competitive colleges. Students applying to highly competitive colleges should double check whether or not they require **SAT Subject tests**. If so, December may be the last feasible test date.

2) **ACT's** - Next testing session will be on December 12th, with the registration deadline on Friday, November 6th. You have until November 20th to register with a late fee. *The next ACT testing is not until February 6, 2010.*

3) Remember to take advantage of the four free chances to send scores to colleges that must be used within a restricted time-frame after testing. UNH, Keene and Plymouth are all requiring direct submission of scores. Plan ahead if you need to order scores to be sent from College Board or ACT.

4) The **ASVAB's** will be given on Saturday, November 14th. While this testing session will not "count" towards Senior Portfolio, interested seniors could still participate if you sign up with your counselor.

College Search- Review of Procedure

Although we have given much of this information before, some seniors are still unclear about the process, so here are some important points:

♣ For paper applications, Coe-Brown offers the service of providing manila envelopes and mailing out each complete application packet from the school. We *must* mail official transcripts and any confidential references directly anyway, so students should have their references turned in to the counselors, and then they bring in the completed application, essay, fee, and any supporting materials, and we send everything out, along with a Profile of Coe-Brown.

❖ If students are applying on-line, as many are through the Common Application process, there are still elements of the application that will need to be submitted by Coe-Brown electronically as well and we need to be kept informed of this well in advance- at least two weeks ahead!

◆ Most **applications** are available on-line, either through the college websites or the Common Application (www.commonapp.org). The Guidance office has a limited number of paper applications. Common Application details:

1. Keep in mind that the advantage of the Common App. is that you do **JUST ONE** copy on line to submit to all pertinent schools. If you are doing paper, you also do **JUST ONE** copy and then we photocopy it. **DO NOT** fill out multiple copies for all schools.
2. Always check which Supplements are required for each separate college.
3. After you've filled in your information, this year you "invite" your counselor and teachers to complete the Secondary School report and Teacher Evaluation forms and that request comes to them through e-mail. *As a courtesy, you should have already discussed this with your teachers and counselor and submitted the pink reference request forms to the teachers and a brown/tan form to your counselor along with your lavender sheet and resume.*
4. Be sure to do a print preview and have another set of eyes (Guidance Counselor, English teacher, parent) proof your application before you click *Submit*. If errors are discovered after submission, they can no longer be corrected before submitting to later schools.

Refer to the green sheet in your red folders for all vital information about Coe-Brown when filling out your applications, including the CEEB code! (300470). This information is also posted on the CBNA website under *Guidance*.

♥ **Reference requests** to teachers and Guidance Counselor must be made in a timely manner with plenty of advanced warning (2-3 weeks) and a completed *Senior Questionnaire* sheet (lavender) for counselors and pink Reference Request sheet for teachers. **Do not wait** until you have finished your part of the application to bring this to your counselor or teachers. The whole process of soliciting input from teachers and writing a good reference for you may take up to two weeks.

Students should be in contact with their counselors well before any deadlines preferably 2-3 weeks in advance, especially if a School Report or Guidance reference is needed. Contacting counselors only a few days before the deadline does not give sufficient time to do the best job possible for you.

COMMON COURTESY should prevail through this whole process:

- Ask *first* if someone is willing to write; do not *assume* that they will.
- Give writers plenty of time.
- Check first about what kind of references your schools want and how many.
- Do not ask more writers than the number of references you need -that is a serious imposition on the limited time of teachers.
- Finally, how about expressing your appreciation to those adults who spend time doing this for you????

♠ It is wise to review your own transcript once before it is first sent out. Make sure to have Mrs. Wolf add any new honors or activities you might have acquired since you submitted the blue sheet to her in September. (If you have not given her that sheet, your transcript could be blank in that area!)

Check your deadlines! Don't be surprised by early deadlines such as the November 30th one for California state schools. There are some Early Decision or Early Reading deadlines for certain schools in November and December.

UNH Early Reading deadline is November 15th. If you intend to apply early, you must notify your guidance counselor of this and request references from teachers ASAP since this is only two weeks away. *Please note, this year UNH is emphasizing that they only want one reference.*

. **UNH, Keene, and Plymouth** may continue to have a substantial increase in applications this year so that you would be wise to get your applications in during December and January, definitely **not** waiting until the last minute! Keene and Plymouth will fill their classes on a *rolling admissions* basis.

♥ Remember to **review your potential college list** with your Guidance Counselor for a reality check about whether it gives you a good range of Safety, Target, and Reach schools. College admission is NOT totally predictable as certain factors vary every year. **Prevent spring heartache:** find several Target and Safe schools which fit the same profile as your Reach schools so that you will have a choice! Include “financial safety” schools as well. Meeting with your guidance counselor will also satisfy the senior portfolio deadline for an initial planning meeting to be done before December 4th.

College Visits: To have an excused day for a college visit or to sign up with the military, you must bring a note from a parent *in advance*, see your Guidance Counselor, and have all your teachers sign off on the blue sheet that you are totally caught up with all your work *prior to your visit*. The number of days excused is limited, so make sure to choose wisely. You may want to save some time for spring visits to schools at which you have been accepted.

If you plan to visit three or more colleges, this can be used as a Portfolio component *if you plan it in advance with your guidance counselor and get the preapproval sheet signed*. The intent of this component is to visit schools that would be a good match for you, not just to visit places that your friends are going!

Check the bulletin board outside of Mrs. Aseltine’s office for scheduled college **Open Houses**. Check the websites of colleges in which you are interested to find out about their Open House dates.

November 11th will be a school holiday, thus an excellent time for college visits!

\$\$\$\$ Financial Aid - If you are applying for aid, *you or your parent must carefully read* about exactly what each of your schools requires regarding both forms and deadlines.

- All schools will require the FAFSA to receive any need-based aid – it cannot be filed until January 1st, 2010.
- Many schools ask for the CSS Profile also- go directly to www.collegeboard.com to complete it on line. The first part of the *Profile* must be filed before you can receive the main part of the form. *This is a two-step process.* (The *Profile* can be done with an early application and is often required.)
- A random assortment will have their own institutional forms in addition to one or both of the others.

Yes, you *do* apply for aid *before* you know whether or not you’ve been accepted.

Pay particular attention to the Priority Financial Aid Deadline at your school to ensure that you have submitted your request in time to meet this; otherwise the institutional grant money might be gone. This deadline might be as soon as very early January. (The rule of thumb: the earlier your application was due, the earlier the financial aid deadline will be.)

Finally, if you do not have all of your 2009 financial information together in time for a deadline, *estimate* and send it anyway. There is time later to file a corrected version.

Keep copies of everything you submit in any step of the financial aid application process.

For more details about the whole process of paying for college, come to the annual **Financial**

Aid Night that will be held at CBNA on Tuesday night, **November 17th at 6:30 P.M.** in the **Multipurpose Room**. Remind your parents to be there with all their questions. Refer also to the posting about various aspects of Financial Aid which is on the CBNA website under *Guidance*.

Scholarship Opportunities- Your best money usually will come from the financial aid package from the college you attend, but keep checking the bulletin board in the Guidance offices for other opportunities. Local scholarship information will not be out until the spring. Check with your parents to see if their workplaces offer any specific scholarships.

Be aware that most schools will not permit you to be “over-awarded” aid. Thus, if you obtain outside scholarships, the school may reduce the grant money it is giving you. If the school left a gap between what you need and what it could give, then you may be able to use scholarship money to fill that gap.

For **merit scholarship** consideration at some schools, you should really get your application in *now* in November and December before the funds for those awards have been given away to others. If merit money will be important to you, be sure to meet with your counselor to ascertain which schools might have such aid available to you. In general, if you are a student with stronger qualifications than the bulk of the student body at a particular school, then the school might offer merit money to you in order to entice you to attend. Check out the new website: www.Meritaid.com.

Senior Portfolio Issues

November 6th is the deadline for completion of your first Portfolio Narrative, submitted to and reviewed by your Portfolio Advisor. Bring your October journal entry to be signed at the same time. Remember, **common courtesy** dictates that you make an appointment with your advisor in advance. You can use e-mail to be in touch to arrange a time if you rarely see your advisor, but you still need to meet!

Cultural Event Component- *Shades of Shakespeare* will be playing on the CBNA stage November 12, 13, and 14. Obtain pre-approval for this to count as a cultural event *and* support your fellow students!

Optional Component #3- Save a copy of your college application to use for this instead of filling out the job application!

December 4th is the next deadline for Portfolio after this month.

Senior Career Plan- All seniors should be meeting periodically with their Guidance Counselors to plan for next year, whether or not you're going to college. This year the first meeting **MUST** be done by December 4th to meet Portfolio deadlines. You will need a slip stating that you've done this to take to your portfolio advisor. Keep in mind that each counselor has multiple seniors, so please do not leave this meeting until the last moment because it will take at least part of a study period.

Community Service - Do **you** have your 40 hours done? 20 hours are due by January 8th. Don't be the one spending *your* Christmas and February vacations completing them!

How's your Portfolio Project coming? If you have had second thoughts about your choice, or are coming up against financial or time constraints, now is the time to revise your plans, in consultation with your advisor, before too much time has passed.

Tastę the joy that springs from labor. ~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow