



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE SCHOOL COUNSELING
DEPARTMENT

PROVIDENCE GUIDE

School Counseling Department Winter Schedule of Events

In this issue

Senior Spotlight	2
Student of the Year Nominees	2
SAT/ACT Dates	3
Junior Journey: <i>Jacksonville</i>	
<i>College Fair</i>	4
Sophomore Sense: <i>College</i>	
<i>Admissions Timeline</i>	5
Freshman Focus: <i>How to</i>	
<i>Successfully Study</i>	6
Announcements	6



December (all month): Seniors' follow up meetings about college admissions.

December (all month): Counselors meet with students who are struggling in more than one class.

December 2: Seniors in Media Center with Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Shirah to register for Bright Futures Scholarships

December 5: Juniors in Media Center to learn about InfoTrac and how it can help for the college admissions process. They will complete a college search activity.

December 6: Senior parent Financial Aid Night

December 8: Sophomores in Media Center to learn about InfoTrac and how it can help for the college admissions process

December 16: Last day of school before Christmas Break/all seniors must have applied to their schools by this time/all community service hours for must be turned in.

Financial Aid Night

The Providence Counseling Department thanks all the parents who attended Financial Aid Night on December 6th. If you were unable to attend or would like a copy of the PowerPoint please visit www.prov.org under the "Counseling" section of the High School website. Topics included:

General Information on Types of Financial Aid

Financial Aid Terms and Definitions

General Information on the FAFSA Form

Money Questions Students and Families Should Ask Schools

College Cost Comparison Tools

New College Cost Calculator Required for All Colleges and Universities





Senior Spotlight

College Admissions Officials Turn to Facebook to Research Students: Instead of posting harmful information, use social media networks to showcase your strengths.

By RYAN LYTLE

Student of the Year Award Nominees

We would like to congratulate Andrew David and Kara Shroul for their nomination as Students of the Year through the Exchange Club of Jacksonville. They were selected among our seniors as students with excellent grades, extra curricular activities and leadership qualities. They will be among other students across Jacksonville vying for the city-wide distinction to win the \$2,000 scholarship award.

Bright Futures Scholarships

Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Shirah were in classes working with the senior class on getting registered on-line for the Bright Futures Scholarship on Friday, December 2nd. If your student was absent that day, please have him or her see Mrs. Davis or Mrs. Shirah for help on getting registered for Bright Futures.

When a prospective student applies to college, it is expected that his or her application profile will be judged—whether it be on grades, standardized test scores, or a combination of factors. A growing trend among college admissions officers, though, involves a different profile check of an applicant: a Facebook profile.

Facebook has become a vital source for admissions professionals looking for background information on prospective students. In a recent survey of admissions officers at 359 colleges and universities, Kaplan Test Prep revealed that 24 percent of respondents reported using Facebook or other social networking pages to research an applicant. This is a significant increase from 2008, when only 10 percent reported using social media as a source during the admissions process.

While policies for researching an applicant's social media footprint are not standard yet at most schools, Martha Allman, dean of admissions at Wake Forest University, says that her staff uses Facebook profiles more as a means of

introduction rather than investigation.

"Some of my staff members will, prior to an admissions interview, look at Facebook just to get a sense of who the student is," Allman says. "As far as using it to check up on our applicants, though, we would rarely do that." Although viewing social media sites sparingly may be common practice for the admissions office at Wake Forest, Allman suggests students be conscientious of the content they make public.

"I think anything that is in the public domain is fair game for admissions counselors to look at," she says. "Admissions officers are part of the public and, if they choose to research [social media], I don't consider that an invasion of privacy."

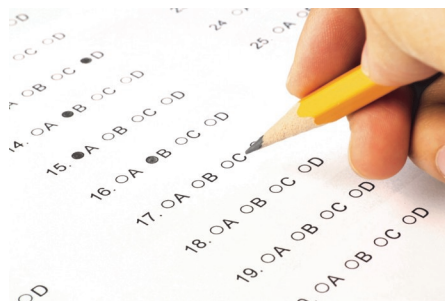
For students who did not opt to set privacy settings on Facebook, the consequences may have come in the form of college rejection letters. In the Kaplan Test Prep survey, 12 percent of respondents who reported checking social media sites noted that posts—such as vulgar language in a status update or alcohol consumption in photos—negatively impacted a prospective student's admissions chances.

Emma Siegel, a freshman at Rochester Institute of Technology, says that while many students may not be cognizant of the practices of college admissions officers, it is fair for school officials to use the social networks to research applicants. "Your Facebook is supposed to show how you want to be perceived," Siegel says. "And if you're doing stupid things on your Facebook, that's how people will perceive you."

While using social media to research prospective students is a growing trend, the majority of respondents in the survey do not use the platform during the admissions process, notes Florence Hines, vice president for enrollment and dean of admissions at McDaniel College in Maryland. "I tend to believe that we operate in a world in admissions where we believe the best of people," Hines says. "We take the information that is provided to us and the fact that a student verifies it as the truth, and we go from there."

According to Hines, McDaniel College has not yet deviated from the traditional admissions practices,

continued on pg. 3



Upcoming ACT Test Dates

ACT Test Dates	U.S. Registration Deadlines	
	Regular	Late (a fee applies)
December 10, 2011	November 11, 2011	November 12 – 18, 2011
February 11, 2012	January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012

Upcoming SAT Test Dates

SAT Test Dates	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines	
		Regular	Late (a fee applies)
December 3, 2011	SAT & Subject Tests	November 8, 2011	November 20, 2011
January 28, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	December 30, 2011	January 13, 2012
March 10, 2012	SAT I	February 10, 2012	February 24, 2012

College Admissions Officials Turn to Facebook, con't

and using social media to get background information on a student "isn't really on our priority list as for what makes a good fit for our institution." Still, Hines acknowledges that the current state of social media could mean changes for college applicants applying to other institutions.

"I believe the reality that if this trend increases, students need to be very cautious of the fact that admissions offices will use this information," she says.

Avid Facebook users who will be applying to colleges in the near future may want to take advantage of their public profile as a means of showcasing strengths and achievements. That's worked for applicants at Wake Forest, dean Allman notes, who have boosted their admissions chances by posting projects, research, and writing on Facebook for schools to view.

"We have seen real talent [on Facebook]," Allman says. "You should put out the good things and show off a bit. It can be really positive."

Featured Scholarships



AXA Achievement Community Scholarship

Scholarships of \$2000 – up to 275 winners nationwide

Apply by February 1, 2012

More information can be found at www.axa-achievement.com

The Exchange Club of Jacksonville's Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (ACE) Award The **ACE Award** is designed to recognize students who have overcome significant obstacles, yet who are continuing to excel. Past award winners have often overcome physical, emotions and/or other challenges, yet have not always achieved recognition for their accomplishments. The first, second and third place winner will receive a cash award. The special recognition afforded by the ACE Award serves as a powerful example that hard work and perseverance really do pay. This award is for seniors only. Please see a counselor for a nomination. The deadline for nomination is April 1st.

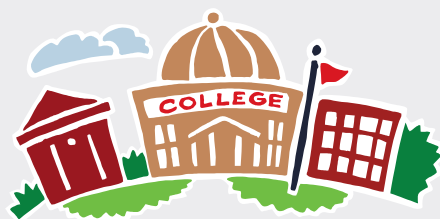
JUNIOR JOURNEY



Jacksonville Preparatory Schools College Fair

The 2012 Jacksonville Preparatory Schools College Fair will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront on Thursday, February 23rd from 5-7 p.m. There will also be a financial assistance presentation given by Chris Gruber, Vice President and Dean of Admission and Financial Aid at Davidson College. This is a must attend event for all juniors and their parents, so please don't miss out! Listed below are some of the colleges that will be in attendance:

Berry College	New College of Florida
Centre College	Nova Southeastern University
College of Charleston	Oglethorpe University
Drew University	Purdue University
Eckerd College	Queens University of Charlotte
Elon University	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Flagler College	Salem College
Florida Gulf Coast University	Simmons College
Florida Institute of Technology	Spring Hill College
Georgia Southern University	Sweetbriar College
Hampden-Sydney College	United States Coast Guard Academy
Hofstra University	University of Alabama
Iona College	University of Alabama, Birmingham
Jacksonville University	University of Central Florida
Johnson and Wales University	University of Missouri
Lenoir-Rhyne University	University of New Mexico
Loyola University, Chicago	University of North Florida
Marist College	University of Notre Dame
Mary Baldwin College	University of South Florida, St. Petersburg
	University of Tampa
	Webber International University
	Wofford College



Do you want to find:
College search tools?
High school planning?
Scholarships?
Personality Inventory?
Career Search?
 Then go to the **Testing and Education Reference Center** on the Providence website!

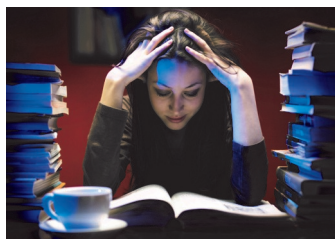
Directions to Testing and Education Reference Center:

Go to: www.prov.org
 "High School"
 "Media Center"
 "Info Trac Gold
 Online databases"
 Id= "Stallions"
 "Testing and Education
 Reference Cen-

Mrs. Rose was in the library working with the junior class on their college search on Monday, December 5th. If your student was absent that day, please have him or her see Mrs. Rose for instructions on how to complete this search. If you are a parent, ask your student what colleges were on your student's list!

Sophomore Sense

Sophomore Sense



Sophomore Timeline: December

Tanya Riggio, Freshman and Sophomore
Counselor

With your freshman year behind you, you are one step closer to finding a college that fits your needs. In addition to keeping your grades up, you can begin researching prospective schools. Continue meeting with your counselor and involving yourself in outside activities, such as athletics and community service. Your senior year will arrive before you know it, and you can be ready when it does.



Continue Dedicating Time to Outside Activities

As we mentioned before, colleges love to hear about your life outside of the classroom. If you didn't dedicate your time to an activity as a high school freshman, you can do so now. It is not necessary to join every club on campus, just pick one or two things that interest you. Admissions committees are impressed with awards or leadership positions, but don't be fooled into thinking that you have to be a superstar. As long as you consistently dedicate your time to something you enjoy, you will make an impression.

If you can convince schools your extracurricular activities have positively impacted someone's life, including your own, your commitments will be even more notable.

Research Colleges

During your sophomore year, you should begin researching colleges of interest. Speak with friends and family about their college experiences, and ask them about the positive and negative aspects of schools they attended. Take a look at student requirements, and find high school classes that will help you fulfill them.

Begin Financial Planning

College may seem like a financial burden, but it doesn't have to be. If you create a financial plan, you can avoid falling into debt. Check college websites to get an estimate of tuition costs. You should also take into account the costs associated with living on campus.

Taken from
www.scholarships.com

All High School Students: Make time to go and visit a college campus while you are traveling on the holidays.

Freshman Focus



How to Successfully Study

It does not matter whether you are writing an English literature paper, reviewing algebra problems, or finishing up a chemistry lab report. There are a few key elements every successful student needs to include in a study plan.

- *Time-Management* - It is not the amount of time you spend studying that matters. It's what you can accomplish during that time. Spending 40 hours to prepare for an exam and only earning a C clearly was a waste of your time. Develop a study plan and learn how to manage your time effectively to maximize your results.
- *Motivation* - If you are not motivated and have a poor attitude, your study session will not be very productive. You have just one opportunity to pass that Geometry exam or ace the term paper. Pick a time of day where you can get motivated to prepare for tests, write essays, and solve problems.

- *Concentration* - The ability to concentrate is one of the more important study skills you need to develop. You won't always be able to study in absolute silence or be able to spend as much time as you would like on a particular project. Learn how to overcome distractions so you can focus all your attention on your studies.

When in doubt, ask - If you aren't sure about a particular topic, don't be shy. Ask your teacher, family, or friends for help. It is important to address the problem area as soon as possible. Otherwise, you will end up having to spend even more time studying to catch up.

Taken from www.studytips.org

Tanya Riggio, Freshman and Sophomore
Counselor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Seniors:** The wall of acceptance stars will be displayed starting in February! Please turn in a copy of your acceptance letters to your counselor. We are excited to celebrate all of your college acceptances with you, but we only display a star for you when you turn in your letter of acceptance.
- **Parents of Juniors and Seniors:** Now is the time to consult with your family's tax and/or financial advisor regarding professional advice on paying for college if you haven't already done so.
- Go to www.collegeweeklive.com to register for the following events:

Florida Atlantic University Virtual Open House – Thursday December 8, 2011

Faith-Based College Day – Thursday December 15, 2011

Paying For College Day – Thursday, January 12, 2011

Test Prep Day – Thursday, February 9, 2011

Florida Day – Tuesday, February 14, 2011

School Counseling Department

If you have questions for Providence's School Counseling Department, feel free to contact us at (904) 223-5270, option 4.

Mrs. Leah Wilkes

Administrative Assistant

223-5270 x2116

Mrs. Tanya Riggio

Freshman and Sophomore Counselor

triggio@prov.org

Mrs. Katie Rose

Junior Counselor

krose@prov.org

Mrs. Kelly Shirah

College Counselor

(Seniors A-J)

kshirah@prov.org

Mrs. Amanda Davis

College Counselor

(Seniors K-Z)

adavis@prov.org



PROVIDENCE SCHOOL
Boldly Christian. Unquestionably Academic.

