

Rocky Hill High School-Counselorletter

A Guidance Publication May – June 2008

This Counselorletter can be viewed at <http://www.rockyhillps.us/rhhs/guidance/counselorletter.htm>

COUNSELOR AND STUDENT DISTRIBUTION

If you need to get hold of your school counselor, we have divided the students by their last name as follows:

| Student Last Name | Counselor |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| A-D | Mr. Joe Dabkowski |
| E-K | Mrs. Amy Carbutti |
| L-Rf | Mr. Brian Pereira |
| Rg-Z | Ms. Shannon Turlis |
| Guidance Intern | Ms. Jennifer Quinones |

Important Dates

- May 3 SAT I / SAT II**
9 Junior Prom
16 Progress Reports
20 Scholar's Breakfast
- June 4 Spring Sports Night**
6 Senior Prom
7 SAT I / SAT II
9 Senior Class Night
10 Awards Night
24 Graduation!

ATTENTION: SENIORS

If you still have **not** sent out college or post high school applications, there are schools that offer rolling admission. Contact your school counselor for assistance in determining schools that meet your needs.

Guidance sent 2nd quarter report cards for seniors who have already applied to college.

Colleges will be sending their letters of acceptance or rejection to their applicants (common reply date: April 15). **Please be sure to contact your counselor regarding your status.** When you receive an acceptance from the school you wish to attend, please be sure to follow its instructions concerning payment of fees, selection of courses, housing reservations, etc. If the college does not require anything immediately, acknowledge the acceptance with a letter to the Director of Admissions, thanking him/her for their attention. Also, you must notify the schools where you were accepted, but are not planning to attend. Thank them for their offer, but you are declining their acceptance. Other students may then be offered a chance to go.

Thanking the teachers or anyone else that wrote letters of recommendations for you is also important. They spent valuable time preparing your letters and it was an important input factor in the admission staff decision process.

\$\$\$\$ SCHOLARSHIPS \$\$\$\$

The guidance office regularly receives notices of state and national scholarships. These usually have very specific qualifications and are highly competitive. Students are notified regularly in their homerooms with an updated list of scholarships. The list is also updated outside of the Guidance Office. All applications are in the Guidance Office in a scholarship file cabinet that seniors can access.

In addition, there are a number of local scholarships that are available to Rocky Hill High School seniors. You can access a list of 2008 scholarships at www.rockyhillps.us. Click on "scholarships" on the left side. Don't miss out on the possibility to receive free money for school!!

FINANCIAL AID FORMS

There are two different forms that may have to be completed for post-secondary education financial aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form used to apply for federal student aid programs. It is also required for the Connecticut Scholastic Achievement Grant. The other form, College Scholarship Service "Profile", is used to apply for financial aid from some colleges and private scholarship programs. Be sure to check with each college to find out which forms are required and the deadline dates. There is a federal aid hot-line that may be able to answer questions to you. The number is 1-800-4-FED-AID.

FAFSA Forms

Colleges and scholarship committees require the FAFSA form or the Free Application for Federal Financial Aid form. All senior parents are encouraged to complete the form as soon as possible. Most colleges require this information for loans, grants and scholarships. If you plan on doing the form online, you can get your PIN, **Personal Identification Number**, by going online, www.pin.ed.gov.

Some private colleges also require the **CSS Profile**, College Scholarship Profile (there is a charge associated with this form). These forms are in the Guidance Office.

Need money for college?

Web Sites

www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.finaid.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.fastweb.com
www.wiredscholar.com
www.collegenet.com
www.collegelink.com

REQUIREMENT FOR COLLEGES-MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE

Each public and private college must require each student who resides on campus to be vaccinated against meningitis as a condition of residency.

JUST FOR JUNIORS!

Juniors: With graduation from Rocky Hill High School less than a year and a half away, now is the time to begin exploring your options and making plans for what you will do after high school. Investigate what educational program or special training will be required for you to reach your goals. Remember that personal growth and career preparation can take place in many settings.

If you are planning a post-secondary education, now is the time to familiarize yourself with the various types of colleges, vocational schools and training programs available. Become familiar with the reference books and other informational “tools” available in the guidance office. Talk with your counselor. He or she will help you to evaluate your strengths, weaknesses, achievements, aptitudes and test scores so that you can make wise and educated decisions. Personalized Junior packages were handed out at Junior Planning Night, Monday, March 12th. If you did not attend, but would like your package, you can pick it up in the guidance office.

SAT TESTS 2008

Juniors who plan to attend a college requiring the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I), should plan to take the test on May 3 or June 7 this school year. Also, it is recommended that students retake the SAT at the beginning of their senior year. You can register online at www.collegeboard.com. The deadline for registration of the June test is May 6th. The fee for taking the SAT I is \$43. Some colleges require students to take SAT II Subject Tests. These subject area tests are usually taken in November or December of the senior year, but may be taken earlier. If you plan to apply “Early Decision” to a college, you probably should take the tests during the junior year. Be sure to check with your counselor if you are uncertain about which tests you should take or when to take them.

NCAA - Sign Up for the SAT's

Students interested in satisfying eligibility requirements should plan strong college preparatory programs, earn good grades, and take the SAT's several times (since highest math and highest verbal scores are combined). Juniors or seniors should obtain a “Student Release Form” online ncaa.org and bring 2 forms to the Guidance Office and send an additional one to the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.

The Clearinghouse must receive final senior grades and a confirmation of graduation before final eligibility can be granted. However, if you complete the release form at the beginning of your senior year, you will receive a preliminary response from the NCAA and you will know what will be needed during senior year to qualify.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY

If you are considering playing in Division I and II intercollegiate sports in college, NCAA clearinghouse must approve your eligibility. Students must successfully complete a core curriculum of 14 core academic courses (for the graduating class of 2008 and after; you need 16 core academic courses).

For Division I eligibility, students must take at least 4 years of English, at least 2 courses of pre-college math, Algebra I or higher (3 years are required for the graduating class of 2008 and after), at least 2 years of science including one lab science, at least 2 years of social studies and 3 additional courses in any of the above or a foreign language (4 years are required for the graduating class of 2008 and after). Courses taught at the remedial level will not be considered as a core course. Students must maintain a “C” grade point average (GPA) and meet the minimum required SAT or ACT scores. The qualifying GPA and test scores are listed on a chart that the NCAA provides. For example, students having the minimum 2.0 GPA need a minimum SAT score while students having a 2.5 GPA or above need a different minimum SAT score. Please check your status and look up more information by logging onto www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. You need to release your SAT scores using the college code of 9999.

AWARDS PROGRAM

The annual Rocky Hill High School Awards Program has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 10th. Parents and friends are invited to attend this function honoring scholarship recipients, honor graduates, and juniors receiving special awards.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Guidance Department maintains a “Job Board” outside the guidance office. Local employers seeking help have their notices posted regularly. If you are looking for work, be sure to check the board for leads. If you need “working papers” bring proof of age and a letter from your prospective employer to the guidance office and Mrs. Sarno, the guidance secretary, will issue them for you.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Rocky Hill High School does **not** sponsor a remedial summer school program. A student who fails a course(s) or does not get the recommended grade needed as a prerequisite for a course they intend to take next year may consider attending a summer school at a nearby town. Students that do not pass an academic course with a 60 or better can attend summer school for up to two subjects. If a student has lost credit due to attendance or for a 60 or below grade, they can go to summer school and take up to two classes if they have received a 50 or better in a class. The cost of the school and the transportation is the student’s responsibility. Rocky Hill High School does not offer summer school courses. Middletown and West Hartford do offer programs.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

In the guidance office, there is a file of all summer enrichment programs that are offered nationally and at colleges for high school students. A list is also posted in all homerooms. Please note that some of these programs are at a cost.

PROGRESS REPORT/REPORT CARD

The final report will be sent home after school ends. Colleges already received 2nd quarter grades for seniors who already applied. Colleges will also receive year-end grades.

Progress reports will be mailed home midway through each marking period. The fourth quarter progress reports will be mailed after May 16th.

HOMEWORK FOR ABSENT STUDENTS:

The staff at Rocky Hill High School certainly knows the importance of providing absent students with schoolwork to allow for the opportunity to keep up with the work their classmates are doing in school. However, please take note of the following:

-Please keep in mind that if the absence is less than three (3) days, it is difficult to obtain homework in a timely manner. Students are allowed one day for make-up work per each day they are ill.

-If your student has been out for a **minimum of three (3) days**, or you know in advance of his/her extended absence, please contact the **guidance secretary, Mrs. Sarno**, to request homework assignments. The direct phone number to the guidance department is **258-7724**.

-We will do our best to get assignments from your student's teachers within 24 hours of your request, but please know that this is not always possible. Your patience is greatly appreciated.