

# COUNSELORS' CORNER

June & July - 2010

*Counselors' Corner* is a weekly newsletter put out by the Guidance Department with “news you can use” about colleges, vocational and job opportunities, scholarships, testing, and lots of other information to help you make those important decisions for your future. You can access *Counselors' Corner* via the web @ [www.streaks.org](http://www.streaks.org) under “What’s Happening” or pick up a paper copy in the Guidance Center. Teachers post copies in their classrooms. Further questions about information in *Counselors' Corner* can be answered by checking with any counselor. This week.....

## **Need help with college or scholarship applications?**

**Having trouble choosing where to go?**

**Don't know what scholarships to apply for?**

**Not sure how to fill out the FAFSA?**

**Do you have questions about college and how to pay for it?**

**Come to the College Answers Table**

**Galesburg Public Library, June 7-August 16, Mondays, 3:00-5:00 pm**

**Except: June 14, July 5**

**Become a fan of “ISACorps—Carl Sandburg District” on Facebook or friend me, Anjali Pattanayak-ISAC, to get additional updates on college.**

**For more information contact Anjali Pattanyak**

**The Illinois Student Assistance Commission ISACorps  
309-660-5043**

**[apattanayak@isac.org](mailto:apattanayak@isac.org)**

**ISAC helpline: 800-899-ISAC**

## **Attention Class of 2011!!**

**How do you plan to spend your summer vacation?**

**Believe it or not August and your senior year is just around the corner, and if you plan to attend college after high school, your summer should include more than just sun and fun!**

**Make a to-do list! Include what you need to do each semester, each month, or each week. Some of what should be on the list follows:**

1-Develop a list of colleges that interest you and visit their websites. Plan campus visits during the summer by contacting the admissions office online. Ask to meet with a student in your potential major and sit in on a class.

2-Make sure your lists includes some “safe schools”. Your dream may be to go to Harvard, but if you only apply to highly selective colleges, you may not only be disappointed in May, but also may be too late for other schools’ admissions deadlines.

3-Make a file—keep everything together.

4-Double check your senior schedule—don’t get lazy! If needed, call a couple of colleges on your list and ask for recommendations for senior courses. i.e. “Should I take Spanish III?” “Do I need another science class if I plan to major in history?”

5-Identify teachers, counselors, extra curricular sponsors, and other adults (i.e., minister, employer) who could write letters of recommendation.

6-Put together a resume and/or a recommendation sheet. This is the time to take stock of what you have done outside the classroom and determine if you need to do more. The senior year is a great time to assume a leadership role in an organization or try a new activity.

7-Start looking at those college applications. A preview of the Common Application is currently available online ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)) You can begin filing the Common Application beginning August 1. Some colleges don’t begin accepting applications until after September 1, so check with the individual schools for their filing dates.

## **Counselors' Advice Corner!!**

### ***Parents of the Class of 2011:***

Please do your soon to be graduates and “adult” children a great favor. Resist the temptation to micromanage their senior year! It’s time to begin letting them take care of business on their own. Those college applications are theirs to fill out, essays need to be in their words, and the contacts between the admissions office should be made by them and not you. Of course, you can proofread an application; offer suggestions, guidance, even nag a bit. But make sure the lion’s share of the responsibility is on their shoulders. After all, once they are away and on their own, it will be all up to them. So let them practice next year!

**Good Advice!!**-Don’t choose a college based solely on the recommendation of a teacher, sibling, parent, or your best friend. Your parents’ alma mater might have been the perfect fit for them or a college may look perfect “on paper” but not be the right fit for you. When you visit, you should have the feeling that you would be comfortable there and be able to call the place “home” for the next four years! It needs to have the curricular opportunities that match your career plans and not your best friends. And **don’t** choose a college because your girl friend or boy friend goes there or plans to go there!

**More Good Advice!!-Don’t be a slacking senior!** “I’ve worked hard for 3 years. I’m going to take it easy my senior year.” **Wrong!** Competitive schools are looking for a challenging senior year. Classes should be as difficult as the ones you took the previous 3 years and your grades should be consistent or better than what is currently on your transcript. And, don’t think you can change your mind after being accepted. Here’s a note from the University of Illinois’ website. “*Your admission was, in part, based on your senior year schedule. Therefore, we will only approve drops in your schedule for medical reasons or extenuating circumstances. You can change your schedule, but the change must be to a comparable level course, e.g. AP for AP, honors for honors, etc. Any request for a schedule change must be submitted in writing to the Office of Admissions.*” Seniors, be aware, colleges do and have pulled an offer of acceptance if the student takes a nose dive their senior year or changes the schedule which was originally submitted. **So, don’t be a slacking senior!**

**Beware of scholarship scams!!** There is a saying, “If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.” Every year we hear about students being invited to a “scholarship meeting” where they are told of thousands of scholarship dollars available if they will only sign up for this service—offered at a “modest” fee of course. Don’t ever pay money for scholarship/financial aid assistance. Looking for scholarships takes some leg work and time, but you don’t have to pay for it. Here are a couple of websites which give information on common scams and how to protect yourself.

[www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com](http://www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com)

[www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml)

## **Illinois Colleges**

### **University of Illinois: Update from Illinois Office of Admissions:**

“Summer is a great time to visit campus. We have daily programs Monday-Friday throughout the summer. For a schedule of events, see [http://admissions.illinois.edu/visit/visit\\_illinois.html](http://admissions.illinois.edu/visit/visit_illinois.html). As a reminder, we will no longer accept test scores from the high school transcript. Please encourage students to have their ACT or SAT scores initially reported to the University of Illinois, so they will not have to have them sent later. I know student may worry and want to see their scores before sending. Therefore, we have the following posted on our website: *The University of Illinois does not build a super-score. We use the highest ACT composite or SAT total from a single test date. We do, however, use sub-scores for admission and course placement, and we will use the highest sub-scores available. It is, therefore, to your advantage to send us all of your test results directly from the testing agency each time you sit for a test. Lower scores on file with your application do not hurt your chance for admission.*”

Application deadlines: Priority-November 1, 2010; Regular-January 2011

### **More News you can Use.....**

Colleges are providing us with fewer catalogs each year because of the cost and the fact that all the information and application for any school can be obtained through the school’s website. The easiest way to find a particular college is “Google” it! If you want to check out schools in certain areas of the country or with particular programs, you might try some of the following search engines for college. The last two websites provide good financial aid and scholarship information.

[www.collegezone.com](http://www.collegezone.com)

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

[www.whatsnextillinois.org](http://www.whatsnextillinois.org)

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

[www.collegegoard.com](http://www.collegegoard.com)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

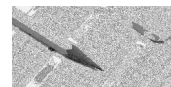
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

### **UPCOMING TESTS:**

**Driver Education:** Driver Education: GHS students enrolled in Driver Education Fall 2010 Term 1 and do not already possess a valid Illinois Driving Permit will be required to take and pass the written permit test and vision test. These tests will be held at GHS on July 14, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. and attendance is mandatory. Students will receive a post card in late June from the high school confirming their enrollment in the class. Students will need to bring a \$ 20 check or money order payable to the Illinois Secretary of State for the permit fee.

**ACT (American College Testing Program)**

This test is required for admission to many colleges and is the entrance exam most frequently taken by



GHS students. The ACT is the preferred test for admission to state universities in Illinois, and is administered during the students' junior year. For students who are interested in taking an additional ACT, the exam is offered nationally several times a year. Registration forms and ACT practice exams are available in the GHS Guidance Center. This is a required test for all GHS graduates. The next ACT test date is June 12, 2010, which will be administered at Galesburg High School. Stand by registration is available for an additional fee. Future test dates: Sept. 11, 2010, Oct. 23, 2010, Dec 11, 2010, Feb 12, 2011, April 9, 2011, June 11, 2011.

**Consumer Education Proficiency Test** Consumer Education is a requirement for graduation. Any student in grades 10-12 who is not currently enrolled in the class and wants to test may register to take the proficiency test. The test will be available next October and January.

**PLAN** This test is a preview of the ACT college entrance test. Students receive a predicted ACT score and a career interest inventory chart. This exam is required for all sophomores; it is useful when planning for college and technical programs. All **sophomores will take this test on April 28, 2011. No registration is required.**

**EXPLORE** This test helps students understand what they know now and what they are ready to learn next so they can build rigorous high school course plans and identify areas of academic need so they can stay on track for college and work success. The career planning component helps students identify career areas that align with their interests. **All freshmen will take this test on April 28, 2011. No registration is required.**

**PSAT/National Merit** This elective test serves as a practice exam for the SAT. Primarily for juniors, it is also the test required for qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship Program. The exam will be administered at GHS on **Wednesday, October 13, 2010**. Registration is available in the bookroom. Sophomores and Juniors may take this test. Test fee is \$14.00 and due upon registration. Deadline for registration is **Friday, October 8, 2010**.

**ASVAB** or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Batter, is an optional exam for grades 10, 11, and 12. The program can help students see how their interests, abilities and personal preferences match civilian and military career opportunities. There is no fee for the ASVAB. It will be administered at GHS after school on **November 16, 2010**. Students may register for this the first two weeks of November in the Guidance Center.

**SAT I Reasoning Test and SAT II Subject Test** The SAT I Reasoning test is offered at GHS on two Saturday mornings each school year. The SAT I is required for students seeking admission to colleges and scholarship programs which specifically require this exam. The SAT II Subject Tests are required by certain colleges for admission and placement into college courses. Tests are offered in English, foreign language, history, social studies, mathematics and science.

To register for either of the SATs student may go online at [www.collegeboard.com/mysat](http://www.collegeboard.com/mysat) Test dates are also listed in the GHS 2010-2011 course offering book.

## **Military**

### **United States Merchant Marine Academy (Military)**

Have you ever thought you would like to tour the world and oceans as a United States merchant marine? At the US Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York (20 miles outside of New York City on Long Island) you can be able to attain great education with a military perspective. Currently, Congressman Phil Hare (17<sup>th</sup> District of Illinois) is looking for individuals who are interested the program. If you are interested in the US Merchant Marine Academy is can contact Roger Swartz (GHS class of 1975) through email: [rswartz@horseshoe.com](mailto:rswartz@horseshoe.com) or phone: (312) 961-3463 or Phil Hare ([hare.house.gov](http://hare.house.gov)) in regards to attain important information on the Academy. Also, if you would be interested in finding great information on the US Merchant Marine Academy program you can go directly to the website: [www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)

## **TUTORING:**

**Advisory tutoring** See you in the fall!!!!

## **Career Tidbits from the GAVC:**

Are you working on getting a job for the upcoming summer? Here is this week's tip for getting and keeping the job you really want. Once a job responsibility becomes available, the likely next step would be to complete an application. This week's tips include ways to avoid common mistakes when completing job applications.

Many people think filling out an application is the same thing as applying for a job. It really isn't. Most places of employment actually use applications to screen people out, not in. Doing the application right the first time will keep doors open for you in the job market.

The first set of tips focus on how you should pick up and drop off applications.

--Dress appropriately when you pick up, fill out, or drop off applications from employers.

--Go by yourself when applying for jobs or going on interviews.

--If it is possible, complete applications at home so you can fill them out carefully.

--Make sure you proofread your application and have someone else look it over too.

--Allow extra time when you return an application—just in case the employer asks you to stay for an interview.

These tips apply to completing the application to make a good impression on the employer.

--Follow the instructions. Read each section carefully.

--Use a black pen, preferably an erasable pen.

--Avoid having to make corrections by taking your time.

--Be accurate. Do not guess at an answer.

--Make sure to have all pertinent information with you at the time you fill out the application, such as complete contact information for references and past work/volunteer experiences.

--Write clearly and neatly. You can only make one impression, so make it a good one!  
--Always remember to get permission before using a reference.

*Have a great summer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

## **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:**

1. **SENIORS:** Carver Community Action Agency is offering three Knox County residents \$1,000 scholarships. You must be attending a two- or four-year college or university this fall, must be income eligible, GPA 2.0+. Income verification application must be completed at Carver Community Action Agency, 311 E. Main Street. Once income is verified, you will be given the application to complete. **Deadline: June 17, 2010.** Questions? Call 342-0158 X 231.
2. **NEXT YEAR'S SENIORS:** The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program is designed to recruit and prepare talented high school students for a successful career as teachers to students of need throughout Illinois. Each scholar receives a scholarship loan of \$2,500 per year for two years, \$5,000 for another two years, and a summer institute of \$2,000 per summer—total financial package is \$23,000! If you are interested in this program, please let your guidance counselor know. Information is in the Guidance Center or at [www.goldenapple.com](http://www.goldenapple.com). **Deadline: November 1, 2010.**

## **Upcoming Deadlines:**

June 15, 2010	Pilot Club of Galesburg Sch.—major in special education or health care (12)
June 17, 2010	Carver Community Action Agency—attend college; GPA 2.0+; fall within income guidelines (12)
June 30, 2010	Francis E. “Buck” and Dianne Bailey Mem. Sch.—show Christian commitment; live in Knox County (12)
October 5, 2010	Wendy’s High School Heisman—GPA 3.0+ and athletics; <a href="http://www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com">www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com</a> (11)
Nov. 1, 2010	Golden Apple Scholars—career in education, teach in school of need in IL; <a href="http://www.goldenapple.com">www.goldenapple.com</a> (11)

## **SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES FOR OVER THE SUMMER!!!**

### **General scholarships:**

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.collegescholarship.org](http://www.collegescholarship.org)

### **For Minority Students:**

[www.gmsp.org/publicweb/aboutus.aspx](http://www.gmsp.org/publicweb/aboutus.aspx)  
[www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org)  
[www.aaja.org](http://www.aaja.org)  
[www.jackierobinson.org](http://www.jackierobinson.org)

### **For Female Students:**

[www.gogirlgo.org](http://www.gogirlgo.org)

### **Need Based:**

[www.jkcf.org](http://www.jkcf.org)  
[www.questbridge.org](http://www.questbridge.org)

### **Athletes:**

[www.bigsunathletics.com](http://www.bigsunathletics.com)

*Have a great summer.....see you in August!!!*