

# CANTON HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S CORNER NEWSLETTER

October 2009

Hello again! The school year is off to a terrific start; it's hard to believe we have only been at it for four weeks. Very quickly, returning students have adapted their existing routines based upon another year of knowledge and experience, and our newest students are learning to navigate CHS.

There is much on the horizon this fall, and this month's newsletter has information about the SAT and PSAT for seniors and juniors, upcoming financial aid nights, general academic progress, and more. Please register to receive future editions of this newsletter by email on the Canton High School home page, and please encourage other parents to do the same. As always stay tuned to Guidance department news on our website at [www.cantonma.org/guidance/guidance.htm](http://www.cantonma.org/guidance/guidance.htm).

Thank you,

Dan Rubin  
Director of Guidance

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October SAT at Canton High School – Saturday,  
October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 7:30 am  
PSAT at Canton High School – Saturday,  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 7:30 am  
November SAT (CHS not a test site) – Saturday,  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 7:30 am  
MEFA Parent Financial Aid Workshop  
December TBA – CHS Auditorium  
Stonehill College Financial Aid Workshop –  
Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 6:30 pm, Martin  
Institute Auditorium, Stonehill College

## SENIORS

The seniors are steadily progressing in the college search process. Most have signed up for the October or November SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject Tests and are further refining their college choices. Many are visiting colleges and interviewing where appropriate, and meeting with college representatives who visit Canton High School. The counselors have encouraged students to take advantage of these visits because the admissions representatives who visit CHS often advocate for our students in admissions committee meetings.

### Testing

Most seniors will complete their SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject Tests testing by December (although there is another test date in January).

As discussed in Senior Seminar, CHS is only a test center for the October test date in the fall, not for the November or December tests.

Any students interested in taking the ACT (we are not a test center) may obtain a registration form in the guidance office or from their counselor in Guidance Seminar.

### Early Decision vs. Early Action

Some students have opted to apply to a college early for one or more reasons: 1) they have investigated their colleges thoroughly and they are quite positive about where they would like to matriculate; 2) they would like to ease their anxiety and know they are accepted at a college before the spring, and 3) they hear that more colleges are taking more students early. While some competitive colleges may take a quarter to a half or more of their freshman class early, you need to understand the options and exercise some caution.

You should be aware that an Early Decision application implies a contract on the part of the student that if accepted, he will attend the college, and he will withdraw any other applications he may have filed. Early Action, on the other hand, allows a student to hear the college's decision early but the student may wait to compare all his college acceptances before making a final decision in the spring. Colleges will generally offer one plan or the other, with

some offering two rounds of early applications (with two separate deadlines). Early application plans generally have deadlines in November and December but it varies from college to college, so students should read their catalogs and websites carefully. If your child is planning to apply anywhere early, he should be discussing this with his counselor.

In terms of financial aid, students who apply to Early Decision schools will not have an opportunity to do any financial aid comparisons.

Another helpful option is to apply to a college that offers rolling admissions. With this plan, the college lets the student know its decision within four to six weeks of receiving all the student's materials. We do not encourage you or your child to seek a rolling admissions school solely as a stress reducer, but if one of your child's schools offers the plan, encourage her to apply as early as possible.

In cases where students apply to colleges through an Early or rolling plan, they are applying with their 9th, 10th, and 11th grade record. Therefore, that record should be very strong. As soon as first term senior grades are available, they are also sent to the colleges to which students have applied.

### **Fall College Fairs**

#### **TEC Higher Ed Night**

The fall Higher Education Night sponsored by The Education Cooperative (TEC) on Tuesday evening, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. is at Waltham High School.

Representatives from over 200 colleges, junior colleges, nursing schools and trade schools will be available to meet with students and parents. The fair provides an excellent opportunity to meet admissions personnel, gather information and pick up college applications and brochures. These evenings may be especially helpful for students who are late in starting the college search process as well as for those who wish to further investigate the colleges they are considering.

Students should be encouraged to take notes, write down the names of the admissions people they meet, and ask thoughtful questions. Every contact students have with a college is important and should leave a good impression.

Juniors and their parents are welcome to attend.

### **Tips for Parents of Students with Learning Disabilities**

If your child will be looking for academic support in college, his/her search should include an investigation of the support services offered by the colleges your child is considering. When you visit colleges, it is most important to visit the academic support center to see the facilities and meet the staff. Whether designated specifically for learning disabled students or not, many colleges offer very helpful services. It is important to know who will be providing the services -- peer tutors or professionally trained LD specialists -- and to keep the needs of your child in mind as you choose what colleges would be most appropriate.

It is also important that you are aware of what extra materials are required for admission for students with learning disabilities. Colleges may request a WAIS, a Woodcock-Johnson, a writing sample, a copy of your child's IEP and/or other tests and reports. You will need to be in communication with your child's counselor and special educator if he will be applying to colleges as an L.D. student.

In addition, if your child is applying to colleges as an LD student, he will need to complete a Special Ed College Release Form for each college to which he is applying, specifying the information required for admission. Students and parents are responsible for providing this information to the counselors and special educators. Students may get these forms from the guidance office.

### **College Board Testing for LD students**

As you are aware, students with current documented disabilities may be eligible for extended time on the SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject Tests and AP tests. The guidelines from the College Board are as follows:

Center testing is available for students who normally receive up to 50 percent extended time for school-based tests and who can use a regular type or large type booklet and machine scorable or large-block answer sheet. This testing is done on the national test dates at test centers. Eligible students are allowed 90 minutes extra time on the SAT Reasoning, and 30 minutes extra time on each SAT Subject Test.

School testing is available primarily for students who normally receive more than 50 percent extended time for school-based tests. This testing

may be done during a nine day period beginning with the national test dates and takes place in the student's school.

In order to apply for extended time the students must have and IEP or 504 plan AND use extended time on regular school tests. An appeals process must be used when there is no plan on file or when extended time is not used on school tests.

Extended time testing requires an additional application verifying a student's disability which is signed by the student and completed by the guidance office. Consult the counselor to see if the student is registered for testing accommodations.

### **Financial Aid Information**

In early December (exact date TBA) in the high school auditorium there will be a financial aid presentation run by the Massachusetts Education Financing Authority (MEFA). All are welcome.

On Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6:30 pm, parents of Canton High School juniors and seniors are invited to a financial aid workshop hosted by Stonehill College in the Martin Institute Auditorium on the Stonehill Campus. Invitations from Stonehill College will follow by mail.

## **JUNIORS**

### **PSAT this month**

Juniors who plan to attend college after high school should plan to take the PSAT on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 A.M. at Canton High School. All juniors will receive the PSAT/NMSQT bulletin and information when they register in the Guidance office. Students may register by bringing \$25 (cash preferred) and signing up with Ms. Christino in the Guidance office. There will be a \$5.00 late fee for those registering as walk-ins after October 15th.

We strongly urge students to take the practice test in the booklet they received and to study the test-taking tips provided therein. The more familiar students are with the test and the directions, the more time they will have to devote to answering questions.

Juniors are welcome to attend the college fair detailed in the senior section above.

## **FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES**

We hope that all students' classes are going well, but if your child is experiencing difficulty, encourage him or her to see the teacher immediately to discuss the situation.

You are encouraged to contact teachers with specific questions about courses or your child's progress. In addition, please feel free to call your child's school counselor with any other questions or concerns you may have.

All the counselors continue to meet with their freshmen in Guidance Seminar throughout the first semester. The freshmen seem to be adjusting well to life at CHS; they are actively involved with their courses and activities.

Sophomores interested in taking the PSAT should see their counselor to register and receive test preparation materials.

### **Please welcome our Guidance Interns for this school year -**

Becky Morrissey – Becky is completing her M.S. from Northeastern in School Counseling. She will be here on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Amanda Eggers - Amanda is completing her M.Ed. from Suffolk in School Counseling. She will be here on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Becky and Amanda can be reached at [morrisseyr@cantonma.org](mailto:morrisseyr@cantonma.org) or [eggensa@cantonma.org](mailto:eggensa@cantonma.org) or at (781) 821-5050 ext. 162.

## PSAT/NMSQT

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The PSAT/NMSQT will be offered at Canton High School on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at 8:00 AM. Doors will open at 7:30 AM. Students can expect to be in the testing room for approximately 3 hours.

The PSAT/NMSQT is intended primarily for high school juniors. It is the first step necessary to be considered for scholarships administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Sophomores may also choose to take the PSAT/NMSQT to gain exposure to this type of test and testing environment.

You are asked to please fill out the bottom portion of this registration form and return it to the Guidance Office by Thursday, October 15, 2009. The fee to take the PSAT/NMSQT is \$25.00. Please pay this fee in cash (preferred) or check when returning the registration form. Students will receive a PSAT/NMSQT Official Student Guide and Full Length Practice Test upon registration. There is a \$5.00 late fee for registrations on Friday October 16 or on test day.

Please retain the top of this form for your reference.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to register for the PSAT/NMSQT to be administered at Canton High School on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at 8:00 AM.

Enclosed is the \$25.00 fee (CASH OR CHECK payable to Town of Canton)

Please check one: \_\_\_\_ JUNIOR      \_\_\_\_ SOPHOMORE

## Upcoming College Representative Visits

Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Thu October 1, 2009 11:15 AM
The University of Tampa	Thu October 1, 2009 12:00 PM
Massasoit Community College	Fri October 2, 2009 10:30 AM
Simmons College	Fri October 2, 2009 11:15 AM
Syracuse University	Tue October 6, 2009 10:30 AM
Queen's University	Tue October 6, 2009 11:15 AM
Colby-Sawyer College	Wed October 7, 2009 10:30 AM
Lasell College	Wed October 7, 2009 11:15 AM
University of Massachusetts, Boston	Wed October 7, 2009 11:15 AM
Providence College	Thu October 8, 2009 10:30 AM
Nichols College	Fri October 9, 2009 10:30 AM
Framingham State College	Fri October 9, 2009 11:15 AM
Dean College	Tue October 13, 2009 10:30 AM
Fitchburg State College	Wed October 14, 2009 10:30 AM
Regis College	Wed October 14, 2009 11:15 AM
Stony Brook University	Wed October 14, 2009 11:15 AM
Johnson & Wales University	Thu October 15, 2009 10:35 AM
Utica College	Thu October 15, 2009 11:45 AM
Bentley University	Fri October 16, 2009 10:30 AM
Sacred Heart University	Fri October 16, 2009 11:15 AM
Saint Michael's College	Mon October 19, 2009 10:30 AM
Suffolk University	Mon October 19, 2009 11:15 AM
University of Southern Maine	Tue October 20, 2009 10:30 AM
University of Massachusetts, Lowell	Tue October 20, 2009 11:15 AM
Curry College	Wed October 21, 2009 9:30 AM
State University of New York at Albany	Thu October 22, 2009 11:15 AM
Southern New Hampshire University	Fri October 23, 2009 10:30 AM
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Fri October 23, 2009 11:15 AM
Emmanuel College	Mon October 26, 2009 10:30 AM
Roger Williams University	Mon October 26, 2009 11:15 AM
Quinnipiac University	Wed October 28, 2009 10:30 AM
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Wed October 28, 2009 11:15 AM
Springfield College	Thu October 29, 2009 11:15 AM
Saint Anselm College	Fri October 30, 2009 11:15 AM