

The Guide



A Monthly Newsletter from the WHS Guidance Department March 2010

2010-2011 Winchester Scholarship Foundation Application Available

The Winchester Scholarship Foundation (WSF) annually awards grants to students residing in Winchester who need financial assistance in order to attend a post-secondary institution. The WSF will award aid even if a student is receiving scholarships from several other sources, as long as it appears that there is a gap between what the parent can fairly be expected to contribute and the yearly costs of the school or college the student will be attending. WSF scholarships are often used to reduce inordinate amounts of loan or campus work. WHS seniors who are graduating in June are eligible to apply for WSF aid. The new 2010-2011 applications are now available in the Guidance Office. Deadline for submission of the WSF application with required tax documents is May 15, 2010. The WSF maintains a policy of strict confidentiality in regard to all information submitted by applicants.

Scholarships

Scholarship opportunities are posted on Naviance. Please see Mrs. Conroy in Guidance for copies of scholarships ***if noted in Naviance***. Also, please allow at least 10 days to process transcripts for scholarships.

How to Spot a Scholarship Scam

A recent article on collegeboard.com highlighted tell-tale signs that a scholarship service is a scam. According to the College Board, "...nearly all available financial aid comes from the federal government or from individual colleges." In Winchester, a significant source of assistance is provided by the WSF (see above) and there are often private scholarships for very specific applicants with particular career interests, or memberships in certain churches or other social organizations. Collegeboard.com lists the following guidelines as a sign that you may be getting duped:

- The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.
- You can't get this information anywhere else.

- I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship.
- We'll do all the work.
- The scholarship will cost money.
- "You've been selected by a national foundation" to receive a scholarship or "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.

Scholarship Scams from FinAid.org provides advice on how to identify scams, how to distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent organizations, how to protect yourself from scholarship scams, and what to do if you are scammed. The basic rule to follow—"Free money shouldn't cost a thing."

Colleges of the Fenway

The Colleges of the Fenway (COF) gives students the benefits of a university—access to a wider range of social and academic experiences and opportunities—while maintaining the personal touch of a small college. COF is a consortium that brings together the resources of six colleges in Boston's famed Fenway Cultural District, to offer more classes, more clubs (225 clubs on the six campuses), and more social activities, just by attending one of the six COF colleges: Emmanuel College, Massachusetts College of Art, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Simmons College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, and Wheelock College. COF's joint initiatives, including cross registration and student programs, aim to improve the quality of education and enrich student experiences while ensuring each college maintains its individual identity. Together, COF represents more than 11,000 undergraduate students—16 percent of the total Boston population of undergraduates attending four-year colleges, and more than 2500 course offerings. To learn more about the Colleges of the Fenway, go to www.colleges.fenway.org.

Advice For Students Attending A College Fair

College Fairs can be crowded thus it is not easy to obtain a one on one meeting of substance with at this type of meeting.

Suggestions:

- Students design a brief profile and leave it at the table of the college one wishes to receive either information or a personal contact. The profile can be a card with the students name, address, telephone number, email address, the name of the high school the student is attending with a graduation date, descriptions of areas of interest, and a statement that the student would like to meet personally with the college representative should that person be in the area.
- The student and parent can divide the table hopping task and each deliver profile cards. While delivering profile cards pick up the college representatives card for future reference. It is helpful to have a specific name (reference) when requesting information/ interview.

College Fair

Tuesday, April 27th
World Trade Center
Boston, MA
9:00 am-12:00 pm
6:00 pm-9:00 pm

WWW.NACACNET.ORG

SENIORS

As you receive decision letters from colleges, please inform your guidance counselor of your status at schools to which you applied.

Senioritis: Avoiding the Epidemic

Senioritis (*n.*) A less than moderate interest in school-related activities, especially academics, that students usually acquire around the last semester of their senior year; symptoms include having a reduced attention to studies and extracurricular activities, making up excuses not to attend classes, sleeping during class, and difficulty making decisions.

If you have yet to experience these symptoms, be careful because this disease is contagious. It is easily spread among high school seniors everywhere. Below are just a couple of the dangers of contracting this disease.

Colleges can revoke their offer of admission.

This seems harsh, but many colleges have revoked their admission offers to students due to senioritis. Many college acceptance letters even include warnings to students such as, "Your admission is contingent on your continued successful performance." If your grades start to slip during your senior year, many colleges take that as a sign that you don't want to continue your education. So, don't slump on academics once those college acceptance letters arrive.

Your college performance can be affected. If you choose to slack off during your senior year, you will not be ready for the challenges of college. Many students who were affected by senioritis in high school required remedial help once they entered college.

Now that you know of the dangers of coming into contact with this disease, you may be wondering if there is a cure for senioritis. Unfortunately, the only real cure for this disease is graduation. However, you can utilize preventative care to ensure that you are not infected with this disease. Here's how:

Challenge yourself. Take the most rigorous courses available at your school. During class discussions, bring up new ideas. When studying, don't just memorize; think outside the box. Continue to set academic goals that you want to reach, such as making an A on that research paper.

Make schoolwork more interesting. Form study groups with your friends. Invent academic games to make studying more fun and easier. Ask your teacher(s) to organize class field trips.

Stay involved. If you stay active in sports, volunteer work, and other extracurricular activities, you will be more likely to remain focused throughout your senior year.

Take a college course. What better way to avoid an academic slump than to take a college course? If you excel in high school classes, you should consider taking one evening class at a local college. This will not only introduce you to the rigors of college work, but you will also receive college credit.

Senioritis is extremely easy to catch and once you have it, it can be hard to get rid of. So, try to keep the above-mentioned preventative measures in mind while you enjoy your last few months of high school. It'll be worth it in the end.

www.ecampustours.com Posted: 1/5/2004

Course Selection for 2010-2011

Course selection for the 2010-2011 school year will begin in March. Students will meet with Guidance Counselors to select courses based on teacher recommendations.

Course schedules may seem like a random selection of classes, but college admissions officers see it as the blueprint of a student's high school education. College admissions officers are looking for a solid foundation of learning that students can build on in college. Students should take at least five solid academic classes every semester. www.collegeboard.com

Attention Juniors

**Registration deadline for May 1st
SAT is March 25th.**

**Register at
www.collegeboard.com**