

FALL/WINTER EVENTS 2009/2010

College Goal Sunday is January 10th at Spokane Falls Community College in Building 17 from 2-4 p.m. CGS is a free, nationwide event that helps parents and students complete the FAFSA. Be sure to bring your driver's license, Social Security Card, and 2009 Tax forms. Financial aid experts from all of Spokane's colleges and universities will be there to help you with the forms.

Running Start Night for all students/families interested in participating in the Running Start Program will be Wednesday, February 17th at Lewis and Clark High School at 6:30 p.m. This is your opportunity to learn more about the program and talk with representatives from EWU, SFCC and SCC.

2nd Harvest is looking for VolunTEEN Board members. This is a great way to build leadership and supervisory skills through workshops and hands-on training-plus looks great on your resume! Seniors this is also service learning that you can use towards Culminating Projects. Stop by the Career Center for more information.

College Deadlines

Seniors, now is the time to start working on your college applications, getting letters of recommendations together and registering for college testing. The next few months will go quickly and you do not want to miss any of the deadlines! Be sure to check with the college of your choice to find out their application, scholarship and financial aid deadlines.

ACT and SAT Testing

If you are planning to attend a four year college or university next fall you will need to take either the ACT or SAT. The ACT with Writing is \$47 and the SAT is \$45. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch you qualify for a test fee waiver. Contact Deb for info on fee waivers.

Upcoming test dates:

ACT-

February 6th test date with a January 5th registration deadline.

SAT-

March 13th test date with a February 4th registration deadline.

Register online for the ACT at <http://www.act.org/> and for the SAT at <http://www.collegeboard.com/> .

Study guides and prep materials are available in the Career Center.

For students planning to attend a community college next fall, most accept the COMPASS as their placement test. We offer COMPASS testing in the Havermale library. Contact Deb for more information.

Financial Aid

Seniors, now is the time to start your financial aid process! According to the College Board the average college costs for 2007/2008 were \$35,000 for private colleges and universities and \$17,000 for public schools. Over 50% of students receive some form of financial assistance with the average financial award package of \$8,896. Financial aid consists of a variety of loans (must be paid back), grants (free money) and work study. If your family meets the income guidelines you could also qualify for Pell Grants. For the 2009/2010 school year the maximum amount of Pell Grants increases to \$5,350 (on top of your other aid). So what are you waiting for?! It's easy to start the process; you and one parent or guardian needs to apply now for a pin number at <http://www.pin.ed.gov/> . This number is what you use to sign your electronic FAFSA form (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>). FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is the form you complete in December and submit after midnight on January 1st. I will help you work your way through the process, so don't worry-it's easy to do! And you will be so glad that you did it come next fall.

Some schools also require the CSS Profile (profileonline.collegeboard.com) and use the information collected on the Profile to help award nonfederal student aid funds. Check with your college of choice to see if they require you to complete this form.

Scholarships

Scholarships are another way to help with college costs. Now is the time to register with scholarship websites. For a list of current scholarships available check in the Career Center or on your school website. Remember, volunteer work and/or community service is often required. You will also want to get letters of recommendations for your applications. Try to give your letter writers at least 2 weeks notice and include a copy of your resume and any specific information you would like them to include. Be nice to them as their letters can definitely make a difference in your application.

If you have questions on anything in this bulletin or any career or college questions I would love to talk with you. I can be reached at 354-6451 or email me at deborahcr@spokaneschools.org or stop by the Havermale Career Center. Thanks, Deb