

HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL EAST

COUNSELING CENTER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2004

This newsletter will be mailed to all parents and students of High School East periodically throughout the year. It will contain important deadlines and pertinent information to help students plan for coming events. Please take the time to read it, highlight the facts that pertain to you, and display it in your home where it will serve as a reminder of coming events. This newsletter will supplement and reinforce information that you receive from your guidance counselor, orientation meetings, the district calendar, PA announcements and the Guidance Office bulletin board. If you have questions about the content, please call your child's guidance counselor at 592-3150. A copy of our newsletter, as well as other important guidance related information, will be available to our district website www.halfhollowhills.k12.ny.us

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

DATE	EVENT
October 1 st	Late registration deadline for the October 23rd ACT. Registration applications are available in the College and Career Center.
October 6 th	Special Education Tea for parents of students in Special Education. Details to follow in a letter to parents.
October 9 th	SAT I/ SAT II given at High School East. All students should be at the East Canopy entrance by <u>7:45 A.M.</u>
October 12 th	Deadline for registration for PSAT in the College and Career Center. Check or money order for \$18.00 , made payable to <u>Half Hollow Hills High School East</u> . All 11 th graders should take this test. The 10 th graders in Honors Math B also should consider taking the test. Consult your counselor if you have any questions.
October 13 th	Late registration deadline for the November 6th SAT I/SAT II. Registration applications are available in the College and Career Center.
October 15 th	Deadline for submitting PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADE INCLUSION FORM <u>IMPORTANT - THIS IS THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE!</u> <u>NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE!!</u> You must submit this form if you want your PE grade to count in your grade point average.
October 16 th	PSAT at High School East, 8:00 A.M. Entrance at the East Canopy, near the school library. Supply your own transportation. The pick-up time is approximately 11:00 A.M.
October 21 st	Mini-College Date - Over 40 College representatives will be present for questions and information in the West Gym lobby area from 10:20 A.M. to 12:00 NOON. Twelfth graders are strongly encouraged to take part in this event.

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

Open every day from 8:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., the Center contains numerous resources for students and parents. There are college applications and catalogs, college guidebooks, video tours of colleges, college and career search computers. The Center also maintains a job bulletin board for part-time jobs. Additionally, there are books that contain information about hundreds of grants and scholarships. Mrs. DeLalla is available to offer assistance. Parents are also encouraged to stop in and use the facility. The phone number is 592-3109.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

College representatives are visiting us during the months of September through December to discuss information with our seniors about their schools. Boston College, Brown University, Carnegie Mellon, Duke Univ., NYU, University of Rochester and Washington Univ.(St. Louis) are some of the colleges and universities that will be in our College and Career Center from September through November.

GRADE INCLUSION FORMS

Physical Education Grade Inclusion Forms were mailed home or given to all students during the first few days of school in their Physical Education classes. If student wants Physical Education **to count** in their average for the 2004-05 school year, he/she must fill out the form and return it to the Guidance Office by Friday, October 15th.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students have several academic support services available at High School East. They can get extra help from their subject teachers. Each teacher is available at a specific time during the week for extra help sessions. Check with your teacher for his/her schedule. Copies of the extra help schedules were mailed home and will be posted in the Guidance Office as well as the Main Office and East Office. The extra help schedule will also be posted on the district website. Furthermore, the National Honor Society provides free peer tutors in all subjects. Members will tutor during lunch periods or after school. Students having difficulty with a subject should see their counselor for an Honor Society tutoring referral form.

NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE ALERT

ATTENTION SENIORS!

If you are interested in playing a NCAA sport in a college or university, you should review eligibility requirements with your counselor. Also, it is necessary to submit a NCAA eligibility form to the NCAA Clearinghouse at the start of the senior school year at www.ncaa.org

NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS

This year **eight** students from High School East qualified as **Semi-Finalists** in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Program. They will now enter the competition for finalists. The semi-finalists are: **Chelsea Gordon, Richard Jin, Priya Murthy, Joshua Parker, Feini Qu, Beth Reisfeld, Aaron Schwartz and Shuyang (Jennifer) Zhao.** Congratulations on this outstanding accomplishment!

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

By now, seniors should have **two letters of recommendation** from members of the faculty in their application folder. It is the student's responsibility to check in the Guidance office to see if the "recs" have been completed. Also, your **activity sheet** and **counselor information sheet** should be completed. To submit an application for processing, bring the completed application and fee to the Counseling Center between the hours of **7:15 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.** Fill out the **BLUE APPLICATION PROCESSING FORM** with each application submitted. It may take up to two weeks to process your application, so get them in well before the deadline. Students who **"APPLY ONLINE"** also need to complete a Blue Cover Sheet for the selected college.

For the students applying for **EARLY DECISION**: You are given the benefit of knowing whether or not you are accepted to the college of your choice around December 15th. However, **you are bound to accept their offer of admission.** You should apply early only to the college you are 100% sure you want to attend, and only after having visited the campus.

SENIOR VERIFICATION SHEETS were due in the Guidance Office by Monday, September 13th. Transcripts including senior courses in progress, will be in the Guidance Office the week of September 20th. Please call your counselor or have your child make an appointment to go over the critical points of the college application process (activity sheet, counselor and teacher recommendations, etc.) We are prepared to send out applications as early as Wednesday, September 22nd.

PSAT'S

Counselors visited 11th grade English and Honors Math B classes on Thursday, September 23rd to discuss and give out pertinent information on the PSAT's. The fee for the exam is \$18.00. Students should bring the completed registration form with their check or money order made out to Half Hollow Hills High School East, to the College and Career Center by Tuesday, October 12

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Jillian Cypser, Ryan DeStefano, Craig Fogel, Kurt Herzer, Matthew Moon, Lindsay Nussbaum, Whitney Portnoy, Daniel Roberts, Alida Salins, Robert Schurz, Isaac Wang and Courtney Windler** for being named **Commended Students** in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended students are recognized for placing among the top 5% of those who entered the 2005 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

We are proud to announce that **Jessica Wasserman** has been selected as a **Semi-Finalist** in the 2005 National Achievement Program competition for outstanding Black Americans.

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANT STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Janene Brown, Ashley Fry and Madeleine Pettway** for being recognized as an **Outstanding Participant** by the PSAT/NMSQT. This honor acknowledges those students who scored in the top 5% of 120,000 Black Americans who entered the National Achievement Program.

SENIOR ALERT: The Truth Behind the Myth

For those students who believe that they do not have to maintain their grades during the senior year, here are some hard facts. **Throughout the United States, many competitive universities contacted graduated seniors over the summer, either denying them admission to their school or placing them on academic probation.**

Why is this occurring? Because of the drop in senior grades when the final transcript was sent. From time to time, the High School East Guidance Department receives letters like this regarding our students. Please avoid “*senioritis*” and keep your senior grades up to a commensurate level.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE:FALSE REPORTING

New York State now has a law establishing felony penalty for making a bomb threat against the school. These threats are now punishable by up to a three-year prison sentence, a \$5,000 fine, and a mandatory one-year driver’s license suspension. In addition, the False Reporting Act of 1999 took affect which allows the government, schools and emergency services organizations to recover costs incurred when responding to a false report of a bomb. This law holds individuals or parents of those under the age of 18 who make bomb threats-liable for the costs of responding to these threats.

REVIEW.COM

Seniors interested in downloading college applications can visit The Princeton Review website (**Review.com**). There are over 950 colleges/universities available at this website. This website also offers useful links to scholarships and financial aid information.

NEW COUNSELOR

The Guidance Department is extremely pleased to have **Curtis Hinchman** as part of its staff. Curtis joins our team after having worked as a student counselor at Long Island University/C.W. Post.

COUNSELING STAFF

Robert Citrano, Director
 Donald Brown
 Laura Elgavisch
 Jennifer Grant
 Curtis Hinchman
 Christine Inglis
 Helen Magnani
 Lynn Michalowski
 Jay O’Boyle
 Yvette Rivera