



Tomorrow's News... Today

For Future SLEHS Seniors—News You Can Use

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2009

Future Senior Parent Night

February 3, 2009 7—9 pm

- Paying for College
- Senior Year Timeline
- The Community College Option
- NCAA & Dual Enrollment

JUNIORS...

Do **NOT** register individually to take the ACT. The Class of 2011 will complete the registration process at school prior to the March test date.

Go online for additional information on the ACT+Writing and the new SAT Reasoning Test.

Sample tests

- Scoring Rubrics & FAQs
- Online Registration

ACT: www.act.org

SAT: www.collegeboard.com

Other test preparation resources:

www.bridges.com/mvu

Ucode: 14889627

www.MEL.org

www.Number2.com

Also check community colleges for ACT/SAT test preparation classes.

Michigan Merit Exam Includes ACT

The Michigan Merit Exam will be administered to all Michigan high school juniors in March. Students who meet or exceed MME standards may qualify for the Michigan Promise Scholarship that provides up to \$4000 during the first two years of their post-secondary education, **pending legislation**.

Students whose scores fall below these standards may also be eligible to receive the \$4000 after two years of college if they meet certain criteria.

The MME, signed into law by Governor Granholm, is part of a broader effort to improve the skill level of Michigan's high school graduates and

help them achieve greater post-secondary success (see "Course Choice..." p.2).

The MME includes the ACT Plus Writing Test, ACT WorkKeys assessment and the Michigan mathematics, science and social studies tests.

Results will include a college-reportable ACT score.

Your ACT scores will be mailed approximately three weeks later and sent electronically to the colleges you indicated on your registration form. You will then have the option to re-take the ACT at your own expense to improve your scores for the purpose of college admissions in June,

September, October, November or December on the national testing dates.

If you do not earn valid scores on the MME in March, you will re-take the entire test on March 2011.

Testing Dates for the MME are:

March 9: ACT Plus Writing Test

March 10 & 11: WorkKeys and the Michigan mathematics, science and social studies tests.

Taking the Michigan Merit Exam is a requirement for South Lyon Community Schools.

Financial Aid Night January 20, 2010

South Lyon East counselors recommend that all students start thinking about how to pay for college. Check out Financial Aid Night!

South Lyon East High School will be hosting a Financial Aid Night on January 20, 2010 in the South Lyon East auditorium at 7:00 p.m..

COLLEGE NIGHTS: Opportunities Abound!

Area community colleges host representatives from lots of in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities in an arena format. It's a great place to pick up information and talk briefly with admissions representatives.

Metro Detroit National College Fair

April 15, 2010

8:30 a.m. — 12:00 Noon &

6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Burton Manor

27777 Schoolcraft Rd, Livonia, MI.

Did You Know???

- College Admissions Reps put more weight on the type of course and degree of challenge that you choose than they put on your GPA and test scores
- Colleges expect to see that high school seniors are taking at last four core academic classes each semester of their senior year.

Some requests for schedule changes will fall on deaf ears.

- "I need to drop this class. It's too hard and will ruin my GPA."
- "I can't learn from this teacher. I don't want him/her to ruin my GPA"

NCAA Registration Form must be submitted after the completion of the Junior Year. Go to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

What are Your Talents?

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is an assessment designed to help the military make the best use of their new recruits. In recent years, the ASVAB has become a valuable tool in career planning, training and placement in the civilian world.

High school juniors and seniors who are focusing on their educational and career goals stand to benefit from the detailed profile that the ASVAB results provide.

SLEHS students will have the opportunity to take the ASVAB this year. Check with Mrs. Bedich in Student Services for dates.

Course Choice Crucial to Success

Nearly every high school student will require some type of education after high school graduation.

But, half of all students entering college in 2001 were unprepared for college-level work and required remediation, according to the U.S. Dept. of Education. Students who need remedial help are less likely to complete their education.

ACT research demonstrates that high school students who take a college prep curriculum in high school not only achieve higher scores on their college entrance exams but are more likely to be prepared for college and to finish

their education.

On the other hand, those who took less challenging courses find themselves at a disadvantage in the college admissions process, are more apt to drop out, are less employable in the workforce, change jobs frequently and are more apt to be unemployed at some point during their working years.

So, what is a college prep curriculum? *At a minimum*, students should take four years of English classes that stress reading, writing and thinking; three years of math (at least through Algebra 2), three years of science

(including a lab course), and three years of social studies.

ACT research shows that students who go beyond these recommendations and take trigonometry, calculus, physics and speech, as well as Advanced Placement courses, *double* their chances of being successful in college.

Not planning to go to college? Many employers and certification programs at community colleges and trade schools report that the bar for employment has been raised to include the content and thinking skills learned in courses like Algebra 2 and Chemistry.

Financial Help for In-Demand Professions!

Thinking of becoming a nurse or an engineer?

The State of Michigan is offering the **Michigan Nursing Scholarship** to Michigan residents enrolled at least half time at an eligible institution in a program leading to a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Certification, Associate Degree in Nursing (AND) or Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).

Awards can range from \$2000 to \$4000 per academic year up to the cost of attendance.

If you're considering a career in engineering or another high-tech field, you may be eligible for the **Michigan Engineering Incentive**

This program is for students receiving Federal Family Education Loan (FFELP) Federal Stafford

Loans and exclusively for students who are pursuing engineering or technology degrees and intend to live and work in Michigan.

Benefits include a 0% Interest rate on your Stafford Loan and Reimbursement of the Federal Loan Origination Fee.

For more info on these programs, go to

www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid

Volunteerism — It's A Good Thing!

Even though voluntary service is not a requirement for graduation, students should still seek out opportunities to volunteer.

What's in it for you? Volunteering your time to make life better for someone else benefits both the recipient and the volunteer.

Work Skills: Potential employers all seem to want to hire *experienced* workers. So, how do you get experience if no one will hire you? Offering your time and

talents to community organizations will pay off by providing you with skills and a work ethic that may later translate into a paying job.

Networking: Volunteering your time puts you in contact with adults who may be helpful in your quest for a "real" job.

Real World Experience: Working in a volunteer capacity can provide you with experiences and

exposure to situations that require quick thinking, compassion, problem-solving and people skills.

College Admissions Representatives look kindly upon volunteer experience because it shows the applicant's time management skills and a level of compassion for the less fortunate.

Career Direction Leads to College Choice

SLEHS' Guidance Counselors and Career Development Facilitator offer career awareness activities in grades 9—11 designed to help students identify career areas or pathways that are potential matches for their interests, talents and skills.

Once you have decided on a career direction, several issues must be considered.

- Do I have the skills, the interest and characteristics that will help me be successful in this career?
- What type of training or education after high school

is required for this field?

- Which schools offer these programs?
- Can I meet the qualifications for admission?

As you attempt to answer these questions, several resources are available to you.

In the Career Center, Mrs. Bedich can meet with you individually and guide you through various programs to help you identify specific schools that offer training in your field of interest.

Mrs. Bedich also arranges special opportunities for students to

explore different careers when information becomes available. So, seek her out and let her know your interests.

You may sign up for an appointment with Mrs. Bedich in Student Services.



Finding Scholarship Money

Scholarship money is gift money that does not have to be repaid. It is awarded on the basis of merit (grades, test scores, achievement, etc.), financial need, or a combination of both.

Money can come from the federal government or from the state of Michigan (for example, Michigan Competitive Scholarship, Michigan Promise Scholarship). It can also be administered and distributed by the colleges themselves. Once you have been offered admission,

contact the school's office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and request information on programs for which you may be eligible.

Scholarship money also comes from corporations and organizations. Large retail stores like Wal-mart and Target offer scholarships. (Inquire at the service desk.)

Are your parents or grandparents members of any professional organization or union? Have

them ask at their employer's benefits office for information on scholarship programs for children of employees. If you work for a franchise, ask your employer, as well.

And, don't forget to initiate a fastweb.com or collegeanswer.com database search of private scholarships. **CAUTION:** *If any scholarship offer charges you a fee for applying, toss it and keep on looking. You should not have to pay money to get money.*

*"Success is a ladder
that cannot be
climbed with your
hands in your
pockets."
-American Proverb*

Save Your Money! Beware of Scholarship Search Scams

"Billions of Dollars in unclaimed scholarship money!"

"Money-back guarantee"

"We need a credit card or personal check."

Taking at least one standardized, national test gets your name and address are on mailing lists of companies that guarantee to help you win scholarships, qualify for financial aid and be

granted admission at the college of your choice—all for a "modest" fee.

The problem is that no one can guarantee you a scholarship, financial aid or college admission. What's more, these services may be illegal and their money-back guarantees may outlive their corporate longevity.

If you suspect a scam, save all communication you receive from

the company and report to local law enforcement, your guidance counselor and any of the following organizations:

Federal Trade Commission
www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) www.usps.com/postalinspectors/fraud

Better Business Bureau
www.bbb.org



South Lyon East High School
Student Services
News from your Counselors,
Ms. Mara Elwart and Ms. Jennifer Meyer

**We're on the
Web!**
www.slcs.us

Websites To Check Out

Scholarship, College & Career Searches

www.fastweb.com
www.collegeanswer.com
www.cashe.com

Testing

www.actstudent.org
www.collegeboard.com

Financial Aid

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.finaid.org
www.nasfaa

SAT Test Dates for Juniors

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Register By</u>
Jan. 23	Dec. 15
Mar. 13	Feb. 4
May 1	March 25
June 5	April 29

Check with your college of interest. The majority of schools either accept or prefer ACT. Some highly selective schools REQUIRE the SAT.

SLEHS' School Code:
233472

Writing a Resume? Completing a Job or College Application? Career-Cruising can help!

One of the hardest things to do is to write about yourself. Yet, that's just what you are asked to do on resumes as well as on college and job applications. And, what you write can make a big difference in your life. If you're not prepared with accurate and complete information, you will find yourself at a loss for words.

In 9th and 10th grades, you worked with the counselors to create and update your EDP (4-year Educational Development Plan) in CareerCruising.com. Besides providing opportunities for career awareness and planning as well as college searches, this site can help you record all the details about your accomplishments, activities, awards, jobs, and volunteer work so that you are armed with the exact information you will need when you fill out an application for college admission or a job.

It's easy. Go to www.careercruising.com. On the *first* login page, enter "southlyon" (User Name) and "careers" (password). Click on "EDP" at the top center of the next screen.

Next, enter *your* individual CareerCruising user name and password to access your EDP files. On the left, you will see these links:

- *Activities and Abilities* (extracurricular activities, special talents, private lessons, interests, etc..)
- *Work Experience* (jobs for which you have been paid)
- *Volunteer Experiences* (things you have done to enrich the lives of others for which you have not been paid)

Access CareerCruising anytime from any internet-connected computer and keep an accurate record of what you have done. When the time comes to write your resume or an application essay or to complete a job or college application, you will have all the information you need at your fingertips.

The Final Step—Junior & Senior Timeline

Junior Year

Sept-March: Think about your reasons for going to college. Talk with parents, counselor, teachers & friends.

Jan-March: Identify important factors in choosing a school. Two or four year? Location? Cost? Atmosphere? Program Availability? Explore college guidebooks and websites.

March: Take the MME

Jan-June: Take your ACT (retake) or SAT.

April-August: Collect information about selected schools. Visit the campuses, speak with admissions representatives and arrange for a tour. Narrow your

list to 1-2 schools in each category: my ideal schools, schools likely to accept me.

June-August: Begin your scholarship search (see page 3). Start writing your application essays and revise, revise, revise!

Senior Year

Summer: Have your Senior Pictures taken.

Sept-Nov: Submit college applications online or on paper. Ask your counselor to send transcripts to all schools to which you apply. DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR TEST SCORES & DON'T WAIT 'TIL 2ND SEMESTER!

Retake ACT or SAT if necessary.

Meet with College Reps in Student Services

Oct-Nov: Order Senior Announcements, etc.. MME Retakes.

Jan-Feb: File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

March-April: Make your final decision, after considering admissions & scholarship offers, financial aid packages, etc..

May: Last chance to retake the MEAP test.

Oct-June: Purchase your All-Night Party Ticket

Your graduation date:

June 11, 2011