

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2007

SENIOR STATUS LETTER - On March 16 the parent(s) of each senior will be mailed a letter detailing what the student must pass in order to meet graduation requirements. If you have any questions, please contact your counselor as soon as possible.

2007-08 COURSE REGISTRATION – Course requests were handed in on Feb. 23 and are being entered into the system. During the next few weeks, counselors will review students' requests and will confer with students and parents upon request. Please contact your student's counselor if you have any questions.

INTERIM REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS – Third quarter academic interim reports were given to students on Feb. 28. Report cards are scheduled to be mailed home on March 30. If you have any questions about the grades, please contact the teachers by calling 874-5699 and asking for their voice mail. You may also contact them via the school e-mail at www.lakotaonline.com.

POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS PROGRAM (PSEOP) – A meeting to explain the PSEOP was held in the Diner at 7:00 p.m. on Thurs., Feb. 22. Option B of this program allows high school students to attend college and earn both high school credit and college credit concurrently. Included in the discussion were eligibility requirements, advantages and risks of participation, financial arrangements, transportation services, and consequences of failing a college class. Refer to the link on our web site for more information.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING - Students enrolled in A.P. classes have the opportunity to take tests in May to possibly earn college credit. Students will receive test registration materials and information from their A.P. teachers. Test registration closes on March 15. Refer to the link from our web site for more information on the Advanced Placement program, including the test registration form.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS - Seniors, it is not too late to apply to many schools. **Do not wait for new ACT/SAT scores, or for senior grades.** Apply NOW! Because most colleges like to receive all application material in one packet, we suggest that you bring your completed application, application fee, letters of recommendation (if needed), counselor's form, etc., to the Guidance Office., or give to your counselor. We'll complete our part, add an official copy of your transcript and your ACT/SAT scores, and then mail all in one envelope. If you apply on-line, please print out a copy of the counselor sheet and bring to the Guidance Office, along with a request to send your transcript. In either case, please allow us at least one week for processing.

ACT-SAT - All students considering college should take at least one of these college entrance exams. While some schools prefer one test over the other, most colleges will accept either test and will consider only the highest score when making decisions on admission and scholarships. We recommend that students take both tests at the end of the junior year (Lakota East is an SAT test center in May; Lakota West offers the ACT in June), and then seriously consider retaking both tests early in the senior year (East offers the SAT and West offers the ACT in October). Seniors should complete testing by December, at the latest. Registration materials for the ACT are available in the Guidance Office. SAT registration must be done on-line. Following is a list of test dates and registration deadlines:

ACT Test Dates

April 14
*June 9 (Lakota West test site)

Registration Postmark Deadlines

Mar. 9
May 4

SAT Test Dates

March 10
*May 5 (Lakota East test site)
June 2

Registration Postmark Deadlines

Feb. 2
March 29
April 27

ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY – Originally scheduled for Feb. 21, the ASVAB has been rescheduled for Wednesday morning, March 6. An optional test, the ASVAB provides the student information about his/her interests and abilities and how they relate to careers.

REQUIRED GRADUATION TESTS - In addition to passing required course work, each student must pass all five parts of the Ohio Graduation Test in order to meet graduation requirements. Any upperclass students still needing to pass any section of the OGT were tested in October. The test will be given again during the week of March 12 to all sophomores and to upperclass students who still need to take it. The testing schedule is as follows: March 12 – Reading; March 13 – Math; March 14 – Writing; March 15 – Science; March 16 – Social Studies. All tests will be given 7:15 – 10:00. Upperclass students who have passed the test being given on a particular day do not need to come to school until 10:00.

PREP HQ – Every senior and junior should know how to log onto Prep HQ. The list of college events and scholarships is updated continually so that our students are aware of every possible opportunity. Students have been encouraged to share user name and password with parents so that they, too, can have access to this valuable information. Seniors may also track their applications under the “My Organizer” menu.

COLLEGE VISITS - Many colleges schedule visits to Lakota West High School during the school day. Visits are publicized via the school announcements one week in advance. All scheduled visits are also listed under “Colleges” on Prep HQ. Juniors and seniors may attend by signing up in the Guidance Office and receiving a pass prior to the visit.

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) – Any senior applying for federal or state financial aid for college should complete registration for the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1. It is recommended that students register on-line. Information is available in the Guidance Office.

CORRESPONDENCE CLASSES - Seniors who are taking correspondence classes (i.e., University of Kentucky, Indiana University, Brigham Young University) are reminded that May 1 is the deadline for counselors to administer final exams. After that date, you will need to go to the school to take the exam. If this is a graduation credit, we must receive official notification of your final grade in the course by May 15 in order for you to participate in Commencement.

BUTLER TECH – Applications for all programs are available in the Guidance Office. The deadline to receive first priority consideration was Friday, February 23. Please submit additional applications to the Guidance Office as soon as possible.

LAKOTA ELECTRONIC HIGH SCHOOL - Students who need to make up credits in English, math, science, social studies, and health may enroll in the Lakota Electronic High School. This is a guided independent study program composed of academic units completed via the Internet, teacher-guided work sessions, periodic written quizzes, and a written exam given at the end of the term. Students must complete 18 lessons to earn .5 credit. Please note that all courses are makeup in nature. Students must have taken the course at Lakota West and not received credit to be enrolled in the Lakota Electronic High School. The Spring Session will be held March 6 – May 10 (registration deadline Feb. 23). Tuition is \$130 per .5 credit. Contact your counselor for registration information, or visit the Electronic High School web page, accessible via the district web site.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY - OHSAA regulations mandate that a student-athlete must receive passing grades in a minimum of five full-credit courses in the immediately preceding nine-week grading period in order to be eligible to participate. Every class offered at Lakota West, with the exception of physical education classes, is a full-credit course. Two physical education classes taken concurrently can count as one full-credit course. Questions should be directed to the student’s counselor, coach, or athletic director.

COLLEGE ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY - Any student who participates in Division I or II intercollegiate athletics as a freshman must be certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse. Certification

is determined by a combination of a student's "Core" GPA, which only includes courses deemed "college preparatory" by the NCAA, and SAT or ACT scores. Early planning, beginning in the freshman year, is important in ensuring that a potential student-athlete has every opportunity to meet NCAA eligibility standards. Questions should be directed to the student's counselor, coach, or athletic director.