

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Fall, 2007

Issue #1



To Know Christ and To Make Him Known Through Christian Education

Welcome back to school! I hope each of you had a restful and enjoyable summer vacation. Now that school has begun, I pray that each of you will have a great start and a very successful year ahead. Throughout this school year, I will use *Guidance Department News* to keep students and parents abreast of college and scholarship opportunities. Please check this site often for updates. Thank you and God bless!



Seniors, please be aware of several current scholarship opportunities that require a preliminary application form. Interested seniors should see Mr. Voigt for this application. The deadline for submitting the preliminary application is Friday, August 31. Subsequently, the Hickory Grove Baptist Christian School Scholarship Committee will review all applications and determine the most qualified applicants to nominate. Interviews may be held to facilitate this decision making process. Nominees will then be required to make their official applications on line with the respective scholarship foundations. Here are the scholarship programs requiring the preliminary application to be completed and returned:

The Morehead-Cain Scholarship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2 nominations)

The Park Scholarship at North Carolina State University (2 nominations)

The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship Program at 14 colleges in NC (unlimited applicants)

Seniors are encouraged to listen attentively to daily school announcements about other available scholarship opportunities. Observing eligibility requirements and deadlines will be of utmost importance.



COLLEGE FAIRS:

Area private schools are hosting College Fairs this fall. All HGBCS high school students, regardless of grade level, are cordially invited to attend. First, Providence Day School on Sardis Road is sponsoring *The Charlotte Independent Schools College Fair* on Monday, September 24, 2007, from 7 to 9 p.m. Over 160 colleges will attend and several will present mini information sessions at scheduled times during the Fair. These short presentations will still provide enough time for students and parents to browse the tables and talk with the representatives in attendance.

Secondly, Charlotte Christian School on Sardis Road is planning to host *The National Christian College Fair* on Monday, October 8, 2007, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. 30 to 35 Christian Colleges from around the country will be attending the Fair. Please mark your calendars for both of these events and plan to attend. Please visit www.naccap.org for updates on the Christian colleges that are planning to send representatives.

2007-2008 SAT Calendar:

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is given at area schools throughout the year. Listed below are the Test Dates and the Regular Registration Deadlines. The cost for the SAT is \$43. See Mr. Voigt for on-line registration materials or paper registration packets. Ask him for a test preparation booklet to review test examples. You can also access registration information at www.collegeboard.com. *Please don't forget to include the HGBCS code – 340661 – when you register!*

TEST DATES

October 6, 2007
November 3, 2007
December 1, 2007
January 26, 2008
March 1, 2008
May 3, 2008
June 7, 2008

REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINES

September 10, 2007
October 2, 2007
October 30, 2007
December 26, 2007
January 29, 2008
April 1, 2008
May 6, 2008

The SAT Program has a toll-free number for students/parents who have questions. It is (866) 756-7346.

2007-2008 ACT Calendar:

The American College Test (ACT) is given at area schools throughout the year. Listed below are the Test Dates and Regular Registration Deadlines. The cost for the ACT is \$44.50. This includes “ACT Plus Writing.” Many colleges now require a writing score for admissions purposes. See Mr. Voigt for on-line registration materials or paper registration packets. Ask him for a test preparation booklet to review test examples. You can also access registration information at www.actstudent.org. *Please don't forget to include the HGBCS code – 340661- when you register!*

TEST DATES

September 15, 2007
October 27, 2007
December 8, 2007
February 9, 2008
April 12, 2008
June 14, 2008

REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINES

August 10, 2007
September 21, 2007
November 2, 2007
January 4, 2008
March 7, 2008
May 9, 2008

The ACT Program does not have a toll-free number. However, as questions arise, a national ACT representative can be reached at (319) 339-3020.

PSAT/NMSQT:

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test will be administered on the HGBCS campus of Wednesday, October 17, 2007, during the morning hours to all 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. This test is a requirement for all students, and there is no cost to parents for testing. Practice booklets will be distributed to all students by way of English classes. Included in the booklet is a full-length practice test. Students are encouraged to take this test and follow the procedures for self-scoring. This exercise will serve as good practice for test preparation.

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DUKE UNIVERSITY

Duke University, located in Durham, North Carolina, is one of our nation's top rated colleges. There are several opportunities provided by the University for students and parents to become more acquainted with the programs of study there. On Saturday, September 15, 2007, Duke is hosting an Open House between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. *Seniors and their families* are cordially invited to attend. There will be opportunities to have conversations with Duke faculty and students in various academic areas, along with tours of campus and information sessions on admissions and financial aid. Merit scholarships will be explained for students in North and South Carolina. For additional information about this Open House, please visit Duke's web site at www.admissions.duke.edu.

Duke University will have a representative at the Hilton Charlotte Executive Park, located at 5624 Westpark Drive in Charlotte, NC 28217 on Monday, September 17, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. for a "Discover Duke" program. Gina Hubbard, Assistant Director of Admissions, will present information about Duke's programs, people, and admissions and financial aid processes. *All interested students and parents* are invited to attend. For questions about the evening's program or directions to the Hilton, please call (704) 527-8000.

The Pratt School of Engineering at Duke University is hosting an "In Focus" Open House for *all seniors and their families* on Saturday, September 29, 2007 between the hours of 8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you are a prospective engineering student, Duke is interested in having you visit. Discussions with engineering faculty, tours of the campus and engineering facilities, presentations about student research and how they are making a difference in the world, and information on admissions and financial aid will be available. For a schedule of the day's events and to RSVP, please visit the Duke web site at www.admissions.duke.edu.

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GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY and THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Representatives of Georgia Institute of Technology (commonly called Georgia Tech), located in Atlanta, Georgia, and The University of Georgia, located in Athens, Georgia, are hosting a Student/Parent Information Session for area high school students and their parents at Providence Day School on Monday, September 10, 2007 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Because space is limited, students and parents are requested to RSVP as soon as possible by visiting www.admissions.uga.edu/infosessions. Both of these universities have excellent reputations, and this opportunity to learn more about each college will be time well spent. I encourage HGBCS juniors and seniors to make the necessary plans to attend.

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REMINDERS TO SENIORS

1. This fall, be prayerful as you begin to narrow your list of colleges down to five or six. Of course, keep your parents "in the loop" as you seek God's will in this process. Meeting with Mr. Voigt is always an option should you need his help.
2. If you haven't done so already, visit colleges this fall before deciding where to apply. This will help narrow your college choices for sure. It is advisable to NEVER choose a college as an option without a visit first!
3. Begin applying to colleges NOW or shortly after September 1. Many, if not all colleges, are encouraging seniors to apply on line. However, if you prefer to do a paper application, no problem. Please be neat and make sure everything is legible. This will likely be one of the first impressions the college(s) will have of you. So please, make it count in your favor!

4. Be careful about making an “early decision” commitment when filing a college application. Early decision commitments are usually binding, meaning that you obligate yourself to attending that particular college. “Early action” or “rolling admissions” decisions are not binding however. These decision formats will allow you to keep your options open until May 1 of your senior year.
5. As you apply to colleges, either on line or by paper application, please make sure to stop by Mr. Voigt’s office and complete a “Transcript Request Form.” Mr. Voigt will make every attempt to prepare your transcripts and to mail them within two business days.
6. Ask for counselor or teacher recommendations as you need them. REMEMBER PLEASE...give each teacher or counselor enough lead time to prepare a statement of recommendation. Always provide an envelope with your name on the front. Mr. Voigt will send sealed recommendations along with your transcripts, unless the college(s) expects them to accompany your application(s).
7. If colleges ask for essays, write “first drafts” and ask teachers and others to read them. It is appropriate for them to critique and to help edit, but not to write for you. The content of the essay is your responsibility and your integrity as a writer should not be compromised.
8. Use the Thanksgiving holidays as your target date to have most applications submitted, even though some colleges will accept applications throughout your senior year. The competition for admissions continues to stiffen. For that reason, early application submissions usually communicate your interest in the college and demonstrate your initiative and responsibility. These factors may have a favorable effect on the college’s first impressions of you and may give you an edge in their consideration of your credentials.
9. If you have not had your official SAT or ACT scores sent directly to the college(s) to which you are applying, please be sure to contact the College Board or ACT to have them sent. See Mr. Voigt if you have questions.
10. It is advisable to make photocopies, if applicable, or to download copies of any application materials or supporting documents that you send via mail or on line to colleges. This “paper trail” may prove to be invaluable as you make your final college decision.



IMPORTANT WEB SITES

Students (Juniors and seniors particularly) should visit these web sites often for current scholarships, financial aid, college admissions information, and career planning options:

www.collegeboard.com	SAT information, practice tests, scholarship links, and general college information
www.actstudent.org	ACT information, practice tests, scholarship links, and general college information
www.petersons.com	College, test preparation, and scholarship links
www.scholarships.com	Excellent scholarship search site
www.cfnc.org	North Carolina’s answer for scholarship searches, career planning, and general college information
www.fastweb.com	Scholarship and college search site
www.collegenet.com	College and financial aid information
www.fafsa.ed.gov	The government’s web site for filing the “Free Application for Federal Student Aid”
www.pin.ed.gov	The government’s web site for securing a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for signing on line FAFSA forms