

Handout
Senior Preconference Small Group Presentation
September 19, 2006

Welcome to your senior year!

- This is an exciting year and a time when you have many decisions to make.
- Most DHS students choose to go on to a 2- or 4-year college or university or other type of post-secondary training program the Fall after graduation. Some go into military service, and others choose to immediately enter the workforce full-time. Many students work and go to school/training part-time.
- Whatever you prefer to do, everyone has many decisions to make.

As most students continue to attend school (generic term for 2-, 4-year college or university, apprenticeship, or other training program), much of this presentation will address important information for college decision making.

Where will you go? Although there is no one perfect school for you, it is important that you find a place which will be a good “match” or “fit” for you.

- Select options based on YOUR needs, values, and desires
- Research (if not done yet, can use www.fastweb.com or www.careercruising.com - username: dekalbhs – password: careers)
- Select a range of schools: Dream or reach school, match, safety and financial safety choices
- Meet with college admission counselors who visit DHS at table in main lobby
- Attend the National College Fair, October 14th 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Navy Pier

What do I do when I’ve decided where to go?

- Procuring applications
- Get organized!
 - Identify materials YOU need to submit in addition to the application; most applications ask for:
 - List deadlines and develop schedule to meet those deadlines
 - Contact teachers or counselors for recommendations
 - provide listing of your high school activities, at DHS, in the community, paid employment, volunteer service
 - allow at least 1 week for written recommendations
 - request transcript by completing the form in the Registrar’s office, return to pick it up for mailing – first one free; subsequent transcripts \$1 each, (form re PS&E ACT)
- Don’t wait until the last minute – poor planning on your part does not constitute a crisis on our part. Don’t wait until the last minute.
- Understand the variety of application options
Early Decision, Early Action, Regular, Rolling Admission, Wait List
- Be reasonable about the number of applications you submit; most cost \$

How can DHS and my counselor help me this year?

- Make an appointment to meet with your counselor to discuss YOUR plans for this year and for next. Discuss this information with your parent(s)/guardian(s).

- Provide materials to register for the ACT (www.act.org), SAT or SAT II (www.collegeboard.org) as necessary.
- Attend and invite your parent(s)/guardian(s) to attend these DHS-scheduled events:
 - College Application and Selection Night – October 2, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
 - Kishwaukee College Fair, November 8th.
 - Financial Aid Night – January 8th, 7:00 p.m. DHS Auditorium
 - FAFSA Completion Night, February 20th (tentative), 6:30 p.m.
 - Kishwaukee Placement Tests
 - Scholarship information
 - Scholarship listings are posted outside of Ms. Cebulski’s office and also at www.dist428/dhs/services/guidance.
 - Scholarship applications are in the cabinet across from Ms. Cebulski’s office.
 - A five-page listing of local scholarships will be distributed to all seniors in late January or early February. Most of those applications will be due in mid-March. Early grads should contact their counselor in early February.
 - Students planning to attend Kishwaukee College should make plans to complete the Boulos Scholarship. Kish students should also check with their counselors to assess their eligibility for the other numerous and generous Kish scholarships.
 - It is important to note that there are many scholarship services available to high school seniors and you may have already been contacted by mail or email regarding some of these services. In general, if you have to pay a fee in return for “guaranteed” scholarship money, you want to beware of a possible scam.
 - There are a couple of good websites to research regarding paying for college. We recommend www.fastweb.com, www.collegezone.com, and www.finaid.org in your search for help paying for college.

If you have any questions or concerns about these notices or in general, please feel free to contact the school's main office (754-2100) or your student's counselor: Last names beginning **A-DO**, Ms. Dugan 754-2127 or cdugan@dist428.org; **DR-H**, Mr. Nyhof, 754-2126 or dan.nyhof@dist428.org, **I-ML**, Ms. Strack 754-2123 or rstrack@dist428.org, **MO-SA**, Ms. Cebulski 754-2111 or kcebulska@dist428.org, **SC-Z**, Ms. Hunt 754-2170 or shunt@dist428.org, Secretary, Ms. Maney, 754-2122.

Take time to think about, reflect on and explore

- WHO YOU ARE,
- WHAT YOU WANT, &
- HOW YOU HOPE TO GET THERE.

We are looking forward to assisting you with this process.