

Counselor's Connection

Greetings from the Laurel High School Counseling Department

The LHS Counseling Dept.

Ph: 301-497-2063

Fax: 301-362-5715

- Ms. T. Harris: A-CL
- Mrs. E. Lesser: CO-G
- Ms. R. Richardson: H-LA
- Mrs. R. Mitchell: LE-PE
- Mrs. T. Collins-Swain: PH-SL
- Ms. M. Graves: SM-Z
- Mrs. C. Swartz: Guidance Secretary
- Mrs. G. Green: Records Secretary
- Ms. J. Lawson: Registrar

Do You Plan on Attending College?

If the answer is “yes” and you’re a Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior, then be sure to attend the Laurel High School’s College Planning Night on April 17, 2007 from 6:30pm–9:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.

The evening has been designed for grades 9-11. Attendees will choose four thirty minute workshops. College Planning Night is a great opportunity to gain insight, knowledge, and skills to help with the college planning process. It’s never too early to start thinking about college.

The following workshops will be available for your family to attend:

- The College Admissions Process

- NCAA Requirements (offered only once)
- The College Student’s Perspective (Q & A Session)
- College Admissions Testing (SAT, SAT II, ACT, PSAT)
- Using the Internet for the College and Scholarship Search
- What Should I be Doing Now?
- Financing Your College Education

All workshops, except the NCAA presentation will be offered during the following time periods:

6:45–7:10pm 1st Session

7:15–7:45pm 2nd Session

7:50–8:20pm 3rd Session



It's never too early to start thinking about college!

8:25–8:55pm 4th Session

If you have any questions regarding the workshop, please contact your student’s counselor.

Inside this issue:

College Planning Night	1
Class of 2010	1
Learn What You Can Do When Your Teen Cuts Class	2
College Bound?	2
Juniors: What Admissions Test and When	2
Upcoming Events	3
Prepare Early for Summer Success	3
Registration 07-08	3

Class of 2010: What Should I Be Doing Now?

The year is almost over. You’ve gotten through three quarters of a school year. What should I be doing now?

- Work closely with your counselor to select courses that will prepare you for college.

- Check entrance requirements for a variety of colleges and programs
- Visit the school career center.
- Explore volunteer opportunities for the summer
- Explore summer school opportunities for enrichment. Summer programs information is available in guidance and on the Laurel H.S. website.
- Take a college tour or visit a local campus

Learn What You Can Do When Your Teen Cuts Class

His teacher called. He cut math class...again. "I hate math," he says when you ask him about it. Should you be worried if your teen starts to cut school?

Yes. Research shows that cutting class is the first step in a downward spiral. Students fall behind in a class. Then they avoid class. As a result, they fall further behind. Soon, they are at risk of dropping out.

And it's not just that students miss class. It's what they often do while they're not in class:

smoke, use alcohol and drugs, even break the law.

It's important to take action quickly before a pattern develops. There are some ways parents can help change their teen's behavior before it's too late.

- **Take an active role.** Find out what homework your teen must complete and make sure he completes it. Talk with his teachers to see what else you can do to help.

- **Spend time with your teen.** Look for things you can do that will encourage talking and listening to each other. Watch a TV show and then talk about it. Read the same book and talk about it together.
- **Promote responsibility.** Expect your teen to pitch in. Set rules about curfews...and stick to them.

Source: Martell L. Teasley, "Absenteeism and Truancy: Risk, Protection, and Best Practices

Implications for School Social Workers," *Children and Schools*, April 2004



College Bound?

Should your teen go to college? It's a big question, and the answer is different for each child. How do you decide what's right for your high schooler? Consider having your child set up an appointment with his/her school counselor.

The counselor can help assess your teen's talents, interests, and academic strengths. She can encourage your child to

think about the kind of goals he/she wants to pursue and whether college should be a part of them. A four-year college may not be the answer for everyone, but your teen probably should consider going to one if he/she:

- Has academic interests he/she wants to explore
- Has career goals that require a college degree

- Wants to expand her horizons and life opportunities with a college degree

If a four year college doesn't seem to be the right fit for your child, the counselor can help him/her explore other options, including vocational/technical schools, community college, or apprenticeships.

"The counselor can help assess your teen's talents, interests, and academic strengths."

Juniors: What Admission Test and When?

We Encourage all college bound juniors to take the SAT (and ACT if needed) in May or June of their junior year. Testing in the second semester of the junior year permits an early introduction of the tests and ample opportunities to re-test later. Approximately 60% of students who retest in the Fall improve their scores. Colleges and

scholarship organizations use the best score. Therefore, there is nothing to lose and everything to gain by testing during the Spring of the Junior year. Becoming familiar with the content and format of the test question is one of the best preparations for the test. The registration packet contains some sample test questions.

Students can register online at www.collegeboard.com for the SAT and www.act.org for the ACT.

Some students are eligible for a fee waiver for these particular tests. Please see your counselor for more information.



Take the SAT or the ACT exams during the Spring of Junior year

Upcoming Events

- April 10 6-7:30pm: How to Motivate Your Difficult Child: a six week parenting class at Oasis Youth Services in Laurel, MD. To register, call 301-498-4500. Materials, refreshments, and child care provided.
- April 21st and May 19: DeVry U. is offering free SAT Practice test and review. For more information call Pete Smith at 703-414-4131.
- April 21, 2007 9-3:30pm: National Youth Service Day: A Day of Preparedness at Berkshire Elementary, District Heights. For more information contact Jamal Davis 240-487-2113.
- April 21 & May 12: SAT Prep Workshops offered by Prince Georges County Public Schools at Bowie H.S. and Flowers H.S. from 9-12noon or 1-4pm. See your counselor for a registration form.
- April 23 6:30-8:30pm: Service Academy and Military Education and Career Forum for middle and high school students at the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro. For more information call 301-474-0119.
- May 12: College and Scholarship Preparation for 9th and 10th Graders at the Largo Scholarship and Financial Aid Center at Largo H.S.



Mark Your Calendar

Prepare Early for Summer Success

Last summer your teen put off his job search until school was out. As a result, he got a job her despised. It's smart to plan for summer now. There are several summer programs and jobs available to students:

The State Dept. of Maryland announced they are accepting applications for the 2007 Maryland Summer Centers which offer one to three-week residen-

tial and non-residential programs with a focus on the arts, sciences, math, technology, etc. Tuition ranges from \$100-\$700 with financial assistance available. Applications are available online at www.marylandpublicschools.org/summercenters. Applications must be postmarked by April 15 except for the fine arts centers which have earlier deadlines and require an audition.

The P.G. County Summer Youth Initiative provides youth of P.G. County with the opportunity for a structured, supervised, and quality work experience. Students between the ages of 15-21 are eligible to apply. Applications are available online at www.pgcps.org/~laurel or at <http://egov.co.pg.md.us/yes/> and must be submitted by April 13, 2007..

It's smart to plan for summer now. Start your job and summer programs search in LHS Career Center.

Next Year's Scheduling Process Successful

As many of you know, counselors have met with all 9-11 grade students to register for classes next school year all of February and most of March. Students will have the opportunity to make changes to their requests until the end of the school year, June 14, 2007.

Once the numbers are calculated for each course request,

decisions as to which courses will actually be on the schedule are made. Some courses that were offered will not have received enough requests to permit it to be on the master schedule. If a course is cancelled or closed a student's selected alternative course will be chosen. Most of this process is done during the summer

months. Please be sure that you and your student have chosen your requests carefully. In the Fall, there will be **no schedule changes** unless there is an error in scheduling. **NO PREFERENCE CHANGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Name: WORTSCH, CATHERINE ANDREA										
School Year	Counselor	Building	HomeTeam	HomeRoom	Grade	Enroll Marking Period				
200608	SHAPIRO	WASHINGTON LEE HS		NA	10	1	2	3	4	5
Course Number	Section	Prerequisite	Days	Teacher	Days	Time	Room	Section	Section	Section
2202	2	0	ANTHC STD	OSIA THOMAS	1	MTWTF	1234	WASHINGTON LEE HS		
2340	10	0	ALTR & PE I	VAL SHAPPEL	2	MTWTF	1234	WASHINGTON LEE HS		
2025	3	0	TRADITIONAL	TRIC ROCKWOOD	3	MTWTF	1234	WASHINGTON LEE HS		
3012	2	0	BUS COMP APP I	SAF SANDSON	4	MTWTF	34	WASHINGTON LEE HS		
3013	3	0	BUS COMP APP I	SAF SANDSON	4	MTWTF	34	WASHINGTON LEE HS		
3410	2	0	EARTH SPACE	JOE HODDER	5	MTWTF	1234	WASHINGTON LEE HS		
2310	8	0	ALGEBRA I	SAI LAHRU	6	MTWTF	1234	WASHINGTON LEE HS		
2140	10	0	ENGLISH II	JOE BRANNEY	7	MTWTF	1234	WASHINGTON LEE HS		

Students have until June 14, 2007 to make any changes to their course requests.