

Junior Update

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Summer College Guidelines

Register for the fall SAT over the Internet at: www.collegeboard.com.

For ACT registration you may visit www.actstudent.org. Fall dates are the most popular for the achievement tests. Early application means that you will get your choice of locations. A great SAT prep website is: www.tescaliber.com. You will also find SAT, ACT and COMPASS prep on the website www.gacollege411.org under the “Student Planner” tab.

Visit colleges and arrange a campus tour and any interviews you feel necessary. You wouldn’t buy a car without first driving it. Don’t consider enrolling at a college or technical institute that you haven’t seen firsthand. See the last page of this Update for a list of things to accomplish on your visit.

Send away for the most current college catalogs or check the online catalog at the schools’ web sites.

Assemble a list of your activities, job experiences and interests. This resume will come in handy when you fill out applications in the fall. List all activities, sports, and volunteer work with the years you were involved in them. All high school activities should be included, from your freshman year through the present. You will find tools to help you with this on www.careercruising.com (**Resume Builder**): create or log-in to your portfolio, click on the grey “Resume Builder” tab at the top of the blue button menu. Your user name to enter Career Cruising is: Parkview. Your password is: lilburn.

It’s clear that you will need to get organized and work hard to achieve your goals. Advanced planning, meeting deadlines, and a high level of concentration become absolutely essential. Don’t let this talk of serious concentration and diligence scare you. It’s not that anything being suggested is particularly hard. You just have to settle on a definite plan and then stick to it in the months that lie ahead.

The Scholarship Scoop at Parkview

All of you have heard a little about scholarship searching here at Parkview. When you return for your senior year you need to be ready to begin this process in earnest. You will find a continually (August 2009-May 2010) updated list of scholarship opportunities in the Career Center (12.147) as well as some of the applications. This list is also posted on www.parkview.net. Go to Academics, Counseling and then to Financial Resources. You will find this list under “Scholarship Listing”. I update this PDF file of scholarships weekly throughout the school year. Refresh your page weekly. In the same list of files, you will see a

file labeled “Hispanic Scholarship Network” and a file labeled “Scholarship Links”. This file will contain links to about ten of the top, free scholarship sites for students. Please don’t procrastinate and miss opportunities. Be ready as soon as school begins in the fall and get yourself organized. Some deadlines will begin as early as September. This year we have about 150 scholarships listed in our scholarship notebook. Please take advantage of this and begin your senior search early next school year.

Career Exploration

Do you know what you want to do the rest of your life? If not, you’re not alone. In planning your career, you may need some help in finding your niche or calling. Exploring career options can open your mind to possibilities that you may not have considered. Here’s how you can begin your career exploration:

Take an occupational interest assessment. Offered by many career counseling offices, it is helpful in identifying interests. We have a number of assessment tools available in your Career Center such as the Occupation Sort, IDEAS Assessment, and the Skills Assessment. The GCIS is a wonderful tool to help you with exploration of possible choices for your future beyond Parkview. Our county is also offering another site to Gwinnett students. You will find it at www.careercruising.com. Your user name is **parkview** and your password is **lilburn**. Try the Matchmaker assessment.

Explore the Web to learn more about careers that interest you. One website which offers guidance in this area is **Mapping Your Future** located at www.mapping-your-future.org. You also have access to the **Georgia Career Information System** at school and at home located at www.gcic.peachnet.edu. Your User Name is **parkview** and your Password is **gcis485**.

Review a comprehensive source of career information found in the Occupational Outlook Handbook, compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, located at <http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm>. Talk with professionals in the field. They can provide first-hand experience and insight.

Familiarize yourself with the training and/or educational requirements necessary to achieve the desired career. Is the career within your reach academically? If not, is there a related career within your reach? The GCIS, mentioned above, will give you a list of related occupations and related industries when you access any occupation.

These steps won’t guarantee that you’ll choose the career that’s right for you, but they’ll open your eyes to a world of possibilities. It’s your future. Go for it!!!!

Test Dates

ACT

June 13, 2009 May 8, 2009 or Late registration May 9-22, 2009

SAT

June 6, 2009 May 5, 2009 or Late registration May 15, 2009

Campus Tour Checklist

Would you buy a new car without taking it for a test drive? Or buy a CD at a garage sale without checking it for scratches? Likewise, you should not commit four (or more) years and tens of thousands of dollars to a college or university without trying it on for size. Once you have narrowed your list down to about three schools, plan on spending at least a full day at each one, so you can make the most informed decision of your life.

Many colleges offer tours on certain days of the week, and it's always nice to get the input of the students who give the tours. But remember—it's their job to sell the college to you. Make sure to take some time before or after the tour to meander around the campus and make sure it has everything you dreamed of---without the voice of the tour guide/salesperson chiming in every few seconds. It's OK to be picky—you've made it this far, and you deserve to know what you're getting.

For each visit, be sure to:

- Visit the offices of your major and talk with a professor, if one is available.
- Sit in on a class to see what it's like. Admissions offices will arrange this for you.
- Read the student newspaper. An estimated 95 percent of college students read the student paper, whether they read it front to back or just skim over the horoscopes. It's a good way to get an idea of the hot issues and events on campus.
- Spend some time studying in the library. It's supposed to be the quietest place on campus, and it can seriously affect your academic life. If it's not peaceful enough for you, you may want to look elsewhere.
- Eat in the cafeteria. You'll be eating there a lot. Get used to it.
- Talk to as many students as possible. Ask them if they would pick this school again, if given the chance to do it all over. Ask them why. Ask them what they do in their free time. Ask them whatever pops into your head.
- Visit parts of campus that weren't on the tour. Are they hiding something? Especially be sure to visit a residence hall that wasn't on the tour—it might be very different from the renovated perfection of their showroom dormitory.
- Pick up financial aid info. In addition to federal aid that you apply for with the FAFSA, colleges often offer their own scholarships and work-study programs.
- Walk around campus by yourself, and try to picture yourself going to school there. Also picture yourself eating there, sleeping there, breathing there and living there for four years. If you like that vision, you may have found the right school.

GCollege411.org

Don't forget to explore the site developed to help Georgia students plan, apply and pay for college. You will find this resource at www.Gcollege411.org. This site is free to all Georgia students. You will find many helpful resources on this site including college entrance test prep. Click on the “**Student Planner**” tab. Click on the **College Test Prep** link in the middle of the page, and you're ready to go. You will find help with the SAT, ACT and COMPASS. You will also find a Vocabulary Builder in this section. All you have to do is open the site and click on **Create an Account** to get started!

Georgia Gwinnett College Open House

Spring 2009 Open House

April 25 and June 27

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Come see the state-of-the-art facilities and the high tech learning environment.

Come learn about admissions and financial aid, what majors GGC has to offer and about campus life, disability services, faculty mentorship, and student success services.

Join us for a guided campus tour and lunch with faculty, staff, and current students.

For registration and more information please call 678-407-5313 or visit

www.ggc.usg.edu/openhouse.

Your Scholarship HOOK

You can win a ton of moola for college with the right hook!

Spend some time developing a “hook” for your scholarship applications.

The key to a hook is to “do something meaningful, significant and important.” Start a charity, preside over a national organization or develop one of your talents.

Caleb Shreve’s hook was his songwriting ability. Shreve, of Lone Oak, Texas, won \$25,000 from Upromise after writing and recording a song and receiving the most votes in an online contest.

Scholarship committees are going to read only the first three to seven awards you’ve won or activities you’ve participated in. So your hook doesn’t have to be that you’re involved in 30 different clubs. That just shows you’re spreading yourself too thin.

“The key is to do something really meaningful and significant.”

Andrew Knight

The Next Step Magazine

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Remember to visit your Career Center early in your senior year. You will have much work to do preparing for life beyond Parkview. There are many resources offered to help you explore and plan this important last year of high school. Have a great summer break and don’t be a stranger next year! It is always my pleasure to help you reach your goals.

Mrs. Cofer

College and Career Specialist

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