



## WORTHY OF NOTE:

- \* **Seniors:** Sign up for the FAFSA. See Lafayette homepage for details. Check out the local scholarships on the college and career webpage and in room 600.
- \* **Don't give in to senioritis!** Remember accepting colleges do look at second-semester senior grades.
- \* **Juniors:** Sign up to take the SAT and/or the ACT. Check dates and sign up at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  
  
Meet with college reps when they visit Lafayette High.
- \* **Sophomores:** Take an interest/career survey. Find it in: Virginia Mentor
- \* **Freshmen:** Second semester is like the beginning of a new year. Look into joining a club or sport. Get involved!
- \* **Room 600** The College Corner has resources including guide books, college view books, catalogs and other print resources. Bring a friend during third block lunch. Computers available for on-line resources. Check it out!

## College Planning: Especially for Juniors

Things to consider second semester as you plan to focus more sharply on your post-high school plans. These recommendations are from the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB).

### Winter

- ◆ Start with you: What are your abilities, social/cultural preferences, and personal qualities. You may want to create a list of what it is you may want to study and do in college.
- ◆ Learn about colleges. Look at their websites and on-line catalogues. Talk to friends, family, teachers, and recent grads of your school now in college. List college features that interest you.
- ◆ Visit your counselor as well as the College Corner Resource room. When will college representatives visit Lafayette? Put the dates in your calendar. Examine catalogs and guides.
- ◆ If you haven't done so already make a file to manage your college search, testing, and application data.
- ◆ If appropriate (for example, if you're interested in drama, music, art, sports, etc.), start to gather material for a portfolio.
- ◆ With your family, start to

learn about financial aid. Read the Department of Education's *Funding Your Education* (about federal aid programs). Use the College Board's *College Cost & Financial Aid Handbook* and the financial aid calculator at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to estimate how much aid you might receive.

- ◆ Sign up for the SAT and/or ACT at least once in the spring and again next fall. Register online. Fee waivers are available for students with financial need. To prepare, download practice booklets from [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for the SAT or from [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for the ACT.
- ◆ Ask a counselor or teacher about taking the SAT Subject tests in the spring. You should take them while course material is still fresh in your mind. You can download "Taking the SAT Subject Tests," which offers test-prep advice from college board.
- ◆ If you're in Advanced Placement classes, register for the AP Exams, given in May.

### Spring

- ◆ Visit some local colleges—large, small, public, and private. Get a feel for what works for you.

- ◆ Scan local newspapers to see which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.
- ◆ Develop a list (long list) of 15 or 20 colleges that attract you. Request view books and information about financial aid and academic programs that interest you. Visit some colleges over your spring break.
- ◆ If you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships, contact your counselor before leaving school for the summer. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.

### Summer

- ◆ If you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse: [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)
- ◆ Create a resume—a record of accomplishments, activities, and work experiences since you started high school.
- ◆ Visit colleges. Take campus tours.

### College Information Checklist for Students with Special Needs:

- ◆ Are admissions criteria the same for students with special needs the same as for other students?
- ◆ Are any special assessments required?
- ◆ Is documentation required for demonstrating special needs?
- ◆ Are there academic supports available? Are they clearly accessible? Is there a fee for support?
- ◆ Are study-skills courses available?

One on one assistance for college-bound students with Financial Aid/ FAFSA

### SUPER

### SATURDAY!

February 13, 2010

College

of

William & Mary

10:00-12:00

Miller Hall

101 Ukrop Way

For more

Information call:

757-221-2465

## Seniors: Second Semester College Calendar

### February

- ◆ Keep your focus! Second semester senior year is no time for a case of senioritis. Accepting colleges *really do* look at second semester senior grades.

### March

- ◆ Keep active in school. If you are wait-listed, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and learned of its decision.

### April

- ◆ You should receive ac-

ceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. If you've not done so yet, visit your final college before accepting. As soon as you decide, notify your counselor of your choice.

- ◆ If you have any lingering questions talk to your counselor or call the college.

### May

- ◆ May 1: Colleges cannot require a deposit or commitment to attend before May 1. By that post-marked date, you must inform every college of *your* acceptance or rejection of the offer of admis-

sion and/or financial aid.

- ◆ Send your deposit to one college only.
- ◆ Wait-listed by a college? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director of your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.

- ◆ Work with a counselor to resolve any admissions or financial aid problems.

### June

- ◆ Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.

## Questions to Ask College Representatives

- ◆ How would you characterize the majority of students?
- ◆ Are there clubs, activities, or housing that are minority related?
- ◆ What do students like most about the college? Like least?
- ◆ What political, social, or academic issues concerned students last year? How did the administration react? What was the resolution?
- ◆ What do students do for fun?
- ◆ What are the dominant social groups on campus? Do the groups get along with one another? Have there been any problems?
- ◆ What role do team sports play in the social life of the college? What happens on football or basketball weekends? If I didn't want to join in, would I find kindred spirits?
- ◆ What is the balance of academics, social life, and extracurricular activities?
- ◆ What were the social or cultural highlights last year?
- ◆ What is the role of the campus newspaper?
- ◆ Is there something I should know about housing that will help me in my choice?

To be continued next issue...

