Message from the Director

Greetings to all during this Holiday Season. Unless people have been living in a cave for the past couple of months, everything on the news seems to be about what poor shape the economy is in and that people will spend less this year for gift giving. For many, this is true and it is easy to become negative about the present and the future. Soon, school will be out and students will have plenty of time on their hands to contemplate what they don’t have or should have received for Christmas. In times like these, it is wise to give something rather than wish for things. Now is the time to volunteer and give back to the community—whether it is helping out at a church, picking up trash in the neighborhood, or getting involved in some community service projects. There are a number of places that need young people to volunteer during the holidays like delivering gifts to children, serving meals to the elderly or donating warm clothing to the homeless. So, instead of focusing on ourselves it is wise to focus attention on the giving of time and talents. It will not only make less fortunate people feel better, it is good for the soul as well. So, get off of the couch and give it a try this year.

~ Larry Ramos
Greetings! As we ended the school year, we were excited to see our seniors close the chapter of their high school years and open a new chapter to their college years! Our program provided students services and assistance on college preparation.

We assessed the services by determining the percentages of each Mandatory Program Objective, which included Secondary School Promotion, Secondary School Graduation, Student Financial Aid, Postsecondary Education Admissions, and Postsecondary Education Enrollment. For program year 2007-2008, we are proud to announce that all of our Mandatory Program Objectives have been met satisfactorily.

I would like to share specific statistics on the Postsecondary Education Enrollment of our seniors. Out of the 314 seniors that were served, 248 (79%) enrolled in postsecondary education. Our Mandatory Program Objective requires 75% of the students we serve to enroll in postsecondary education. We went over the targeted percentage—now that is why I can say my job is rewarding! Arranged by high school, the graph below illustrates the distribution and the types of postsecondary institution participants enrolled in.

**Distribution of the Types of Postsecondary Institution Participants are Enrolled**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Public 2-year</th>
<th>Public 4-Year</th>
<th>Private 4-Year</th>
<th>Public or non-profit vocational/technical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East High School</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galena High School</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heights High School</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heights Alternative School</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Beltway Alternative School</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Central Alternative School</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Magnet High School</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest High School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedan High School</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South High School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast High School</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West High School</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mentoring**

By Myron Richard, Education Development Assistant/Mentoring Coordinator

I’ve recently added job shadowing to my mentor program. I’ve collaborated with several outside sources. This gives the students an opportunity to get a general idea of what college courses will be needed as well as the specifics of their career interest. This project has been very challenging.
Becoming a Better Student
By Ms. Haynes, Middle School Director

Do you want to become a better student? Would you like improve your grades? Do you want to become more successful in class? If you answered yes to one of these questions, here are some simple steps to follow that will help you be more successful in the classroom and improve your grades.

- **Believe in yourself** – In order for you to succeed, you have to believe in yourself and your abilities.
- **Be organized** – Have what you need, when you need it.
- **Manage your time well** – Make sure you have time for the things you have to do, and make time for the things you want to do.
- **Become more successful in the classroom** – Be at school on time everyday. Be prepared for each class. Sit in front when possible. Always do your homework and turn it in on time. Participate in class by asking questions and taking part in classroom discussions. Treat others with courtesy and respect. Take responsibility for your grades.
- **Take good notes** – Taking good notes will make studying easier, since most tests cover material that has been presented in class.
- **Know how to read a textbook** – All of the important words are in **bold** or **italic** print. Look at charts/graphs. Learn the vocabulary words. Read the chapter summaries, and answer the review questions at the end of chapter.
- **Study smart** – Find a quiet place. Eliminate distractions (TV, iPod, and phone). Have everything you need before you get started (paper, pencil, books etc). Do the subject you like least first. After an hour of studying take a twenty minute break.
- **Use test-taking strategies** – Scan the entire test before beginning. Answer the easy questions first, circle the more difficult ones and come back to them. Try to answer all the questions even if you have to guess. **Remember, some points are better than no points.**
- **Reduce test anxiety** – Study several days in advance. Study enough to feel confident that you know the information. Do not try and study the night before or the day of the test and get a good nights sleep. Eat breakfast and take several deep breaths before you begin to take the test.
- **Get help when you need it** – Do not be afraid to ask questions. Find a study group to work with. Have at least one classmate’s number to call if you have questions. Stay after class to talk with your teacher. Come to the Homework Assistance Program, sponsored by the TRIO programs at Wichita State University.

Give these tips a try and I know that you will not only improve your grades but you will become more successful. “To succeed, we must first believe that we can” -Michael Korda. Much success and good luck on your new start!!

Common Interview Mistakes
According to Interviewers
By Earl Vore, Educational Development Assistant, Career Coordinator

1. Arriving late.
2. Incomplete application.
3. Ineligible handwriting. PRINT information.
4. Inappropriate clothing for a job interview.
5. Messy, poorly groomed hair.
6. For women: too much make-up and/or excessive jewelry.
7. For men: Unshaven, unkempt beard or mustache and/or no tie or loosely knotted tie.
8. Answering in incomplete sentences.
9. Avoiding eye contact.
10. Interrupting while others are talking.
11. Using poor grammar or “street talk” during interview.
12. Talking too softly, too loudly or too fast.
13. Using phrases such as “you know”, “like”, and “um” or “ah”.
14. Fidgeting a lot.

Financial Aid Nights

**January 12, 2009**
6:00-7:30pm
Brennan Hall 1, WSU

**February 23, 2009**
6:00-7:30pm
Brennan Hall 1, WSU

**The FAFSA.**
**How do I apply?**
- Sign with a Pin
- Complete your FAFSA
- Dependency Status
- Income and Assets
- Receive your SAR
- Comparing Packages

**STUDENT LOANS.**
**What should I know?**
- Your Responsibilities
- Your Rights
- The “fine print”
- Repayment
- Consolidating

For reservations and information, please call Johana Salas, Educational Development Assistant/Financial Aid Coordinator at (316) 978-6754
What is the difference between the ACT and SAT?

By Tia Owens, Educational Development Assistant/ACT Coordinator

⇒ The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities.

⇒ The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test. The SAT has only 3 components: Critical Reasoning, Mathematics, and a required Writing Test.

⇒ The College Board introduced a new version of the SAT in 2005, with a mandatory writing test. ACT continues to offer its well-established test, plus an optional writing test. You take the ACT Writing Test only if required by the college(s) you're applying to.

⇒ The SAT has a correction for guessing. That is, they take off for wrong answers. The ACT is scored based on the number of correct answers with no penalty for guessing.

⇒ The ACT has an Interest Inventory that allows students to evaluate their interests in various career options.

For more information check out: http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/actsat.html

National TRIO Day 2009 is being held on Wednesday, February 18th at the WSU Metroplex, from 10am to 2pm.

TRIO Talent Search/Project Discovery is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by Wichita State University. Funds for 2008-2009 are $513,873.

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