

THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

FOR SENIORS AND PARENTS

Welcome to the second installment of our monthly newsletter for 2019. We begin the month with the beginning of the last semester of your high school career. Each month, we will be updating events and happenings that students and parents should be aware of what is taking place.

THE EHS COUNSELING TEAM:

Ms. Natalie Golberg, A-Br	848-3187	Natalie.golberg@edinaschools.org
Ms. Angela Kieffer, Bu-Ec	848-3122	Angela.kieffer@edinaschools.org
Mr. Taylor Johnson, Ed-Hau	848-3142	Taylor.johnson@edinaschools.org
Mr. Dylan Hackbarth, Hav-Lan	848-3125	Dylan.hackbarth@edinaschools.org
Ms. Lisa Burnham, Lao-Mor	848-3126	Lisa.burnham@edinaschools.org
Ms. Sandy Schmidt, Mos-Rol	848-3128	Sandra.schmidt@edinaschools.org
Ms. Julie Block, Rom-Swa	848-3188	Julie.block@edinaschools.org
Ms. Robin Dayneko, Swb-Z	848-3189	Robin.dayneko@edinaschools.org
Mr. Bill Hicks, College Counselor	848-3127	William.hicks@edinaschools.org

COUNSELING THOUGHTS AND IDEAS:

This is always an exciting time of year for the Counseling office as we are working with students at every phase of the college process; for some the process is over, and for others, who are still in the thick of things. Hopefully this edition of the newsletter is full of valuable information.

First Semester Grades: Seniors who need their first semester grades sent to the colleges and universities to which they have applied must submit their request to the Counseling Office. We were in your Language Arts class on Friday, January 25th to hand out Mid-Year report forms. ***NO MIDYEAR REPORTS WILL BE SENT UNLESS THIS FORM IS COMPLETED.*** Please list all your schools on one form. The deadline for these reports in the Counseling Office is/was

Friday, February 1st. However, due to the weather and cancellation of school, we have extended the deadline through the end of the week, February 8th.

Admissions to Colleges at the University of Minnesota: If you have received a waitlist letter from the University of Minnesota and want to pursue it, please complete the Mid-Year Report Form mentioned above. In deciding to take students from the waitlist, the U of M will consider your first semester grades. Of course, it is imperative that you make alternative educational plans. At this date, the University is unsure about the number of waitlisted students that they may offer admissions.

University of Wisconsin-Madison: If you have been deferred by UW, you will need to have alternative plans in place for next year.

Additional Information for Colleges: Besides your grades, if there is additional information that you would like to add to your application, for example, a recent award or honor or a situation which have affected your grades, please stop in and see your counselor. Every bit of additional information can be helpful at this point.

Grades still count! Colleges are increasingly asking for the most current grades for students, including spring grades. Seniors are closing in on the homestretch and now it is time to kick it into overdrive. Use this time to further distinguish yourself!

Local Scholarships: Besides financial aid, this might be your best source of additional money for college. Announcement and applications will be available in February through the Counseling Office. Keep an eye and ear open in the upcoming weeks. In previous years, the Counseling staff has gone in and distributed the applications to seniors in their Language Arts class. Look for the same at the end of February, early March.

NAVIANCE UPDATES

Please keep visiting the Naviance website and check your e-mail or information such as:

- ✓ The latest scholarship bulletin
- ✓ The latest updates on various topics related to your post-secondary planning

TIPS FOR PARENTS: A wonderful piece from the Harvard Graduate School of Education on “how to navigate the hopes and expectations of the status and achievement of the college acceptance process.” <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/11/taming-admissions-anxiety>

FAFSA UPDATE

Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): This year, like last, seniors were able to submit the FAFSA beginning October 1, 2018. This allows you to use 2017 tax information. This is the first step to be considered for Financial Aid at colleges. For more information, go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/contact>

SCHOLARSHIPS: Searching for money outside of financial aid? Check out Scholarships in the “Colleges” tab in your Naviance account. Any and all scholarship applications we receive are uploaded in Naviance. Also, check out Fastweb.com and Scholarships.com to search for money to help pay tuition.



For more information on the school Counseling Department, visit us [online](#)

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