

DOINGWHATWORKS



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Guidance News

Sleepy Hollow High School, New York

Topic: Dropout Prevention

Practice: Rigorous/Relevant Instruction

This article from “Tales of the Hollow”, Sleepy Hollow High School’s newsletter, describes school-sponsored activities to help students prepare for college. It shows some of the activities that schools may wish to consider to help prepare students to complete college application and financial aid requirements.

For example, the school sponsors a College Night where a college representative shares information on admission requirements. Seniors and their parents can also attend a Financial Aid Night to learn about financial aid and tuition plans.

The school also offers workshops on writing college essays, applying for student loans, and understanding the transition between high school and college. Counselors also sponsor college visits. In addition, Sleepy Hollow High School hosts a Hispanic College Night, providing information in Spanish on the application and financial aid process for juniors and seniors and their parents.

Tales of the Hollow

Guidance News by Cheryl Greene



September not only signified the opening of the 2008/2009 school year, but it also signaled the beginning of the fall series of guidance programs. Over the course

of the next 10 months the Guidance Department will be working with you and your children on a number of initiatives we hope will provide you with information and help your children as they transition from freshmen to senior year.

September ushered in the college application process. Seniors began meeting with their counselors and college admissions representatives, and our first evening initiative was held. College Night for Seniors on September 24th presented Meaghan McCarthy, from Columbia University. Ms. McCarthy shared updated information on the application process and answered questions concerning admissions practices and trends. She encouraged the seniors to start early, write strong essays, and work closely with their counselors to get everything out prior to the deadline dates.

Our second evening program, Financial Aid Night – How to Pay for College was held on October 7th. Parents and seniors learned about the types of aid colleges offer and how families qualify. Information on new tuition plans offered by some schools was shared as well as a preview of the two main financial forms that need to be completed by students interested in being considered for aid.

On October 15th our 10th and 11th graders participated in the annual administration of the PSAT exams. Our 9th graders were on a "Trip to Egypt" and our seniors were experiencing a series of workshops designed to help them write their college essays, access information, and learn what the transition from high school to college will be like. The seniors also had a special presentation on the student loan process, delivered by a representative from Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's office, following an introduction by New York State Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins.

The fall college tour sent the counselors and 40 seniors to SUNY Delhi and Cobleskill. The trip was very informative; however, snow in October was not what the students expected. Despite the

weather, the students had an opportunity to learn more about the programs these schools offer. Both institutions are now offering two and four year degrees.

Our ninth graders were also busy in October. Seventy of them along with the counselors attended our annual Health Career Day at Phelps Memorial Hospital. The students were introduced to career opportunities in the health related field. They participated in a number of hands-on activities and toured areas in the hospital that highlighted the different types of work experiences that are available in a medical facility.

If you think October could not be any busier, we hosted Hispanic College Night for Juniors and Seniors. This program provided information on the application and financial aid process in Spanish for our Spanish speaking students and their families.

November is here and College Night for Juniors was held on the 4th. We moved this program to the fall this year to give our juniors a head start on their planning and research. We were also able to go live onto Naviance, our guidance information system to show everyone how the system will help them as they move through the process.

On Saturday November 8th the community turned out for a recycling campaign to support college scholarships for our seniors. With the help of advisor Ms. Peltier, students from our Environmental Club, planned and ran the event. Mrs. Adamo was also there to lend a hand. Donations were sparse at first, but by the end of the event, a truck and a van loaded with electronic equipment will go to recycling, and become scholarship funds. The guidance department thanks SPEAR for sponsoring this activity.

We would like to acknowledge our students who were named AP Scholars by the College Board. There were 25 Scholars, 18 Scholars with Honor, 11 Scholars with Distinction and 3 National Scholars. We are very proud to have 54 Scholars this year.

As you can see we have been on the move since the first day of school; there is much more to come. Alumni Dialogues will be returning in January. So stay tuned for the date and time.

The guidance staff looks forward to helping you and your children as they move through the school year. Helping them meet with success is our goal.

