



Elder High School Guidance Department

Orientation 2009

www.elderhs.org/guidanceweb

Freshman Newsletter

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR PARENTS!

It is important for you and your parents to be familiar with this information. Please keep this newsletter in a binder and refer to it when necessary.

WHO IS YOUR COUNSELOR?

Those whose last names begin with the letters:

A through F --- Mr. Driehaus

G through L --- Mrs. Graham

M through R --- Miss Klenk

S through Z --- Mr. Sovern

The Guidance Offices and Resource Center are located on the 1st floor to the left as you enter through the School's Main Entrance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FRESHMAN YEAR

Most freshmen are carrying 6 ½ credits:

- English (1)
- Science (1)
- Math (1)
- Foreign Language (1) or Reading (1)
- Old Testament (1/2) and Building Catholic Character (1/2)
- Physical Education (1/4)
- Computer Literacy (1/4)
- Art Elective (Choral Music, Art, Band OR Arts Awareness and Dramatic Techniques (1))

The following courses are "required courses" for the freshman year which means they must be passed during the regular school year or they must be made up in summer school: English, Mathematics, both Religion courses, Science, Physical Education, and Computer Literacy. Other subjects would have to be made up in summer school only if you are below the 5 ¼ credits, the minimum necessary to be promoted to the 10th grade. **You must pass at least 3½ credits during the regular school year to return to Elder sophomore year.**

***SPECIAL NOTE:** All high school students must pass the Ohio Graduation Test in order to receive a high school diploma! The testing begins in the student's sophomore year.*

HOW COURSE LEVELS ARE DETERMINED AFTER THIS YEAR:

Your counselor will begin to schedule you for grade 10 in February. Your present teachers will assign the levels (2,3,4,5) of next year's courses based upon how well you do during the 1st semester of this present year. If you are now taking Reading and want to move into a Foreign Language next year you will have to do well in English and Reading during the 1st semester of this year because that's what the language teacher will look at before you are recommended to take a language.

ELDER ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Each academic quarter a student must pass five courses (Phys. Ed. is excluded). 1) If a student fails 1 course and passes 5 he is eligible, 2) If a student fails 2 courses and passes 5, he is eligible, but needs to fill out weekly progress reports.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY:

In order to play a sport at a Division I or Division II college a student must be determined eligible by the NCAA Clearing House. They will look at the academic courses you took in all four years of high school, as well as, your ACT/SAT college entrance test scores. **It is very important that you maintain good grades in all of your classes; go for at least a B average.**

WHO TO SEE FOR WHAT??

GETTING A TUTOR	YOUR COUNSELOR
PART-TIME JOB	JOB BOARD
WORK PERMITS	MAIN OFFICE
GOOD STUDENT INS. DISCOUNT	YOUR COUNSELOR
BUS PASSES	MR. MENKHAUS
DRIVER'S EDUCATION	MR. RUFFING
UNRESOLVED DISCIPLINE PROBLEM	MR. RUFFING
SCHEDULE CHANGE	YOUR COUNSELOR
PREP HQ ISSUE	YOUR COUNSELOR
COMPUTER ISSUE	TECH DEPARTMENT

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR COUNSELOR:

Fill out an appointment slip in the Guidance Resource Center and your counselor will see you as soon as possible. You can also go on the Guidance website and request an appointment that way. In addition, your counselor will meet with you sometime during the first semester to see how things are going, how you are doing in your classes, and to help if there is anything else you need.

AS YOUR COUNSELOR WE WILL TRY TO HELP YOU IN ANY WAY. SPECIFICALLY, IF YOU NEED HELP IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. **STUDY PROBLEMS:** If you begin to have problems with a certain subject and want help, see your counselor right away before you get too far behind!! It might be that you need a tutor. Upper-classmen volunteer to tutor freshmen on a one-to-one basis either before or after school. A tutor may be helpful if you are working and trying your best but still have trouble understanding the material. However, it will not be helpful if you expect him to do the work for you. It can help you only if you are willing to work hard! So, if you need extra help, please see your counselor to arrange tutoring.

Be especially careful to study your math and foreign language (if you are taking one) every night! If you get behind in either of these subjects, you will have a rather difficult time catching up.

During the first semester, all freshmen will participate in a Study Skills Program conducted by the Guidance Department staff and the school psychologist. This program will be held during the student's study hall.

2. **PERSONAL AND FAMILY PROBLEMS:**

All problems discussed with the counselor are kept in strict confidence.

3. **CAREER GUIDANCE:** We have many resources to help you with career exploration.

4. **COLLEGE GUIDANCE:** We'll get into this more in your junior and senior years. However, you should know that we have information on many colleges, universities, and technical schools across the country. Also, their web sites are excellent sources of information. We can advise you on admission requirements for a particular school as well as courses needed for a specific major.

5. **MILITARY GUIDANCE AND INFO:** We can advise you on enlistment opportunities, R.O.T.C., the Reserves, and the Military Academies.

6. **PART-TIME JOBS:** The Guidance Office coordinates part-time job opportunities as they come available. If you are interested in finding

a part-time job please check on the JOB BOARD on the Guidance Web. They are announced and then posted. We would like to point out, however, that most jobs are for students who are 16 years old or older, and there are very few jobs for students under 16.

7. GOOD STUDENT AUTO INSURANCE

DISCOUNT: When you get your drivers license, there is an insurance discount available to students with at least an 80 average. This is another incentive to do well in your schoolwork. If you qualify bring the insurance form to your counselor to be validated.

8. THE COUNSELOR AS A LISTENER:

Sometimes you feel frustrated, angry, depressed, or just plain miserable. You need someone to talk with, to express your feelings and emotions. Your counselor will listen and accept you as you are right now!

CONCERNING DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS

If you have a discipline problem with a particular teacher, first of all, try to work out the problem by dealing directly with the teacher, on a one-to-one basis after school. If you still feel you have been treated unfairly, then see Mr. Ruffing, the assistant principal in charge of discipline.

PREP HQ

PrepHQ is a student and parent information system that students will register for during their study skills class. This informative site aids with the college and career interests from freshmen – senior year. For more information, visit the Guidance Web Site.

The Ohio Career Information System

(OCIS) is available to all Elder students. You can access the web-site from school or home at <http://ocis2006.ode.state.oh.us>

User Name is: **ElderHS** (as written)

Password is: **ohiocis03** (all lower case with Zero Three at end)

In addition to career information, students can research colleges, financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOURSELF:

Make this firm commitment to yourself and to Elder High School - that you will throw your heart and soul into all your studies, into all your sports, into all your extra-curricular activities. We ask that you give us the best that you've got for the next four years and we will give you the best education possible. In return, you will experience, perhaps, the best years of your life, and you will certainly be doing your part to make the class of 2013 one of the best Elder High School has ever graduated!