

February, 2018

ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

February 7, 2018	Reality Check – Juniors
February 13, 2018	Air Force during lunches in cafetorium
February 15, 2018	Marines during lunches in cafetorium
February 16, 2018	No School
February 16, 2018	Junior ZAPS ACT Prep class – IMC – 9am-3pm
February 12, 2018	Parent/Teacher Conferences for Term 3 – 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Parents of Sophomores meeting at 6:30 p.m.

3rd term Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences at the high school will be on Monday, February 12th from 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Parents of Sophomores will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the IMC for a Sophomore Class Meeting. Topics covered will be information specific for sophomores.

Reality Check

Wednesday, February 7th, 2018

This in-depth budget simulation, for high school Juniors, is a partnership between the UW-Extension Office and the Ellsworth Community School District. The activity goes beyond basic worksheets and asks students to consider the nuances in daily financial choices, including fixed expenses and living expenses.

During the simulation, all high school junior students visit tables staffed by community volunteers where they write checks to pay expenses for basics such as housing, transportation, food, clothing, utilities, taxes, child care, cellphones, cable TV, and internet access. Along the way they learn the importance of balancing a checkbook, saving and investing, donating to charities and spending wisely on lifestyle choices such as going out to eat, shopping, entertainment, and health clubs/recreation. If they overspend their monthly budget, they have to choose less expensive options, go to the credit union to withdraw money, get a loan, or take on a part-time job to bring in more income.

Open Enrollment

The window for applications for open enrollment in another school district is February 5th – April 30th, 2018. Forms and more information can be obtained from the following website: www.dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html.

Sophomore Individual Planning Conferences

Sophomores and their parents are invited to participate in a **Grade 10 Individual Planning Conference**. This is not a traditional parent-teacher conference. It is a specially designed conference for you and your student to focus on your child's educational and career development as well as information to begin planning for their future. Conferences generally last 30-45 minutes, and take place during various times throughout the school day. Your involvement in this conference is very important!

Topics covered will include transcript and graduation requirements, current schedule, next year's schedule, career plans, information on post-secondary options, assessment results, and more.

Letters with dates and times for appointments have been sent to sophomore families. Please call (715) 273-3904 or email (deissk@ellsworth.k12.wi.us) Kris Deiss as soon as possible to set up an appointment.

Youth Options Program

The Youth Options program allows all public high school juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements to take postsecondary courses at Wisconsin technical and 4 year colleges. The program opens the door to greater learning opportunities for all students. The student does not pay for the postsecondary course if the school board determines the course may receive high school credit and the course is not comparable to a course offered in the school district.

Next year's juniors and seniors interested in possibly taking a Fall semester 2018 postsecondary class must notify the counseling office by March 1, 2018 of their interest. For more information, contact the EHS counseling office. The form is also available on our website.

ACT test - All Juniors

All Juniors will be taking the ACT test on February 27th and the ACT WorkKeys on February 28th. These tests will be taken at the high school at no cost to the student.

Prior to taking the ACT, it is recommended that students take Chemistry, American Lit, and Algebra II.

On Friday, February 16th, EHS will be offering an ACT Prep Workshop at the high school from approximately 9:00 - 3:00. The cost is \$74.99. More information will be sent out to all junior homes. There is NO SCHOOL on February 16th. This class is NOT mandatory.

Students can sign up during Excel time to complete ACT prep courses in each subject area. This is web based so once a student signs up, they can access it outside of school.

ACT Admissions Test

The ACT is a 4 year college admissions test taken by juniors and seniors. There are 2 more re-test dates this year:

April 14, 2018

Registration deadline is March 9, 2018

June 9, 2018

Registration deadline is May 4, 2018

For ACT Test Prep:

- Actstudent.org - \$25.95 – practice tests
- “Question of the Day” – free
- March2success.com – All Juniors have an account already. Students can practice on their own.

Practice Tests for Post High School Plans

Regardless of what you plan to do after high school you should **prepare** for the admissions tests required for college (4-year college, Community, or Technical College). How you do on these tests can determine if you need to take additional remedial coursework, at your expense, and prolong the time it takes to

complete your program. Test prep materials are available in the Counseling office and online at www.testprepreview.com and www.knowhow2gowisconsin.org.

Financial Aid

One of the essential steps in starting the financial aid process for any student is to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. The FAFSA is the most widely accepted form of applying for financial aid. General FAFSA questions may be answered by EHS counselors, otherwise it is recommended that you attend one of several financial aid information programs being put on locally, or contact directly the financial aid office at the postsecondary institution you are planning to attend. Applications on-line can be found at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. For more information on the Hope or Lifetime Learning income tax credits, the U. S. Dept. of Education Aid Programs, or the FAFSA look on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/studentaid>. **For more general information on financial aid and scholarships please check out the EHS counseling web page at www.ellsworth.k12.wi.us.**

NOTE: Do not pay a fee for the FAFSA. There are numerous “look-a-like” sites that charge fees.

ELLSWORTH H.S. LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

EHS seniors may pick up the local scholarships that they are eligible for. Applications can be used for both 4 year colleges and technical colleges unless it specifically states one or the other. Applications for these scholarships are available either in the EHS Counseling office or on the EHS Counseling Website. **The Common Application for several of the local EHS scholarships can be found at: www.ellsworth.k12.wi.us, click on High School, then High School Counseling. You will find a link to the common application there. Most of the scholarships are due MARCH 21, 2018, however please check carefully for other due dates!!** For more information contact the EHS school counselors at 273-3904.

***if no eligibility criteria is listed after the scholarship name then anyone is eligible to apply.**

THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOME TIME NEXT WEEK. WE ARE STILL WAITING TO HEAR FROM A FEW COMMITTEES.

40 et 8 Voiture 904 Pierce County Nurse’s Scholarship - must be pursuing nursing

Arthur L. Fischer Memorial Patriotism Scholarship – must be son/daughter/grandson/granddaughter/brother/sister of an active duty service person or a veteran who served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq or current conflict.

Beldenville Old Car Club Scholarship – must be pursuing an auto related field.

Biederman/Pflueger Visual Art Grant- must have a love of art.

Brenda Niedfeldt Memorial/Ellsworth Basketball Association, Inc. Scholarship – must be an active basketball player on the Ellsworth team through their senior year.

Don Monett Wildlife Scholarship – must have a love of hunting and fishing

EHS Class of 1950/Jack & Janie Swanson Education Scholarship - must be pursuing an education degree.

Ellsworth American Legion Scholarship

Ellsworth Education Association Scholarship – must be pursuing an education degree

Ellsworth FFA Alumni Scholarship – must be present or past Ellsworth FFA member.

Ellsworth Masonic Lodge Scholarships

Ellsworth Middle School Scholarship – must have attended EMS

Ellsworth Rod & Gun Scholarship - must be planning to study conservation, wildlife management, or biology.

Floyd Johnson Perseverance in Achievement Scholarship – must be enrolled full time in a technical, vocational, or trade school in the areas of Nursing or a Trade (i.e. welding, construction, HVAC, etc.)

Francis Hager Memorial Scholarship – must be pursuing a degree in an agriculture/natural resources or education field

Healing Choices Scholarship – must be pursuing a helping/healing/care giving field

Hiawatha Bank Scholarship - must be planning to study finance or agriculture

Hillcrest Scholarship - must have attended Hillcrest Elementary.

Ellsworth Lions Club Scholarships

Laura Mihleis Memorial Scholarships

The Margaret M. Gruber Memorial Scholarship – must be pursuing a career in either the healthcare or education areas. Can attend either 2 yr or 4 yr college

Mason of the Year Masonic Scholarship

Mayo Health System Auxiliary Scholarship - must live within a 35 mile radius of Red Wing and plan to pursue a health related field at the post-secondary level.

Nick Rhiel Memorial Scholarship – must be pursuing a criminal justice field

Order of the Eastern Star Chapter #116 Scholarship

Prairie View Scholarship - must have attended Prairie View Elementary.

River Falls Area Hospital Scholarship - must be pursuing a career in a health related field and have a GPA minimum of an 8.0/12.0 scale.

Schumaker Family Scholarship – planning to attend 4 year college

Amy Simon Tri-Sport Scholarship - must have participated (not just lettered) in 3 sports.
Open to male & female students

Thora Tofte/Gustafson Memorial Fund

VFW Post 9060 - must be son/daughter/grandson/granddaughter/sister/brother of service person who served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm or current conflict.

David B. Walsingham Memorial Scholarship - must plan to attend UW - Eau Claire.

Robert and Evelyn Young Scholarship - must have been involved in Sr. High music program for at least one year.

Young Minds Change Lives Educational Scholarship

Hints for completing scholarship applications

*When completing the scholarship applications either type them out or print them neatly. Scholarship committees have a difficult time reading applications that are written out quickly and look sloppy.

*Use the on-line “common application” for many of the local scholarships. This one application allows you to apply to several scholarships with the one form. This can be found on the EHS website under the Counseling webpage.

*You will find many of these scholarships are similar in the questions that they ask. It is a good idea to type up an “Activities, Honors, Offices, Accomplishments” resume. This looks great to the scholarship committee plus it saves you time by not repeating the same questions several times on different scholarship applications. Refer to the scholarship applications to see what you should all include on the sheet.

*Read carefully what the application asks for. If the application states specifically that it wants a “handwritten essay” then make sure that is what you do.

*We appreciate the thought when students put their applications into individual folders or envelopes, however we end up taking them out and throwing the envelopes away. Please save your money and don't submit them in folders or envelopes!

TIP Grant:

EHS seniors that typically would be eligible to apply for a TIP grant would be seniors that receive free/reduced lunch. If your child is planning to attend a 1, 2, or 4 year college in the Fall of 2018 in the state of Wisconsin they should definitely apply for this \$1,800 scholarship with the financial aid office of the college they are planning on attending.

Scholarship Deadlines

WESTconsin Credit Union Scholarship	Feb. 14 th , 2018
Delta Theta Sigma – UW-Madison Scholarship	Feb. 15 th , 2018
Better Business Bureau of WI, Inc. Scholarship	Feb. 15 th , 2018
Wisconsin Cattlemen/Cattlegirls Scholarship	Feb. 19 th , 2018
American Legion Schneider-Emanuel Scholarship	Mar. 1 st , 2018

*Contact the postsecondary institution you are planning to attend and request they send you any scholarship opportunity materials. Also find out from employers, organizations you belong to, churches, etc. to see if they offer scholarships to members or members' children.

Upcoming Campus Preview Days

UW-River Falls	Feb. 19 th & March 23 rd & 24 th , 2018
UW-Stout	Feb. 19 th , March 23 rd , 2018
MN State – Mankato	March 17 th , 2018
UW-LaCrosse	Feb. 16 th , 2018
Dakota County Tech	Every Tuesday of each month from 12:45pm to 2:30pm

Student Opportunities

Wisconsin Badger Girls State Program:

The WI Badger Girls State will take place June 18 – 23, 2018. This is a program for junior girls to participate in a week long experience in which they are learning about and experiencing various activities in government. Participants will be divided into political parties and run for a variety of government offices. Participants come from all over the state of WI and each American Legion Auxiliary sponsors one girl. All costs of attendance are covered by the Auxiliary except for spending money. Ellsworth H.S. sends representatives for both the Ellsworth and Bay City Legions. This is a terrific opportunity for junior girls and scholarship opportunities are also available. For more information, please stop in the Counseling office soon.

Wisconsin Badger Boys State Program: *For more information, contact Mr. Stoesz at 715-273-3904.*