



Delta High School Newsletter

901 Northgate Drive, Richland, WA 99352

Phone: 509-544-8355 Fax: 509-544-8371

E-mail: margarita.alaman@thedeltahighschool.com

Delta High School is a public-private partnership school serving students from the Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland School Districts. Delta is a unique Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics-focused high school.



Brought to you by parents from the Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland School Districts

October 2012

Volume 3

Issue 1



Important Upcoming Dates

Freshmen Tutorial Facilitator's Introductory Meeting, 5:00—6:00 p.m., Delta Room E-106	10/4
Career Fair at WSU Tri-Cities, 12th Grade	10/11
MAP Testing Ends	10/12
PSAT Testing 10th & 11th Grade	10/17
Post-Secondary Fair 12th Grade	10/17
Research Kick-Off Day, 9th & 10th Grade	10/23
Parent Potluck and Education Night 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	10/24
College & Career Options Expo, 6:00—8:00 p.m., Hanford High School, Richland	10/24
Navigating CBC's Resources, 6:00—8:00 p.m., CBC Gjerde Center, Pasco, WA	10/25

Focus on Learning by Deidre Holmberg

And here we are, my friends. For those of you that have been with us the longest, you know how long this journey has been. You know that we are a small, shiny planet being pulled in by and revolving around an enormous, familiar, status quo sun called Typical American High School. We won't get pulled in. This I can say, only now, after four years of pulling out all the stops, going full throttle against the grain, and endeavoring to never give up—even when giving up would have been the easiest, safest, and most comfortable thing to do. For the students that have been with me and at Delta all of this time, I can see the light at the end of this tunnel we're traveling. Once we're through, everyone else will be able to see it too.

For those of you that just got here, well...you're so cute. Honestly. I can't get enough of your smiling and your happiness. You are thrilled to be here and we're thrilled to have you. See, we've been searching and fighting and storming and trying to figure all this out. Then, you showed up and we remember how fresh-faced and adorable we once were. Before. All. This. Before we knew about geno-

Parent's Forum

The P.O.D.S. (Parents of Delta Students) Facebook group is a convenient way for parents to get connected. This is a private group and open only to *parents* of Delta High School students. As the moderator, Tiffany Quintana (mother of Michael Quintana, 11th grade) will update the page with information as she receives it, but all parent members are free to post

side and global warming and business casual and stem cell therapy and SolidWorks and the Iran Hostage Crisis and the Kyoto Accords, before we knew about thinking (really thinking) to solve problems...we were just like you. Don't worry, though. We don't need to fight as hard—our shiny little planet is settling into an orbit where we can spend some days in the sun and other days traveling, traveling, traveling.

I cannot believe that we are here. I mean, I can believe it, but I'm surprised at how amazing this experience has been. It's not over, I know that...but, year four? YEAR FOUR (YES, ALL CAPS MEANS I'M YELLING)? Yes, your internship just started AND you got three full credits in world language in one year AND a full time counselor AND your transcripts are too legit to quit AND everybody wants a piece of our little, shiny planet. Delta. It's what we do, it's how we roll. Plain and simple. For example, we just got the latest preliminary end-of-course math scores back. They are, no surprises here, amazing. If people are wondering what it's like to go to the best

school in the area, please feel free to tell them. You're it.

We did it. We take care of what? Business.

So, to start the new year, I've got new batteries in the bullhorn and some new dubs on the Focus. You've started something new. Maybe it was an internship. Maybe it was SolidWorks or AutoCAD. Maybe you just finally found some people that perhaps don't look like you, but act like they want to learn too. Your people are here. Those of us that have been here for a while, welcome. We expect you to work hard to make the most of the cool stuff we've developed.

To the Class of 2013: We stuck together and now we have this little planet that new people can inhabit. It's great. I'm proud to be a part of this and I think, beyond your long board and behind your Wayfarers, you're proud too. Let's enjoy our last year together and fling open as many doors as we can. Opportunities await.

information and questions. If you're interested in joining this group, please do the following:

- 1) From the email account associated with your facebook profile, send a message to Tiffany at deltahighmom@gmail.com. Include your name and the name of your student(s).

- 2) Accept Tiffany's friend request and she will add you to the Parents of Delta Students group.

In order to be informed about your student's assignments and class activities, please join the Edmodo learning community online. Contact Margarita Alaman in the front office at 544-8355 for instructions.



Welcome Emily Allen!

Meet Emily Allen, Math Teacher

Emily Allen knew at age 8 that she wanted to be a computer programmer. However, spending hours trying to find the error in her code in college made her rethink her future. From that self-evaluation came the desire to become a math teacher.

After a couple of years at Brigham Young University, she and her husband moved to Dela-

ware where Emily would earn her Bachelor of Arts – Mathematics Education. She taught math at a maximum security juvenile boys' facility before their first child was born. Since then, she has been a substitute teacher and school volunteer until deciding to return to teaching in her own classroom here at Delta.

Outside of teaching, Emily enjoys riding bicycles, playing softball and watching college football. She also volunteers at church where part of her responsibility includes working with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. When there is quiet time, she can be found with either a mystery novel or a Sudoku puzzle.



Welcome Lorna Garcia!

Meet Lorna Garcia, English LA Teacher

Lorna Garcia is the new English Language Arts teacher for 10th grade. For the last five years, she worked in the Kennewick School District with the online learning program. She is thrilled to be at Delta High School and work with students in person instead of over the internet. She obtained her Master in Teaching degree from

Heritage University six years ago.

She lives with her husband in Richland and has two daughters in college, one studying at the University of Washington and one attending the University of Southern California Law School. As a former Iowa farm girl, she loves gardening, read-

ing books, and travelling. She also loves cooking and eating fine cuisine.



Welcome Michael See with his wife, Annie!

Meet Michael See, Technology Teacher

Our new technology teacher is Michael See. He's honored to be a new teacher at Delta High School. He's a Richland High alumnus. After high school, he earned an Associate's Degree in AutoCAD Drafting and Architectural Design and then went to work in a small design firm in Kennewick designing houses around the Tri-Cities. Mr. See decided to further his education

and went to Montana State University where he recently graduated with a degree in Technology Education. Not only is he a new teacher at Delta, this is also his first teaching position.

In addition to recently graduating, Mr. See also got married in March. His wife, Annie, was recently hired as a teacher Richland High School. They have a

house in Pasco and both of their families live in the Tri-Cities.

In his free time, Mr. See enjoys the outdoors, fly fishing, and golf. He is an assistant martial arts instructor and enjoys teaching twice a week at his dojo in Richland.

A Different Kind of Intern . . .

As many of our seniors are venturing out into the world for internships this year, I'm completing an internship of my own here at Delta! In addition to serving as the 9th grade social studies teacher this year, I am also an administrative intern. I have been taking classes at Washington State University, Tri-Cities, since last August, after my acceptance into the principal certification program and educational leadership doctoral program. I've also been getting lots of "on-the-job" training for a future principal position since I started my internship last May. My summer was filled with administrative projects and trainings, and lots of time getting ideas and feedback

from Mrs. Holmberg, our own principal extraordinaire!

Last spring, I also received a Washington State-Funded Education Leadership Intern Program grant, which allows me to observe Mrs. Holmberg and other principals throughout this school year. I am working closely with a long-term substitute teacher, who will be in my classroom when I am not. Together we will ensure our freshmen students get the same great social studies experience that is an integral part of our Delta curriculum.

I look forward to completing my administrative credentials in early May, and the challenges a

new role in the educational field will bring. Much like our graduates this spring, I will take my experiences and the wonderful memories of Delta with me wherever I go. Thank you for being part of my journey!

by Jenny Rodriguez



Congratulations, Jenny, on your administrative internship and Leadership Intern Program grant!

National History Day

National History Day's motto is, "It's not just a day, it's an experience!" This is certainly true for Delta Students. This year marks our fourth year in the competition, and we hope to make it our best showing ever!

Delta students have the opportunity to compete in NHD. The project-based program teaches essential research skills and involves synthesis of multiple historical sources. Teachers emphasize the importance of primary source research, and students are encouraged to analyze sources in an original way. Projects may include research papers, documentaries, websites, exhibits, and dramatic performances. The theme for the year is Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, and Events. Students will select

topics which fit within the scope of their social studies courses; a project is required for all students grades 9 – 11. Freshmen students will begin their project in late October; upperclassmen will begin their project in late November. Students have the option to take their class project to competition – we highly recommend it!

Students compete at regional-level competition in February, and qualifying scores allow them to advance to state competition in early May. Last year, 28 Delta students attended state competition. Students worked hard to put their best work forward while also clearly connecting their topic to the theme, Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in History. Six students placed at state, and three earned special awards. In addition, Mrs.

by Jenny Rodriquez

Rodriquez earned the NHD Teacher Mentor Award, which allowed her to travel to the national competition in Washington, D.C., last June.

We look forward to working with your student on their projects this year. Seniors are also welcome to enter the competition; please see Mrs. Rodriquez for more information.

If you would like to volunteer time or other resources, please contact Mrs. Rodriquez at:

jenny.rodriquez@thedeltahighschool.com.



It's that time again . . . National History Day. What will your project be?

Senior Capstone Project

After more than three years, the first senior class of Delta High is preparing to complete its journey to graduation. This last year comes with a whole new set of challenges and rewards as our students prepare to complete high school and transition to the next part of their lives. One of these challenges is the senior project.

The state of Washington requires a senior culminating project. Delta meets this requirement with a yearlong Senior Capstone Project. This furthers the idea that our graduates are life-long learners who will be prepared for the future.

The Senior Capstone Project is a central part of a student's final year of high school. This project has three major phases: Proposal, Implementation, and Presentation. In addition it has three major connections: to prior

learning, to community, and to post-secondary planning. The Senior Capstone Project must also meet certain criteria.

A Senior Capstone Project choice will:

- be a significant challenge or learning "stretch"
- be significant personal and academic growth
- be a valid learning experience
- be the student with "real life" experiences
- be high interest for the student
- be a chance to try a new or unfamiliar venture or experience
- be a chance for a student to do his/her best work and find significant pride in the finished project.

A Senior Capstone Project choice will not:

- be an area the student, (a) is already competent in; (b) cur-

By Linda Stairot

rently spends a great deal of time doing; or (c) has done before

- be one which parents do not approve
- be too easy, too expensive or too time-consuming to accomplish
- be one someone else does for the student
- be one which does not allow for the acquisition of appropriate resources (books and other information, mentors, etc.).

Every Senior Capstone Project must demonstrate quality. Though recognizing that each individual student has different abilities, talents, aptitudes, opportunities, support, etc., it is essential that the Senior Capstone Project choice demonstrates an opportunity for significant personal and academic growth.

Navigating CBC's Resources

October 25, 2012
6-8 pm
Columbia Basin College
Gjerde Center
Pasco WA 99301

Learn about:

Financial Aid, Scholarships, College 101, Transfer Degrees, 2- year programs and more.

4-year universities will be there to discuss transfer degrees.

If you would like additional information please visit CBC's website or email Roy Garcia, Director of Outreach, at RGarcia2@columbiabasin.edu

Parents!

We're looking for you ... at Delta's Parent Potluck and Education Nights! Our first parent potluck and education night on September 19th was a great success.

Please join us on October 24th, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. for our next event. Hope to see you there!

Delta Interns Are Out There

The Delta High School Internship Program is underway! Our first group of 20 student interns entered the workforce at the start of Trimester 1. This trimester's seniors are completing their internships at places like the Tri-Cities Cancer Center, Vivid Learning Systems, Innovatek, PNNL, and Energy Solutions.

The internship program has been developed for students to gain a better understanding of their career interests. It allows them to have real world experiences and connects knowledge gained in the classroom to actual careers.

As part of this emerging program Delta High School and the STEM Foundation are currently developing new internships with local industry partnerships for future interns. The next group of interns will begin at the start of Trimester 2.

Internships:

- Are short-term placements directly related to a student's program of study or post-secondary plans.
- Establish clear connections between education and employability.
- Provide students with the opportunity to practice and devel-

by Emily Blankenship

op workplace skills.

- Should improve post-graduation options for future education, employment, and training.

Requirements to participate:

- Senior status
- On track for meeting graduation requirements
- Recommendation by staff
- Successful completion of or current enrollment in a related Career and Technical Education course
- Completion of job-appropriate resume and application

SAT Test Dates

Register on
www.collegeboard.org

- October 6—register by 9/7
- November 3—register by 10/4
- December 1—register by 11/1
- January 26—register by 12/28
- March 9—register by 2/8
- May 4—register by 4/5
- June 1—register by 5/2

ACT Test Dates

Register on
www.actstudent.org

- October 27—register by 9/21
- December 8—register by 11/2
- February 9—register by 1/11
- April 13—register by 3/8
- June 8—register by 5/3

Senior Timeline for Fall College Prep by Lisa Muir, Counselor *Continued on Page 5*

It is such an exciting time for our first graduating class! We must not forget, however, that there is still much to do. From personal statements to applications, financial aid to scholarships, students continuing their education must be well-organized. Over the next few newsletters, I will provide a timeline that should assist in keeping your student on-track. Also included as an insert, is a yearly "at a glance" that will provide an overview of what I will be addressing in upcoming articles.

FALL

Students must continue to concentrate on their grades. While the first three years of high school is what gets them into college, their senior year is what keeps them there. This is the launching pad. Students must challenge themselves for an easier adjustment to the college classroom. They must also verify they have taken the courses necessary to graduate in the spring. Appointments to review transcripts may be made via the sign-up sheet located on my office door. This is a great opportunity to make certain any summer school courses or zero-hour classes are correct and up-to-date. Participation in extra-

curricular and volunteer activities is still important, as well, for it demonstrates initiative, creativity, commitment, and leadership in each.

Conversations should be taking place between students, parents and/or Delta staff regarding final college choices. A calendar showing application deadlines for test registration/dates, college admissions, financial aid, housing, and scholarships prove to be critical in staying organized and proactive. Students should also keep applying for scholarships. There is a wealth of scholarships available, especially one's senior year.

During junior-year Advisory last year, students were taught how to search for various scholarships. A "hot list" of scholarships, however, as well as various scholarship websites, are also provided both at my office and on Ed-Modo.

Now is the time to begin asking teachers of choice for letters of recommendation. Please remind your student that it is important to do so politely! While some teachers may have a particular form they would like completed, students must be prepared with a list of all colleges they are applying to, deadlines written for each school, and self-addressed, stamped envelopes. Students

should also have ready a "brag sheet" of accomplishments, in addition to a resume, personal statement, and any required forms from the colleges.

Students may choose to register one last time for the ACT, SAT I, or SAT II Subject Tests. Registration deadlines are: November 2nd, 2012 for the December 8th ACT and October 4th, 2012 for the November 3rd SAT and SAT Subject Tests. Make certain that scores are sent to the colleges of choice.

November 1st is the target deadline to apply for Early-Decision or Early-Action at a college. Remember that Early-Decision is binding. If accepted, the student must go to that school. Do not apply Early-Decision to more than one school, as many schools share application lists! If a name appears on more than one list, that student can be dropped from all of them. Early-Action works the same way but it is non-binding. A pitfall of Early-Decision is that a student cannot compare financial aid packages. Because a student is committed, the school may not feel the need to be generous. They will probably use the money to entice another student.

Senior Timeline for Fall College Prep

Lastly, students should finish essays for standard college applications and scholarships.

Resumes should be updated, as well. As we approach winter, applications to colleges of

choice should be mailed out or electronically sent. Don't forget to make copies!

Should you have any questions as we move through this exciting yet busy school year, feel

free to contact me at lisa.muir@thedeltahighschool.com or 544-8371.

Cont'd from Page 4

Freshman Tutorial Facilitators—Needed Beginning October

Without reviewing, we lose 50-80% of new information within 24 hours. With the use of collaborative groups, Cornell Notes, and Bloom's Taxonomy, students at Delta High School work to retain knowledge, understand course content at a deeper level, and gain questioning and problem-solving skills for use in high school and beyond. Delta High School is in need of volunteers for their Tutorial Facilitator Program.

Tutorial Facilitators' role in the collaborative process:

- Encourages group members to respect the ideas/ thinking of others.
- Models use of inquiry to help students gain a deeper understanding of academic materials.
- Facilitates a balance of shared participation among students.
- Prompts students to summarize what they have learned.
- Coach students to ask higher-level questions of each other.

- Ensures a safe environment where students are free to ask for clarification of the content.
- Communicates regularly with teacher in regards to student participation.

Volunteers help small collaborative groups work with peers to find answers to problems. Meet October through May on specified Wednesdays for one hour. Assigned to a specific teacher's advisory class. Need approximately 35 volunteers each date scheduled. Each classroom needs a team of 3 or 4 with an alternate to cover anyone who cannot attend a given session.

Training for new facilitators to be held Wednesday, October 4, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Sessions begin Wednesday, October 10, and continue throughout the school year.

9th grade meets 9:10 – 9:55 a.m., 3 – 4 times per month.

Initial Dates: 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7 (additional dates to be determined).

- Volunteers welcome to participate every week or every other

week.

- Volunteers may rotate within their team who participates each week.
- Interested, but not sure if your schedule allows? Please contact me to discuss options.

To be a tutorial facilitator or for more information please e-mail Suzyv@stemlearning.org.

Everyone is welcome at the introduction session, October 4, 2012, from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Delta High School, Room E -106.

College and Career Options Expo

October 24th, 2012
6:00pm -8:00 pm
Hanford High School
Richland, WA

Delta High School Students are invited to explore colleges, education, careers and employee recruitment opportunities. Learn how to prepare, pay and stay in college from guest speaker Janet Barger.

Janet Barger, Special Presentation 6:30-7:15 HHS Auditorium.

For more information please contact Karen Richardson, HHS Career Center, [Ka- ren.Richardson@rsd.edu](mailto:Karen.Richardson@rsd.edu)



Principal Holmberg

Welcome to the new school year! Prepare to think differently!

Choices to Meet Requirements for Physical Education Credits

School District	Take the Class (credit & grade given for class)	Substitution—log but no class taken (pass/fail—no letter grade but credit given)	PE Waiver No class taken, no grade or credit given.	Competency Test
Kennewick	Take zero hour class / summer sessions at home school.	Log 225 hours of activity (75 hrs/semester) Logs are available from Lisa Muir.	Must attend all four years at Delta. PE waived in Year 4. *	KSD students can take a knowledge & skills test available at KSD.
Pasco	Take zero hour class / summer sessions at home school.	Log 225 hours of activity (75 hrs/semester) Logs are available from Lisa Muir.	Must attend all four years at Delta. PE waived in Year 4. *	Not available.
Richland	Take zero hour class / summer sessions at home school.	Log 225 hours of activity (75 hrs/semester) Logs are available from Lisa Muir.	Must attend all four years at Delta. PE waived in Year 4. *	Not available.

Take the Class—may help or hurt GPA. Substitution—doesn't help or hurt GPA. PE Waiver—no impact on GPA. * Students must have enough other credits to meet minimum graduation requirements to receive a PE Waiver.

Delta High School
901 Northgate Drive
Richland, WA 99352

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Richland, WA 99352
Permit No. 132

Return Service Requested

Think differently.



We're on the Web!
www.thedeltahighschool.com

Inclement Weather—School Closures and Delays

The superintendents will distribute ALL closure, cancellation, or late opening announcements to media outlets on TV, internet, and radio where all school closures are normally listed. The district superintendents make these decisions as a group.

For online, updated Pasco information: www.psd1.org For online, updated Richland information: www.rsd.edu

For online, updated Kennewick information: www.ksd.org



Delta High School

Event	Response	Notes
RSD Closed	Delta Closed	
RSD Only Delayed	Delta Open and On Time	RSD students expected to arrive late & are excused
PSD Only Closed	Delta Open and On Time	PSD students excused
PSD Only Delayed	Delta Open and On Time	PSD students expected to arrive late & are excused
KSD Only Closed	Delta Open and On Time	KSD students are excused
KSD Only Delayed	Delta Open and On Time	KSD students expected to arrive late & are excused
All Districts Delayed	Delta Delayed	All students expected to arrive late & are excused. Follow delay procedures in each district.

Reading Troubleshooter

Problem	Solution
<p>Difficult Vocabulary</p> <p><i>"It uses big words!"</i></p>	<p>Look It Up</p> <p>The more convenient a dictionary or thesaurus is, the better. Electronic versions, like Dictionary.com, don't require a "time-consuming" search. I prefer a thesaurus to a dictionary because a more familiar synonym is easier to substitute into a text than a long definition.</p>
<p>Too Long</p> <p><i>"This is going to take forever!"</i></p>	<p>Chunk It</p> <p>Break it up into small parts. Read a small part, summarize it in one sentence, and then take a break. The summary is there to remind you what you've already read when the break is over.</p>
<p>Complex Organization</p> <p><i>"I'm so lost."</i></p>	<p>Outline It</p> <p>Highlight the main idea of every paragraph. The main idea is usually found at the very beginning or the very end of the paragraph.</p>
<p>Lack of Background Knowledge</p> <p><i>"What are they talking about?"</i></p>	<p>Ask Questions</p> <p>When you don't know something, asking a question is the best way to get the information you are looking for. The questions can guide further research into the topic, or start a great discussion in class or in a study group.</p>
<p>Lack of Interest or Motivation</p> <p><i>"Do I have to?"</i></p>	<p>Make Connections</p> <p>There are three types of reading connections. 1) Text-to-self: Relate the text to yourself or someone you know. 2) Text-to-text: Relate the text to another text or genre you are more interested in. 3) Text-to-world: Relate the text to a topic you are already familiar with.</p>
<p>Lack of Purpose</p> <p><i>"Why do I have to read this?"</i></p>	<p>Find a Purpose</p> <p>Assigned reading always relates to what you are learning in class. If the teacher doesn't give a specific reason for reading it, find information that relates to what has been happening in class recently. If all else fails, look for repetitions and patterns.</p>
<p>Electronic Distractions</p> <p><i>"I don't have enough time."</i></p>	<p>Read Unplugged</p> <p>Post on Facebook that you are unplugging for awhile. Then, turn off the cell phone. Walk away from the computer. Disconnect the headphones. Go outside (if the weather cooperates) . . . Brains love fresh air.</p>
<p>Physical Distractions</p> <p><i>"I'm too tired."</i></p>	<p>Get Comfortable</p> <p>Find a <i>time</i> and <i>place</i> where you can sit comfortably without wanting to fall asleep. However, bedtime gear, like pillows and pajamas, can really help – just make sure you are sitting up as much as possible. Highlighting and taking notes can also keep you from falling asleep.</p>
<p>Emotional Distractions</p> <p><i>"I can't deal with this right now."</i></p>	<p>Deal With It</p> <p>Confront and resolve whatever it is that is causing the turmoil before reading (chances are it is interfering with more than your reading). When that isn't feasible, read out loud. Doing this will keep your inner voice focused on the text instead of your emotions.</p>

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE AT A GLANCE

Lisa Muir, Counselor

FALL

- ✓ Concentrate on grades for an easier transition to the college classroom.
- ✓ Schedule appointment with counselor to review graduation progress and transcript accuracy.
- ✓ Continue to participate in extracurricular and volunteer activities.
- ✓ Finalize list of college choices.
- ✓ Create a calendar for test registration/dates, college admissions, financial aid, housing, and scholarships.
- ✓ Keep applying for scholarships (provided at counselor's office and on EdModo).
- ✓ Request letters of recommendation from teachers of choice.
- ✓ Register one last time for ACT, SAT I, or SAT II Subject Tests, as necessary. (Be sure that scores are sent to the colleges of choice.)
- ✓ Apply for Early-Decision or Early-Action, if so chosen, by November 1.
- ✓ Complete personal statements and resumes.
- ✓ Send applications to colleges of choice.
- ✓ Make copies of every application sent.

WINTER

- ✓ Continue to focus on grades.
- ✓ Register for a PIN late-November/early December (needed to file FAFSA electronically). www.pin.ed.gov.
- ✓ Male students: register for selective service on 18th birthday to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
- ✓ Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and, if necessary, the PROFILE after January 1st. www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ✓ Send out any remaining applications before winter break.

SPRING

- ✓ Watch for acceptance notifications between March 1 and April 1.
- ✓ Watch for financial aid notifications between April 1 and May 1.
- ✓ Make final choice and notify schools of intent by May 1, if possible.
- ✓ Have final transcripts sent to selected college.

SUMMER

- ✓ Notify the college of any scholarships received.
- ✓ Apply for a summer job.
- ✓ Start reading assignments for freshman year.
- ✓ Take a deep breath, pack for college, and welcome the journey ahead!

SENIOR TIMELINE - FALL

Lisa Muir, Counselor

It is such an exciting time for our first graduating class! We must not forget, however, that there is still much to do. From personal statements to applications, financial aid to scholarships, students continuing their education must be well-organized. Over the next few newsletters, I will provide a timeline that should assist in keeping your student on-track. Also included as an insert, is a yearly “at a glance” that will provide an overview of what I will be addressing in upcoming articles.

FALL

Students must continue to concentrate on their grades. While the first three years of high school is what gets them into college, their senior year is what keeps them there. This is the launching pad. Students must challenge themselves for an easier adjustment to the college classroom. They must also verify they have taken the courses necessary to graduate in the spring. Appointments to review transcripts may be made via the sign-up sheet located on my office door. This is a great opportunity to make certain any summer school courses or zero-hour classes are correct and up-to-date. Participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities is still important, as well, for it demonstrates initiative, creativity, commitment, and leadership in each.

Conversations should be taking place between students, parents and/or Delta staff regarding final college choices. A calendar showing application deadlines for test registration/dates, college admissions, financial aid, housing, and scholarships prove to be critical in staying organized and proactive. Students should also keep applying for scholarships. There is a wealth of scholarships available, especially one’s senior year. During junior-year Advisory last year, students were taught how to search for various scholarships. A “hot list” of scholarships, however, as well as various scholarship websites, are also provided both at my office and on EdModo.

Now is the time to begin asking teachers of choice for letters of recommendation. Please remind your student that it is important to do so politely! While some teachers may have a particular form they would like completed, students must be prepared with a list of all colleges they are applying to, deadlines written for each school, and self-addressed, stamped envelopes. Students should also have ready a “brag sheet” of accomplishments, in addition to a resume, personal statement, and any required forms from the colleges.

Students may choose to register one last time for the ACT, SAT I, or SAT II Subject Tests. Registration deadlines are: November 2nd, 2012 for the December 8th ACT and October 4th, 2012 for the November 3rd SAT and SAT Subject Tests. Make certain that scores are sent to the colleges of choice.

November 1st is the target deadline to apply for Early-Decision or Early-Action at a college. Remember that Early-Decision is binding. If accepted, the student must go to that school. Do not apply Early-Decision to more than one school, as many schools share application lists! If a name appears on more than one list, that student can be dropped from all of them. Early-Action works the same way but it is non-binding. A pitfall of Early-Decision is that a student cannot compare financial aid packages. Because a student is committed, the school may not feel the need to be generous. They will probably use the money to entice another student.

Lastly, students should finish essays for standard college applications and scholarships. Resumes should be updated, as well. As we approach winter, applications to colleges of choice should be mailed out or electronically sent. Don't forget to make copies!

Should you have any questions as we move through this exciting yet busy school year, feel free to contact me at lisa.muir@thedeltahighschool.com or 544-8371.

President Obama's DREAM act good for all Americans

President Obama did the right thing in signing his executive order that allows about 800,000 young people who are in the U.S. illegally to stay here legally and work, writes immigration attorney Tom Roach of Pasco.

THE dream is alive.

President Barack Obama recently signed an executive order that will give an estimated 800,000 young people who are illegally in the United States "deferred action" status and a work permit. That was a bold thing for the president to do; it was also a good thing for him to do.

The beneficiaries of this new policy must meet the following criteria:

- They were brought to the U.S. before they were 16 years of age;
- They can prove they have been here continuously for the past five years;
- They graduated from high school, completed a G.E.D., or are presently enrolled in high school or a G.E.D. program.
- They must be at least 15 but less than 31 years of age and not have been convicted of any serious crimes.

The anti-immigration crowd -- Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck and the others -- call it "backdoor amnesty." I call it common sense.

I have practiced immigration law in Eastern Washington -- farm country -- for the past 29 years. In that time I've met hundreds of these kids. My guess is that Rush, Sean and Glenn have never met one.

Last year, I met Maria (not her real name). She was her high school senior class president and is now enrolled at the University of Washington.

I know Guadalupe, who had no government loans and recently graduated from Gonzaga University.

Just last month José was in the office. He completed his architecture degree at Washington State University -- again, without a nickel of government help.

These kids are bright, tenacious, undeterred and in the U.S. illegally. And, as hard as it is for the "antis" to picture it, these kids are a significant part of the future of America.

They were brought to the U.S. by their parents when they were just kids. They have zero culpability for the predicament they find themselves in. They've been

educated at taxpayer expense, they've completed or are in high school, they have clean records and they are good kids -- just like their native-born citizen classmates. They are going to be the taxpayers who can help save our decrepit Social Security and Medicare systems. The U.S. is the only place they know as home.

The idea of throwing out 800,000 clean-cut "all-American" kids who are on the verge of making significant contributions to this country is the height of asininity.

We should applaud President Obama for doing the right thing on this issue. Sure, there was a political calculation in his executive order, but politicians are known for doing things for political reasons. A recent poll for NBC News, The Wall Street Journal and Telemundo found that 68 percent of respondents support this "DREAM Act-Lite" proposal.

The response from the Republicans to the "deferred action" proposal has been predictable. Virtually none have endorsed it and most oppose it. Mitt

Romney criticizes it by saying it's "short term" and "not comprehensive."

I ask the opponents: What ever happened to "compassionate conservatives" who can see the value in a proposal like this? What ever happened to practicality? What ever happened to common sense?

The Republicans have been saying for years that only when we gain control of the border should we consider legalizing the people here. Well, that day has arrived. The last two years have seen the fewest number of people trying to cross our southern border in 40 years.

So, if there were ever an element in the immigration debate that can serve as a catalyst to move this issue forward, it is the president's DREAM Act deferred-action policy.

The American people support it, the Democrats support it and it's time for Republicans to approach the immigration issue in an adult fashion and support this initiative, too.



Donna Grethen / OP Art

Tom Roach is a Pasco lawyer who concentrates on immigration law.