

DECEMBER 1, 2011

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SPECIAL NOTE: *Transcript Requests Deadline: Tue, Dec 13th.*

This will be the last day before Christmas break that requests/orders may be made to Mrs. Parriott for transcripts to be sent to colleges from Seton School. The next request date would be January 4th.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

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SAT Registration)

OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL (Part 1 of 2)

What is Post Secondary School?

Post Secondary School includes university, college or career training in a non-trades field. Some examples of non-trades training include; Medical Office Assistant, Legal Assistant, Dental Assistant, Corrections Officer, and Office Assistant. The learning structure in these programs is patterned after the traditional academic model.

The biggest hurdle faced by many people wanting to go on to post-secondary schools like university or college is the high cost of tuition and books. Extremely good grades can help in getting full or partial scholarships, student loans are available to everyone, and applying for scholarships can help tremendously. Be sure to visit the registrars office or financial aid center at the school you plan to attend to find out more about your funding options. Remember after 2 years at NOVA (Northern Virginia Community College), students are offered guaranteed admission to many four-year colleges and universities when they meet the requirements of a written agreement between NOVA and that institution. www.nvcc.edu/academic/guaranteedadmissions.htm

However, not everyone is interested in vocational training or a college/ university education. For those who have other interests and gifts, learning a trade, either in school or on the job, is another path to an interesting, well paying career.

What is Trade School?

Trade school is where you go to learn a trade or craft. In trade school you study to become a certified journeyman in a trade such as; electrician, plumber, carpenter, master builder, mechanic, auto body technician, mason, drywaller, heating and refrigeration technician, etc. You enter in to a program where you learn the skills hands on, become an apprentice in a specified trade and eventually take a test - usually both written and practical - to become a full journeyman in that field.

This is for you if you thrive in a hands-on learning environment, if you have an interest in a trade and/or have taken basic courses in a specific area while in high school, and if you enjoy physically demanding work that is also mentally challenging. Training in trades is intensive and in most trades you are actually working in an apprenticeship position within 6 months to a year. Depending on the trade you choose and the program you enter in to it can be a few years before you become a ticketed journeyman. A journeyman is considered an expert in a given trade and passing a journeyman's exam is akin to passing the bar in law or completing a specialty in medicine.

Right now there is a serious shortage of trades workers making it a competitively well-paid career choice. "Blue collar work", as trades work has been called, is quickly becoming one of the better paying career choices in the job market. Trades workers with their tickets can choose to work for a company or can work for themselves making it an ideal career choice for people who work well in a structured environment as well as for people with an entrepreneurial spirit. As a trades worker you can easily be self-employed if so inclined.

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(TRADE SCHOOL cont)

Over the years trades have been inaccurately categorized as a fall back career. This is untrue and has led to a serious shortage in qualified trades workers. A career in a trade pays very well, is mentally stimulating, physically demanding and no one day on the job is ever the same as the last.

What is Public Service Work?

Police officers, ambulance attendants, paramedics, firefighters, social workers, government employees and politicians are some examples of public service workers.

These jobs may appeal to you if you like helping people, work well under very stressful circumstances, are able to cope with the best and the worst that society has to offer, and adhere well to structure and rules. These jobs are also very, very satisfying and stimulating. Being a public servant will be the most fulfilling and heartbreaking career choice you can make. It takes a certain type of personality to effectively do this type of work, which is why personality profiling and psychological work-ups are often part of the hiring process.

The type of training necessary to be a public servant varies according to which field you are interested in. Some of these careers require university or college while others do not. Some of these careers like police work, start with a paid training program and a hands-on learning approach. To find out the education or training requirements of a given field contact the agency itself to inquire.

Public service work is not for the weak of heart. Police officers, paramedics, firefighters and social workers deal with some of the most terrible things that happen in our world. In some cases you will routinely put your life and safety at risk while on the job. They are on the frontlines of life and life never really lets up. If you want to do this type of work be warned that it is emotionally, physically and mentally challenging. It is also very fulfilling and important.

(SEE NEXT ISSUE OF THE GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER FOR INFO ON MILITARY LIFE AND GOING STRAIGHT INTO THE WORKFORCE!)

FAFSA

Financial aid is “money” that is awarded, earned, or loaned to help students pay for the cost of their education. Every student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for financial aid. Every institution has a financial aid deadline.



Step 1. Apply for your Pin. The Personal Identification Number (PIN) is the code that the US Department of Education uses to identify you online. Students and parents can each receive their own (PINs). DO NOT reveal your PIN to anyone.

Step 2. Collect Forms for FAFSA.

- Social Security Number
- Bank Statements
- Driver's License
- Current mortgage and investment records
- 2011 federal tax return or reasonable estimates
- 2011 untaxed income records if applicable
- 2011 W2 forms and other record of money earned
- Parents' 2011 income tax return if deemed dependent

Step 3. Be prepared to submit your completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid as soon as possible after January 1, 2012.

Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information

THE COLLEGE PLACE—also helps with financial aid

(703) 680-3729 or visit www.ecmcfoundation.org

Financial Aid Workshops

Thursday, December 8, 2011 – Financial Aid Workshop for Seniors/Parents – 7 PM, Osborn Park HS Auditorium 8909 Euclid Ave., Manassas Park 20111

Monday, January 9, 2012 – Financial Aid (Completion of FAFSA on site) Bring all supportive documentation – Manassas Park High School – 7-9 PM

SAT and ACT Registration Deadlines

January 28th SAT exam has a December 30th registration deadline

February 11 ACT exam has a January 13th registration deadline.

Virginia Mentor has been made available by the Virginia Department of Education. This program contains test prep for the SAT, ACT and GRE. It also has a Freshman Planner, which helps high school students plan their high school education to meet the requirements for college. Virginia Mentor also allows students to apply for certain Virginia universities and colleges online. The website for Virginia Mentor is www.virginiamentor.org. Students will need to create their own account in order to have access to the tutorials. Again, this is a free service. ☺