

Guidance and Counseling Department
“Helping to put all of the pieces together”

Counseling Center Bulletin Board
February 1-15

2012/2013 Registration and Freshmen Orientation

The counseling department will be registering students for the 2012-13 school year February 1-17th. Part of the registration process will be a Freshman Orientation for 8th grade students and their parents. The Orientation will take place in the High School Auditorium Tuesday, February 14 at 6:30pm.

Any scheduling questions or concerns can be directed to your student's counselor:

Mrs. Decker A-L
deckerj@unity.k12.il.us

Ms. Brucker M-Z
bruckers@unity.k12.il.us

Financial Aid PIN Numbers

If you have not yet applied for PIN numbers for both your student and yourself...do so now! You will need both of these PIN numbers in order to apply for financial aid! To apply for a PIN visit: <http://www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp>.

Financial Aid for College

You may now begin applying for Financial Aid for the 2012-2013 academic year. After you apply for your PIN you may fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at the following site: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

To complete the FAFSA you will need:

- ✓ PIN numbers are required for both the parent and the student.
- ✓ 2011 tax information (BOTH parent(s) and student(s) 1040 A and/or 1040Z Federal Tax Applications and W-2 forms
- ✓ Student's social security number
- ✓ Parent's social security numbers(s)
- ✓ Records of untaxed income (welfare, social security, AFDC, ADC, or veteran's benefits, etc.)
- ✓ Current bank statements (both parents and students)
- ✓ Current mortgage information for properties other than the family's principal residence
- ✓ Records of businesses, farm (if not the family's principal residence), and assets (stocks, bonds, and other investments)
- ✓ Your alien registration card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

Financial Aid Night

Unity High School will be hosting the 2012 Financial Aid Night on Tuesday, February 7th from 6-8pm in the Junior High Library.

A member of a college financial aid office will be delivering a step by step presentation on completing the FAFSA. Students and parents will receive hands-on assistance in completing the *Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA)*. It is recommended that everyone complete the

FAFSA even though you do not believe you will qualify as **most colleges/universities require you do so before applying for private scholarships from the college/university.**

Please see the above list of what to bring in order to complete your FAFSA.

Scholarships

The variety of scholarship possibilities is great. Some scholarships are based on financial need and academic ability while others are based on academic ability alone (no-need or merit scholarships). One major misconception is that a sizable sum of college expenses can be paid with scholarships. Many scholarships, especially no-need or merit scholarships are offered by colleges to attract the best students possible; top 10% of the graduating class.

The counseling office has developed a scholarship file for area and local scholarships. The scholarship list is updated two times each month. Today, there are a number of private companies which promise to find scholarships for a fee. **The counseling department absolutely does not feel that it is necessary for you to pay such high fees to learn about scholarship opportunities.** Use the website information that we have listed in the Senior Parent Information Sheet and the information sent to you by the colleges you have selected to research.

Parkland Pathway to Illinois Open House

Parkland College is hosting an Open House for students interested in the Parkland Pathway to Illinois program. The dates for the Open House are Sunday, February 12 from 2-4 pm and Monday, February 13, from 6-8pm. The Open House will be held at the Tony Noel building at Parkland College. For more information visit: www.parkland.edu/admissions (Click on "Parkland Pathway to Illinois").

Students interested in applying to the Pathways program--applications will be available and accepted February 15 - April 15, 2012. Priority Deadline: March 15, 2012