

Students battle Devil to meet precollege requirements

Dual credit earns students credit for college, high school

BY CATIE MIDOFF

This is the time to stress as seniors prepare for graduation and what lies beyond, and underclassmen prepare for the continuance of their high school education.

Most will agree that required courses, ACT scores, FAFSA forms and college applications are the Devil.

Every student enrolled in a Kentucky high school must complete the state graduation requirements established by the Kentucky Department of Education.

These requirements are different for the graduating class of 2001 and for those graduating in 2002 and beyond. Students graduating in and after 2002 must also complete an Individual Graduation Plan consisting of letters of recommendation, test scores, resumes, and a record of activities the student is involved in during high school.

"The purpose of the IGP is to help keep track of the students activities and to focus them on classes that are necessary for their interests," said freshman and sophomore counselor Ms. Janice Miller.

The IGP is a state requirement, but many are still unaware of its existence. When asked about the plan, sophomores Kelli Bullock and Brittany Blair first presented a

questioning look and then simultaneously exclaimed, "Oh yeah, those blue things!"

Knowing about the IGP and the course requirements at the earliest age in high school is imperative for planning your course schedule on Wednesday. Those who do not begin taking these classes starting their freshman year may find themselves in a bind nearing their senior, while trying to complete the curriculum.

"Students need to take these courses at the appropriate grade level, and this helps to free elective courses you can take that are either career or college oriented," said junior and senior counselor Mr. Dale Whitaker.

For those seeking an education after high school there is a precollege curriculum established by the Council on Postsecondary Education. This curriculum is similar to the high school graduation criteria with only a few additional requirements.

Transcripts must include documented completion of this precollege curriculum upon entrance of any college in Kentucky.

Along with acquired credits, many colleges have ACT/SAT and GPA minimums. Students need to

begin taking the ACT/SAT around the eleventh grade in order to continue working to increase their score. I waited until my senior year and ended up taking the ACT almost every month, a head ache I could have avoided had I started taking it last year. The next ACT test will be given on June 9, 2001; register by May 4, 2001.

The PSAT, given to juniors, and the PLAN, given to sophomores, are also tests that need to be considered. The PSAT is the only qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship, and students need to submit either PSAT or ACT scores to be eligible for the Governor's Scholars Program.

College preparation is a four year deal. A personal data sheet and record of your activities throughout high school is a wonderful help when filling out college applications.

Be prepared. That's the moral of the story. As a senior, I know the tension of waiting til the last year before you even begin considering college. Face it, you're no longer a Toys R Us kid long before your freshman year. So why wait til you're a senior to realize it?

BY AMY CLARK

Taking college classes their senior year is nothing new for RCHS students, however something new is coming.

Next year, some students will be able to take college classes and get credit for both college and high school.

It's called dual credit, and it means a qualified student can take English 101 and receive three hours

college credit, and credit for English IV.

According to guidance counselor Mr. Dale Whitaker, "The opportunity for dual credit has never been offered before because colleges had to track the students eligible for five years after they took the course. Now, they apparently don't require it."

Not all students will be eligible to take the classes.

"Students had to score at a qualified level [on the Asset] in English, Reading and Math to participate in the dual credit classes."

According to Mr. Whitaker, students had to make at least a 35 to qualify. The highest score is a 55.

Courses that will be available for dual credit are English 101, English 102, and Math 109. However, College History will remain college credit only because most seniors have already taken U.S. History.

The dual credit classes will be 18 week courses and senior portfolios will be done during that period of time.

"There shouldn't be any difference in writing portfolios in the dual credit classes," said Mr. Whitaker.

However, Mr. Whitaker says there are many unanswered questions about the courses.

"We should know more by the first week of May."

No decision has been made on who will teach the courses, though many teachers are eligible.

Public Library celebrates National Library Week

BY BILLY HADDOX

The Rockcastle County Public Library will be highlighting art work by Rockcastle Co. citizens as part of National Library Week through April 6.

A book sale will take place all week long, each book only costing 50 cents each.

According to Director Kristiana Burk, the books are all from popular authors such as Stephen King, and Danielle Steele.

Throughout the week several different activities will be going on, most of which pertaining to activities for the children.

Tomorrow there will be various arts and crafts activities for grades 2-5 starting at 4:00 pm.

On Thursday there will be a read-in, where several county officials will come to the library and have reading sessions. Thursday will also be family night with

games, refreshments, and several computer sessions.

"It will be lots of fun for the kids," says Miss Burk.

The library is open from 10am-5pm on Monday-Wednesday and Friday and 10am-4pm on Thursday and Saturday. If you have any questions call the Public Library at 256-2388.



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