

Parent Connection Meeting

CHS Band Room – noon to 1 p.m.

Present: approx. 30 people (everyone is welcome)

November 20th, 2007

Guest speaker: Nancy Shaffer, Beyond CHS

Topic: Some of the ways to earn college credits in high school

College Now; notice notations in CHS catalog, “LBCC: Credit Option”

- Students can earn college credits for CHS courses that have this notation. Inexpensive college credits – has nothing to do with current or future attendance at LBCC.
- Many colleges accept these credits; others do not. (There is no way to predict other than to check with the specific college.)
- \$25 one time participation fee; students fill out LBCC participation form.
 - Requirements can be waived even if credits not accepted. (Can complete math requirements now for college.)
 - Helpful in opting out of college math placement test.
 - Form can be filled out well in advance of student participation. Forms available in Beyond CHS or from teacher.
 - Inclusion in College Now program is lots of extra work for CHS teachers; please express your gratitude.
 - Test given as part of CHS class, must earn A or B on test and in class to receive credits.

AP classes and exams

- Take AP classes at CHS and national test is on same day for everyone in May. Must take test and do well in order to receive college credits. (Scale 1-5; must earn 3, 4 or 5 to earn credits. How many credits and which number you need to earn varies by college.) Completion of course work in AP class does not guarantee the earning of college credits.
 - CHS students test in the top 12% of all U.S. schools; CHS AP classes prepare our students well.
- Selective colleges look to admit students who have done well on AP exams.
 - Excellent entrance criteria. When colleges choose not to accept the credits sometimes they still permit student to sign up for a higher level.
 - One parent spoke of her child graduating from high school with 45 college credits, all of which would have been accepted at U of O but none of which were accepted at University of Chicago. Some colleges prefer students to earn all (or most) credits on their campus. (Stanford accepts math and French but not history or English.)
 - Seniors: Recommend seniors pay the deposit for AP exam(s). After college decision is made, check to see if AP credits transfer. If credits don't transfer may not need to take the AP exam.
- AP exams \$95-\$96 (a fraction of what college tuition credits cost.)

- Exams taken during the school day at CHS; approx. 250 students take the tests each year.
- CHS offers about 11 AP classes; recently added AP European History and AP Statistics.

SAT Subject Tests (previously identified as SAT II) show proficiency in a certain subject

- Sign up in advance.
- Offered on same weekend as SAT but can't take both on the same day; take 1 hour per test. (Plan ahead.)
- Required to gain entrance into certain colleges, see college web sites to see which tests and how many are required.
 - Take the test after finish studying the content! (Do not need to wait until senior year.)

CLEP – College Level Examination Program (CHS does nothing with CLEP)

- Nationwide program that allows students to earn college credit by examination.
- Amount of credit earned depends upon score. Exams available in humanities, sciences, and social sciences.
- Testing available on an individually scheduled basis at LBCC and other college campuses.
- \$65 per test; huge savings compared with college tuition.
- Nancy handed out a paper listing the number of credits OSU grants based on score per test. Credits vary from 4 – 12. (e.g. 12 college credits meeting the requirements of Spanish 1 & II.)
- Can study for the exam. Not all colleges accept the credits. Some require an exam or lab in addition.

Question: Student returned from foreign experience fluent in French.

- Take SAT Subject Test (as a freshman)
- Can take AP exam this May.
- Could take French 4 and receive College Now credits.
- Possible to take OSU class in French. Receive high school and college credits at same time.

College Admissions:

- “Are you taking the most rigorous classes available to you?”
- “What is the most difficult course available in that department? Did you take it?”
- Next 3 years largest bubble of students, 2.8 – 3.3 million, entering college; increased competition for college acceptance.

Beyond CHS welcomes visits from both parents and students.

Guest Speaker: Kathleen Muravez

Topic: Online classes at CHS and Expanded Options program

Kathleen supervises students taking online classes at CHS.

- ESD (school district) offers Cool School; CHS purchases classes.
- All of the e-classes offered at CHS are accredited and most are Oregon University System approved
- Approx. 70 classes available, each with a certified teacher
- Many online class vendors. If you want CHS school credit check with Linda Keller in counseling office to find out from which programs CHS will accept credits.
- Students need to speak with school counselor before signing up.
- When students sign up for online classes as part of their 12 credit school schedule in the Spring CHS pays (\$190)
 - When student drops a face-to-face class to substitute an online class the student/family is responsible for the cost.
 - If student wants to take more than 12 credits the student pays.
 - Student is responsible for summer online class tuition.
- Kathleen strongly recommends face-to-face classes as preferable.
 - Sometimes surgeries, health issues, necessitate taking online classes.
 - Sometimes students need to make up credits if credits don't transfer from foreign exchanges.
 - Some students think signing up for health online will be an easy option; it isn't! Online classes are graded and it isn't an easy A.
 - Part way through term when feeling bogged down with class work sometimes students think the online class would be easier. It isn't.
 - Lots of assignments. Requires great deal of persistence. No relationship – just a computer. Maintaining attendance can be a challenge.
 - Offers flexibility.
 - A certain degree of self-direction is necessary for success in online education.

Expanded Options: A state mandated program (Senate bill 300 in 2005)

- Application is open to all.
 - 1st consideration is for students who are “at risk”.
 - Classes on LBCC campus. Currently 15 CHS students taking classes at Benton Center.
- Need the support of student's counselor.
- Mandatory orientation. Intent is to meet high school requirements.
- OSU no longer a partner in this program.

Principal's report: Suzanne Dalton

Suzanne requested written feedback from people present about Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Recent highlights illustrating CHS talent:

- Dia de los Muertos was an inspiring celebration.

- Fall athletic awards recognition (CHS boy's cross country team had team GPA average of 4.0 – highest in the state)
- Band and choir competitions (a number of CHS students auditioned and accepted for All-State)
- Staff Thanksgiving Feast celebration (with service and some food preparation by CHS culinary arts program.)

Looking for parent volunteer willing to be liaison with G.T. Please contact Suzanne Dalton through Sherry Faller if this sounds like something you might be interested in doing.

Suzanne recently returned from English Second Language conference to assist in preparation for eventual matriculation of Spanish Immersion students from Lincoln and Garfield.

Officers' reports:

Staff very much appreciate staff luncheons!

E scrip deposits have doubled.

CHS student directories are available to be picked up in school office or Beyond CHS.

\$2 (free to families who wrote sponsor checks to Parent Connection at beginning of year.)

Calendar: some dissatisfaction expressed within district with the 6-day break during November. Will have conferences earlier next year.

Listserv: Number of messages sent to people who receive information from CHS by email:

Sept.-- 40 messages, Oct.-- 20 messages, and Nov.-- 21 messages. 990 subscribers.

- Listserv moderator does not seek or decide content. There is no one who looks for what information people need and then puts it on the listserv.
- Messages may not use the names of students and it is not possible to include appreciations.
- Not able to code mail addresses to specific groups (e.g. can't send something to only families of seniors.)
- Anyone can write a message for the listserv and submit it. Moderator does not write or proof messages (except for inappropriate content.)

Site Council will be looking at school improvement plans and yearly progress reports.

Next meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the month, December 18th, CHS band room, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting topics are suggested by parents. Please submit requests for future meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Hennessy
Parent Connection Secretary