

Minutes (DRAFT)
Homestead Parents Club Meeting-Room 900 in the Ninth Grade Academy
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Page 1 of 4

Start time 11:00 am

Present: (22 attendees) *Heather Wilcox, President; Elizza Wesner, Secretary; Cindy Volk, Megan Milne, Kathy Little, Jessica Hoff, Marcie McClain, Cathy Miller, Kathy O'Shaughnessy, Natalie Hanni, Amy Frazier, Bobbi Heinemeyer, Cathy Schaefer, Amy Siffer, Beth Gallagher, Deb Norman, Cammy Sutter, Stephanie Sibley, Nina Gery, Liz Auger, Christine Marcucelli, and Judy Fehlhaber*

Welcome by Heather Wilcox, President.

Guests: **Kathy O'Shaughnessy, Judy Fehlhaber, and Kathy Little. These women have children who successfully graduated from Homestead High School and one still has a child at the school.**

Part One: Kathy O'Shaughnessy

Talk to your student

- It's never too early to discuss post-high school plans.
- What is his or her idea of what post-high school will look like?
- Living at home and attending a local college? Committing to the military? Attending college away from home? Attending a vocational or technical school? Taking a gap year? Or to get a job right away?
- In the middle of a ninth grader's first semester at Homestead High School, he or she will meet with their guidance counselor to plan their classes for their remaining semesters in high school.
- Remember that this is a working plan and can and will change over time.
- Your student will decide if they will pursue a Core 40 Diploma with or without Academic Honors or Technical Honors.

Guidance Office

- The Guidance Office and your student's Guidance Counselor are an excellent resource during high school and when planning for post-high school opportunities.
- Your student needs to communicate with his or her guidance counselor. They are available for appointments and by email. Parents are also welcome to communicate with their student's guidance counselor.
- Do not expect your student's Guidance Counselor to do everything for your student. Your student must advocate for themselves and do their own research, too.
- Please share what you and your student find regarding schools or scholarships with your guidance counselor. This valuable information may help another student.

Document

- Beginning in the ninth grade, begin documenting information that your student will need for vocational or technical school applications, military opportunities, teacher recommendation letters, college applications, and for creating a resume.
- Document extracurricular activities, leadership roles, volunteer and work hours, and awards. Document all athletic, band, music, dance, and choir, etc. awards and accolades. Include activities outside of school such as Girl or Boy Scouts, church youth groups, etc.
- In the eleventh grade, your student should pick up "The Purple Sheet: Counselor's Information Sheet for Seniors" from the Guidance Office.
- In the tenth and eleventh grades, your student should think of 1-3 teachers, coaches, or directors who know them well to write a letter of recommendation. The letter of recommendation can be used for post-high school admissions, scholarships or honor programs.
- Your student needs to allow ample time for their teacher, coach or director to complete the letter of recommendation. What should your student give to this person? A cover letter asking for this favor, The Purple Sheet from the Guidance Office, a resume, and complete information as to where the letter should be sent.
- Not all post-high school opportunities require a letter of recommendation.
- However, most post-high school opportunities will want you know what types of activities you were involved in in high school whether it was with the school or outside of the school.

AP & Dual Credit classes

- Allows a student to complete general education requirements before the student steps on campus.
- Allows a student to reduce the cost of attendance by earning college credit while at Homestead HS.
- By completing many general education requirements early, the student may be able to register before many incoming freshman. He or she can choose the best professors, classes, and class times. The student may be able to apply to their school of study much earlier than those in his or her class. For example, a student (Homestead HS graduate) at Michigan State University applied to their Business College second semester freshman year before most of her peers. With her first semester grades and the general education classes and credits she already earned, she was accepted into the Business College. What a relief to have accomplished this goal earlier than anticipated! Another Homestead HS graduate at Indiana University, who is a Direct Admit into the Kelley School of Business, completed his general education requirements first semester freshman year. He is now very happy that he is in all Business courses second semester.
- Not all Dual Credit courses will transfer to a student's school of choice. Most in-state public universities will accept the dual credit credits.
- AP Courses are usually accepted nationally across most public and private universities. However, the student must score between certain ranges on the AP exam to earn college credit. For example, if a student earns a 4 or 5 on the AP US History exam, the course credits will transfer to Indiana University. If the student earns a 1 to 3 on the AP US History exam, the course credits will not transfer to Indiana University. This information can be found on a college website or make a personal phone call to the Office of Admissions. They will direct you to the appropriate department.
- AP Courses hold quite a bit of value if your child chooses to take these courses at Homestead HS. These courses are taught by excellent teachers, these courses give the student the rigor and workload they are to expect in a college class, the student learns time management skills and excellent study habits, and your student will be surrounded by peers who are focused on working hard.
- AP Courses are not for every student.
- Your student will need to do his or her research into the AP and Dual Credit Courses, he or she should ask teachers about whether or not it's a good fit, and he or she needs to meet with his or her guidance counselor for further details.

Finances

- Discuss how post-high school opportunities will be paid for or financed.
- How much, if any, will the parent contribute and how much your student will contribute.
- For college, look at total cost to attend: tuition and fees, room and board, books, etc. The school will provide this information. Oftentimes the cost of room and board is the same as tuition and fees.
- Don't forget to consider airfare, hotel costs, and car rental when estimating college expenses if your student is attending a school far away from home.
- How much money do you want your student to have in the bank when they leave for school? Who is paying for Starbucks, haircuts, late-night pizza, toiletries, gas in the car, parking fees at school? Or that cute top at the university bookstore?
- Research student loans and parent loans, grants, Stafford loans for students, etc.
- Complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> **every year for each student.**
- FAFSA typically needs to be completed for students who earned a scholarship.

Types of colleges

- Consider your family values and beliefs when your student considers colleges. Conservative or Liberal? Private, Christian or Public? In-state or out-of-state? Small or large? Urban or rural? Live at home and commute?
- College visits will pay an important role as to where your student feels at home.

Plan visits

- Homestead HS allows two college visits per 11th and 12th grade years. They require an official letter on letterhead from the school's Admissions Office or whoever scheduled the visit for you and your student. This letter must be turned into HHS's attendance immediately upon returning to school.
- Visit all types of schools so your student can get an idea of what will feel right for him or her. Urban, rural, small to large sized schools, public, private, in-state or out-of-state, etc.
- Make tour appointments with Admissions very early! For example, Presidents Day 2/20/2017 tours have been booked for months at the University of Cincinnati.

Part Two: Judy Fehlhaber

- College and Career Fair College and Career Fair at HHS Tuesday, March 6, 2017 6-7:30 pm
- Vocational and Trade Schools should offer tours and a meeting with their admissions director. Your student should schedule an appointment to discuss career goals and opportunities. Many of the following will still apply to those attending a vocational or trade school.

What to do on a campus tour:

- Attend the canned Admissions tour, but then make appointments with department heads in an area of interest. Many campuses offer shadowing a current student to classes or they may allow you to sit in on a class.
 - Sit in class, go on tour when school is in session to get a good “look” at the students, listen to what they talk about, ask students questions. Is it a warm and friendly campus or does everyone appear unhappy or stressed out?
 - Go to the campus bookstore, pick up a school newspaper, and go to the local coffee or pizza place.
 - Schedule a tour of the dorms.
 - Look at the community surrounding campus: Is there a small town close to campus? If my student needs a part-time job, are there places for employment? Does the community offer things to do if your student isn't of legal drinking age?
 - Ask about student safety: the Dean of Students may help with this concern. The Office of Admissions can direct you to the correct department that will answer your questions.
 - It is always important for your college student to be involved in an activity or club outside of the classroom. What does the school offer in the area of clubs, religious organizations, social groups or recreational sports?
 - Research what the college offers to support the mental and emotional health of their students. This may require a visit to the Health Center or meet with the Dean of Students.
 - Where can my child go when he or she is feeling stressed or anxious?
 - Where can my child find the support he or she needs on campus? Is there tutoring available for students? If so, where? Is there someone to talk to when your student is feeling anxious, stressed, or homesick?
 - How will my student manage stress?
 - It is important to address the emotional and physical needs of your student **before** they move onto campus.
 - If your student had an IEP from high school, call the Office of Admissions or the Dean of Students to see how this will factor into your student's college life.
- What else does the school offer: internships, co-op, and study abroad?
 - When your student is a junior or senior in college, how will their school help them find a career post-college graduation?

Part 3: Kathy Little

Options for post-high school opportunities

- Non-traditional post high school opportunities
 - Trade and Vocational Schools: Brown Mackie College, Harrison College, International Business College, ITT Technical Institute, Masters of Cosmetology College, Ross Medical Educational Center, etc. There are several that are found in the Fort Wayne area. Please do your research; there are so many opportunities.
 - Military
 - ROTC, National Guard, etc. Excellent avenues to serve our country, pay for your college expenses, and to earn lifetime benefits.
- Non-traditional post high school opportunities
 - What are your child's strengths?
 - What does your child want, need, desire?
 - Research and visit trade or vocational schools.
- Not every student will move away immediately to attend college
 - Living at home and commuting to campus saves money
 - Excellent for those not ready to leave home 100%
 - IPFW, Ivy Tech and Indiana Tech are excellent options for students.
 - Ask your child to support their peers if they choose to take a non-traditional route post high school

Standardized testing

- P(reliminary)SAT (PSAT): National test taken on the same day in October nationally. 10th graders take it for practice and 11th graders take it to determine National Merit Scholarship eligibility. Elite group of individuals.
- Practice SAT and ACT exams are offered by Homestead Parent Club in partnership with The Princeton Review.
 - 9th to 11th graders are able to take this practice exam
 - Great way for your student to decide whether or not they prefer one exam over the other.
 - Take the exam at HHS just like you would on the “real” exam day or take home the exam and have your family proctor you taking the exam.
 - The review session, with a trained Princeton Review representative, is valuable, find your errors, find areas in need of improvement, and learn good tips.
- ACT and SAT Test Prep
 - Use a book, online prep, tutoring, or prep class. Homestead High School offers test prep classes for students.
- Plan WHEN your student will take the actual exam.
- SAT Test Dates 2016-2017 www.collegeboard.org

10/1/2016	11/5/2016	12/3/2016	1/21/2017	3/11/2017	5/6/2017	6/3/2017
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	----------	----------
- ACT Test Dates 2016-2017 www.act.org

9/10/2016	10/22/2016	12/10/2016	2/11/2017	4/8/2017	6/10/2017
-----------	------------	------------	-----------	----------	-----------
- Consider your student’s extracurricular and work commitments when planning when he or she will take the ACT and/or the SAT.
- Consider test preparation for your student. There are many options such as a private tutor; HHS offers test prep classes, Sylvan Learning Center, books to purchase or an online program.
- Some colleges “Super Score” standardized test results. A student’s test **scores** from the SAT or ACT are crucial for college **admissions**. ... Most colleges **will** use the highest **scores** sent to them, either from the same test day or highest **score** in each section over time, called **super score**.
- Once you have test scores, you may begin preparing for the application process

College applications

- \$40-\$90 per application: it’s an investment. Are you willing to make it?
- Many applications go live (online) August 1st—narrow down your college choices.
- College Go! Week: FREE application week for Indiana colleges and universities. Visit www.learnmoreindiana.org Please ask individual colleges and universities if they participate in College Go! Week
- The applications must be completed by the student. How else will they learn?
- The Common Application (informally known as the Common App) is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to several colleges and universities. Application fees still apply. Find out if the college you want to apply to accepts The Common App.
- November 1st tends to be the national deadline to make in order to get top preferences for scholarship money. This is valuable information; have your student find out about deadlines.
- Application essays for admissions and for scholarships vary greatly between schools.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

- Scholarships: research, research, research. Start at your student’s university of choice, and then go to HHS’s Guidance website, local scholarships, parents’ place of employment, etc.
- FAFSA Federal Student Financial Aid: do your research, complete every year for each student.

Federal Deadline: Online applications must be submitted by midnight Central Time, June 30, 2018.

Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, September 15, 2018.

State Deadline: Indiana - March 10, 2017 by midnight, Central Time.

College Deadline: Check with the college(s) you are interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline - whether it is the date the college receives your FAFSA, or the date your FAFSA is processed.

"Your worth is not determined by the university you went to. Or, in other words, "Where You Go is Not Who You'll Be." (Book by Frank Bruni) Alleluia. That's the exact mantra every student and parent must heed as they navigate the stressful college admissions process. I'm doing it for the fourth time and this excellent writer's new book could not have come at a better time for me. As Frank Bruni brilliantly demonstrates, your worth is your worth and it's yours to make wherever you go." --Maria Shriver

Meeting adjourned 1:30 pm