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# The Counselor Connection

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DuPage High School

District 88

## Senior Year - Finally!

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2008

Welcome back! Now that your pencils have been sharpened, your books have been purchased and your minds/bodies have been rested, you are ready to continue your learning. But if you are a senior, you are also looking ahead as college is not too far off in the future. There are probably many questions that you have about the entire college process. Rest assured, we will provide answers to those questions as well as resources throughout first semester to better help you navigate the process.

A lot of information can be gained through a senior interview. The senior interview is a one-on-one meeting with a student's counselor. The purpose of the interview is to assess where the senior is in his or her high school career as well as in the college application process. The form we use for the senior interview covers the following information: historical information such as classes taken, grades earned, credits earned; current information such as current classes, expected credits to be earned from those, expected total number of credits, GPA and class rank. If necessary, we develop a plan if students are going to fall short on credits or not meet a graduation requirement. We also provide information and dates for ACT, college visits, college fairs and college application deadlines. This interview is the senior's opportunity to get individualized help with respect to interests, skills and values. These interviews generally are completed by mid to late October since time is of the essence when it comes to college applications. Once completed, we keep a copy in the senior's file and send home the original. Your senior's counselor would be happy to provide any additional help along the way. Counselor assignments are inside.



*Graduation will be here before you know it.*



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## College Fair

If you are still unsure as to which college(s) you will apply, consider attending a college fair. A college fair allows the opportunity to gather information from many different schools, speak to representatives about their programs, learn about potential scholarships and make connections with college staff. Many college representatives will award interested students with application fee waivers. These waivers when attached to a college application will cover the fee which in some cases can be as high as eighty dollars.

On Saturday, October 25, Navy Pier will be hosting a National College Fair. The fair will run from 10:00 until 2:00 and there is no fee for admission. There will be dozens of schools including four-year, two-year, technical and trade. This is a wonderful opportunity, and if you haven't already been to Navy Pier, then it is another good reason to go and visit. For more information, contact the school counselor or nacacnet.org.

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## The College Visit

The college visit is one of the most important steps in the college selection process. It is important because it not only allows you an opportunity to view the physical setting and facilities, it also allows for visiting with current students and faculty. By being physically present on a campus, you can get a ‘feel’ for the “fit” that this college will have for you.

The best time to visit a college is when school is in session. If not, then visit during the summer. Take a family road trip and visit several colleges. If an onsite visit is not possible, most colleges and universities have virtual tours on their websites.

Juniors may have one college visit and seniors two. If you have a visit scheduled, the next step is to obtain a pre-arranged absence form from the attendance office. Have this form signed by a parent or guardian, verifying that you are visiting a college on that date, and return the form to the attendance office.

Visiting a college campus can be a rewarding experience. While visiting, have a meal on campus. Take a tour, including the dormitories. Speak with an admissions counselor about your intended academic program and opportunities for success. Make the most of your time there so that the information you have gathered can lead to helping you make the best decision possible.

## College Representatives Visit Willowbrook

Each year numerous college representatives visit Willowbrook High School. These visits occur throughout the year, but especially in the fall. The schedule for visiting these representatives can be found in the student bulletin and posted throughout the school. The times are announced in the daily bulletin and can also be accessed on Power-School. If a student wishes to visit with a specific representative, that student comes to the counseling office to obtain a pass. The student takes the pass to the teacher whose class they are going to miss and then goes to the second floor of the library in our career resource center. Representatives can answer such questions as admission requirements, majors, housing, financial aid, scholarships, activities and annual total

Destiny is no matter of chance.  
It is a matter of choice. It is not  
a thing to be waited for, it is a  
thing to be achieved.

**William Jennings Bryan**  
(1860 - 1925)

## From the Desk of the Principal

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year. We trust the year has started in a positive way and that your student has experienced early success in his/her classes and throughout the school.

In an effort to continually communicate with you the programs and services we offer at Willowbrook, our Guidance Department, in partnership with our Pupil Personnel Services Team, have created this Newsletter as way to share the exciting events and opportunities for you and your student throughout the year. This information will also be shared throughout our building with our staff and can always be found on our school website.

Our commitment at Willowbrook High School is to provide the best learning environment possible to insure that all students have an opportunity to succeed here and in life. That means that we are dedicated to helping students and parents build a future that has a strong foundation of skills and talents to meet the challenges of a global society.

Thank you for your support of Willowbrook High School and for your participation in your student’s education. If there is ever a moment we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With Warrior Pride,

Daniel Krause, Principal

## Counselor Assignments

Our Counseling Department is very excited to kick off the 08-09 school year. We have undergone some changes in staff as well as student assignments. Please take a moment to check your child's counselor. If you have questions, contact our Counseling Office at 630-530-3417.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Student Last Name</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Email</u>
Dennis Doyle	A-CH	530-3422	ddoyle@dupage88.net
Cindy Zamora	CI-GOM	782-3137	czamora@dupage88.net
Jean Beggs	GON-HO & Sp. Ed A-K	530-3424	jbeggs@dupage88.net
Linda Ladd	HP-KK & Sp. Ed L-Z	530-3432	lladd@dupage88.net
Lourdes Piña	KL-MARK & ESL-A-Z	530-3415	lpina@dupage88.net
Dana Whittaker	MARL-P	530-3421	dwhittaker@dupage88.net
Scott Forcash	Q-U	530-3420	sforcash@dupage88.net
Cathy Bendicsen	V-Z	530-3419	cbendicsen@dupage88.net



*Lost? Counselors can help.*

### Behind The Counselor Connection

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Counselor Connection. This newsletter is a publication from the Willowbrook Counseling Department. Our goal is to provide valuable and useful information in a timely manner. This resource will be your link to the happenings in the Counseling Office on a quarterly basis.

We are in the process of adding this newsletter to our school's website. It can be accessed by visiting [www.Dupage88.net](http://www.Dupage88.net). In the future, if you would prefer to continue receiving these via postal mail, please contact the Willowbrook Counseling Office at 630-530-3417 or email [bwilson@dupage88.net](mailto:bwilson@dupage88.net).

If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else.  
**Yogi Berra**

## College? Application Process Unfolded

During the week of September 16, counselors visited senior-level English classes to share information and resources concerning the college application process. At that time, seniors were given a folder containing a copy of the counselor's PowerPoint presentation along with several other useful handouts. We encourage all seniors to share this information with their families as it will help manage the college process.

The college process is a process. It does take time, research and a lot of patience. Once a senior has self-examined their interests, skills and values using preferably [careercruising.com](http://careercruising.com), he/she should research which school meets all of his/her needs. They should apply preferably online. They should gather all the necessary application materials - essays, letters of recommendation, brag sheet, etc. A completed paper application/counselor signature page along with all the other application materials should then be taken to the counselor. Seniors will complete a transcript request form and bring \$1 per school request. Finally, seniors should wait for responses via postal or email and monitor the application process online.

## School

## DuPage High District 88

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Willowbrook High School  
1250 S. Ardmore  
Phone: 630-530-3400  
Fax: 630-530-3401

*Silver and Blue - Through and Through*

**We're on the web!  
Visit [dupage88.net](http://dupage88.net).**



## Important Dates to Remember

- |             |        |   |
|-------------|--------|---|
| October: 23 | 7:00pm | Parent Presentation: "How to help your teen choose a motivating college major" (Room 2) |
| 10/25       | 7:45am | PSAE (for seniors who did not test in April of 2008)                                    |
| 10/28       | 7:45am | PSAE Work Keys  |
| 10/28       | 6:00pm | Hispanic Parent Outreach Meeting : "Post high school/College Planning"                  |
| November: 6 | 6:30pm | Parent Resource Night: "Teen Health Issues" (Room 2)                                    |
| 11/18       | 7:00pm | Parent Presentation: "Keys to success for the college years" (Room 2)                   |
| 11/20       | 6:00pm | Hispanic Parent Outreach: "Using Powerschool"   |
| 11/24       | 1-8pm  | Parent-Teacher Conferences  |
| December: 4 | 6:30pm | Parent Resource Night: "Student Substance Abuse" (Room 2)                               |
| 12/6        | 7:45am | EXPLORE testing for incoming freshmen   |
| 12/9        | 7:00pm | Financial Aid Parent Night (Room 2)   |
| 12/16       | 6:00pm | Hispanic Parent Outreach: "Financial Aid"   |
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