



A PUBLICATION OF THE
BROTHER RICE
COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Counseling Update

+Your Faith +Your Hope +Your Future

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **A Welcome from the Director of Counseling**
- **An overview of our Family Connection/Naviance Program**
- **Information for Freshmen and Sophomores on high school transition and expectations**
- **Special Information on transcripts and financial aid forms**

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Visit us on the Web at
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OUR NEW COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

By Sue Ellen Parker, M.A. Director of Counseling

Welcome to our first edition of the Counseling Department Newsletter. We're excited to have the opportunity to stay in touch with our parents, students and fellow faculty members to keep you up-to-date on all the events and programs in the Counseling Department. We hope to bring this newsletter to you approximately three times a year. Make sure to check for updates and deadlines, especially for colleges and scholarships. Our department members will take this opportunity to discuss a variety of topics or programs. We hope that this will give you a chance to get to know the department personnel. In addition, we welcome input and suggestions from

parents, students and faculty on how best to serve our student population. On the left hand side of this newsletter, you will find the phone numbers and e-mail addresses for everyone in our department. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

I would like you to know, as a new department member, what a privilege it has been to work with the young men of Brother Rice. They are respectful, intelligent and a great joy to spend time with. We all have many reasons to be proud of them all!

A very Happy and Safe Holiday Season to you and your families!

Family Connection

powered by  NAVIANCE

Watch for a Parent Information Evening Session in the Spring

Now in Its Fourth Year at Brother Rice

by Jack Carlson, M.A.

The Web-based program known as Family Connection is now in place for the fourth year and available to Brother Rice students and their families. This is a subscription service that Brother Rice provides which is accessible from any computer connected to the internet. The site can be accessed through the school website (www.brrice.org) by clicking on the Guidance Center Tab near the middle of the page and following the "Links" to...

connection.naviance.com or by simply entering: **connection.naviance.com/brhsil** in the browser and the sign-in page will come up. All Seniors and Juniors have been provided

with user names and passwords. Although the login page calls for an e-mail, many students have chosen another user name which can and should be used. The power of this program is in the information available to the user regarding colleges, their programs and their requirements. College scholarship information is also available by clicking "scholarship list" on the menu that runs along the left hand side of the page. When students begin to build a list on "my colleges" scattergrams can be generated which will display their chances of being accepted by those colleges. There is also a direct link to the college's website provided. Seniors are currently tracking their applications through "Family Connection" while

Juniors are utilizing the career interest surveys on the menu listed as "My Personality Type" and "Explore Interests". They are also narrowing down their college choices by making use of the "College Search" feature. Sophomores will be registered on the site early next semester or sooner if they or their parents request it. We hope you will take some time to sit down at the family computer with your son and access the Family Connection site as together you work on planning for the next step in his education. Feel free to contact your son's counselor if there are any questions regarding Naviance/Family Connection.

Transitions and Expectations . . . by Eileen Barkowski, M.A.

The beginning of any school year is always a time of transitions for all students and teachers, but most especially for our freshmen and sophomores.

Freshmen enter into an environment that is totally new to them. Some have visited the high school in their grammar school days through camps and sporting activities. Others may have come to an open house but have no other experience of their new school. Some students come with many friends from the grammar school or junior high and others are the only one from their graduation class.

Each student comes with many sets of expectations; their own and their parents. Expectations are almost always academic but they may be social and athletic too.

As a guidance counselor I try to talk with my freshmen about theory of a "clean slate" or "starting over" or "continued success." One of the best things about being a freshman is that no

one in school really knows you yet and you are able to be anybody you want. Those that had great academic success can continue along that path ensuring college for the future. Those that have struggled are not burdened with past performance. They can present themselves as ambitious, hard working and dedicated students.

The sophomores, on the other hand, have established themselves in the school already. Some may have used the "clean slate" theory and are on a totally new path. Others have continued that same struggle from grammar school. As a sophomore it is not too late. It is easier to move your class rank and GPA this year than it will be junior year. There is more high school ahead of them than behind them.

The bottom line: You can do most anything and be whatever you want. It takes courage. It takes putting one foot in front of the other every day. You hold the key to your dream.



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A Reminder For Seniors . . . by Mary Beth Jantz, Guidance Department Secretary



❖ If you wish to mail a transcript before Christmas break, please submit your request with all application materials by **Tuesday, December 9**. If applying to a college online, please remember to print your verifica-

Graduation is NOT that far away! tion sheet to submit with your transcript request. If a verification sheet is not available, print your e-mail confirmation and submit that with your transcript request.

❖ Submit all mid-year (or 7th Semester) reports to the Main Office prior to Christmas break to ensure that these will be mailed as soon as semester grades are posted.

❖ FAFSA (Financial Aid) forms can be submitted after January 1, 2009. The government is no longer providing paper forms; however "FAFSA on the Web" worksheets are available in the Counseling Department.

❖ Financial Aid information may be accessed by going to www.brrice.org/GuidanceCenter/FinancialAid or www.fafsa.ed.gov or in the Resource section of Naviance, accessible through the Guidance Department webpage.

Use the links under the Guidance Department tab on the website to get to many useful sites!