

# March 2008 Guidance Newsletter

## *Hi Parents!*

**Registration** for all students will be finalized by March 14, 2008. Initially, counselors met with your students in groups to go over the classes they need to take. Your student will then bring a registration form home for you to sign and return. Please discuss with them the courses they will be signing up for next year, especially if they are taking multiple honors or AP courses. Madison High School is staffed based on student's course selection, so student's class selections are extremely important! Staffing occurs in April, so once course selections are in, decisions are made based on whether or not there are enough students enrolled in the class to offer it. Courses that are under enrolled are deleted and not offered! Students are then reassigned to their alternative class selection.

**Changes** to the student's course selection will be on a space available basis after March 14, 2008, so it is very important that you work with your son/daughter to make the most appropriate choices. We definitely need your help in getting these forms back. Please ask your student to see it, have a discussion with them, and then sign the forms for them to bring back.

**Special presentation-** Madison Pyramid Schools hosts a presentation by Rosalind Wiseman, author of *Queen Bee Moms and Kingpin Dads* on Monday, March 3, 2008 from 7-9 pm Madison High School Auditorium. She will discuss, ***Surviving the Hive: Improving Relations with the Adults in Your Child's Life***. This interactive multi-media presentation shows how parents become involved in their child's conflicts for better or worse. Parents and educators alike will learn concrete strategies to improve their relationships with everyone in the lives of the children they work with--from their own kids to their teachers, coaches and principals. The cost is \$5 for this presentation. Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door.

## **Interims**

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter interims will be distributed to students in school on Friday, March 7. Please ask to see them. Students who have failing interims will be required to attend Student Assistance Period to help raise these grades.

## **College Fair**

A wonderful opportunity is coming for you to explore the many college options available at the Patriot Center at George Mason University on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. College representatives will be available to chat with you, answer questions, and give you information. This is an excellent time to get on their mailing list, so be sure to bring some address labels with you to put on the request cards. For a list of colleges that will be attending:

<http://admissions.gmu.edu/rsvp/attending.asp>

**10<sup>th</sup> graders** will soon be going into the career center to explore career interest inventories and become familiar with Family Connection, which has a wealth of information related to college and careers. Currently, you may log in to family connection under your student's login info, with the hopes that" soon" you will be able to log in yourself.

### **11<sup>th</sup> grade information**

#### **The College search process**

Recently, counselors have seen all juniors in the career center to give them an overview of the college selection process. Juniors should continue to research colleges throughout the spring as well as plan to visit some colleges (Spring break would be a good time to do this).

We invite you to have an **individual meeting** with your student's counselor to discuss their specific college plans. This is an important part of the college search process. Please contact your student's counselor to set up this appointment

### **12th grade information**

**College Results Online** ([www.collegeresults.org](http://www.collegeresults.org)) allows you to:

- Examine overall graduation rates and see how those rates have changed over time.
- Learn about universities' records graduating diverse groups of students
- Compare the graduation rates of similar institutions - colleges and universities that share many characteristics and serve similar student populations

**Northern Virginia Regional College Fair** Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00 pm  
George Mason University Patriot Center For a list of colleges that will be attending: <http://admissions.gmu.edu/rsvp/nvrcf/attending.asp>

**Scholarships-** please visit the College and Career Center for scholarships that may be applicable to your student.