

Dear Eagle Ridge Academy Freshmen and Parents of Freshmen:

This is the November update from your counselor regarding college and career planning.

Congratulations! You have now completed over two months of high school. You have been introduced to great works of the ancient world like the Iliad and the Odyssey. You have perhaps been challenged by Chemistry. You are learning more Latin and Math. Hopefully you are enjoying your elective classes. Eagle Ridge Academy is committed to giving you an academically rigorous education that will prepare you for your future. **Our top recommendation for your career and college planning is to focus on doing well in your courses.** Work with your teachers, put time and effort into your homework, and build a passion for learning.

Many of you will see extended family in the coming weeks and you're likely to get questions about high school. This is a great opportunity for you to "turn the tables" and ask some questions of your adult family members. The best way to learn about various options for your future is to talk to adults who are out in the work world. Here are some conversation ideas:

- "I'm starting to think about college and careers. What kind of work do you do?"
- "How did you choose your career area?"
- "Where did you go to college?" "What kind of training did you get?"
- "If you could do it over again, what would you do differently?"
- "What do you like/dislike about your job?"
- "What advice do you have for me?"

College Prep Website – The ERA College Prep website is filled with detailed information and resources on the following topics:

Personal Assessments and Career Research
Exploring College Options
Testing

Financial Aid and Scholarships
Applying to College

Career Explorer posts are local organizations and companies that host year-long explorations of careers for high school students. <http://www.explorenow.org/>.

Scholarships you can apply for!

- Due December 1 - **Fleet Reserve Association 7-12 Americanism Essay Contest:** Write a 350 word essay on the theme "What Freedom of Speech Means to Me". <http://www.fra.org/essay>
- Due December 5 - **Stephen J Brady STOP Hunger 9-12 Scholarship** (Sodexo Foundation) <http://us.stop-hunger.org/home/news/content-col1-area/latest-news/sodexo-stop-hunger-foundation-ex.html>
- Due January 18th - **John F. Kennedy Profiles in 9-12 Courage Essay Contest:** Up to 1,000 word essay describing act of political courage by U.S. Jan 18 elected official during or after 1917. <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Education/Profile-in-Courage-Essay-Contest.aspx>

- Due January 20th - **C-SPAN Student Cam Documentary Competition:** Teams of 1-3 students create a 5-7 minute video documentary expressing the following theme: "What does it mean to be American?" <http://www.studentcam.org>
- Due February 7th - **Optimist International Essay Contest:** Write 700-800 word essay on "Is there a fine line between Optimism and Reality?" <http://www.facebook.com/EPOptimists>

Remember that I am here to help you!

Best,

Wendy Klute

Academic Counselor

Eagle Ridge Academy

wklute@eagleridgeacademy.org