

Dear Eagle Ridge Academy Sophomores and Parents of Sophomores:

This is the November update from your counselor regarding college and career planning. You are now more than one quarter of the way through high school! You have been introduced to great works of the ancient world and you have now begun to study the middle ages. You have mastered chemistry and perhaps are being challenged by biology. 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 seek to build a passion for learning.

Many of you will see extended family in the coming weeks and you're likely to get questions about how high school is going. 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/hate 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 18<sup>th</sup> - **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 20<sup>th</sup> - **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 7<sup>th</sup> - **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

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