

GHS juniors explore college/career options.

The cost of college has been a revelation to Kayla Trevino.

Trevino, a Gothenburg High School junior, recently explored life after high school during a college/career workshop.

"It's also a shocker how soon it's coming up and how much work it is in finding one," she said. "There are so many choices."

High school guidance counselor Jerry Wiggins offers the workshop to juniors to provide useful information and resources in the coming months.

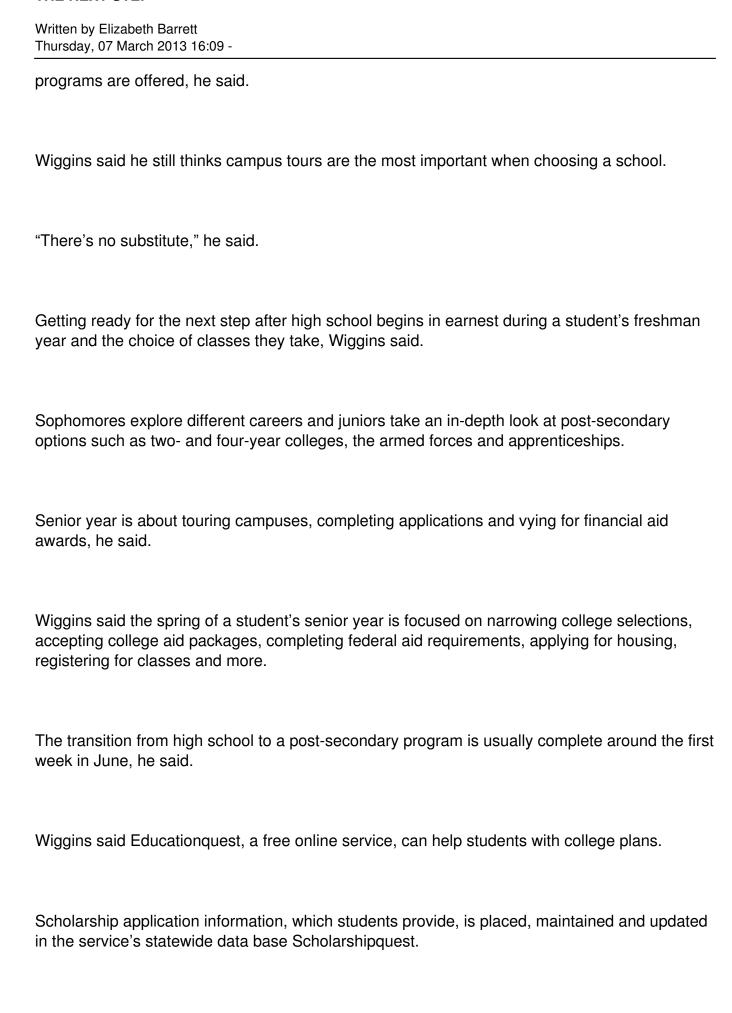
During his 15 years at Gothenburg High School, Wiggins said the process of finding a suitable college and/or career has not changed that much.

"However technology has put its thumbprint on the flow of information," he said.

For example, Wiggins said admission, federal aid and scholarship applications are almost all online. Colleges also communicate information to admitted students via web-based student portals.

More opportunities, at a younger age, for sophomores and juniors to explore campuses and

THE NEXT STEP



THE NEXT STEP

Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 07 March 2013 16:09 -

Unfortunately, there's not a single, online application for local awards which Wiggins said would make life easier for students.

"I floated this idea by various organizations and families a few years ago and met with resistance," he said. "Each group or committee seems to want their own essays and/or specific questions answered by applicants."

Nonetheless, Wiggins said he's not given up the idea of a "common" application.

Wiggins pointed out that parents are an integral part of the college/career process.

Parents are included in two workshops he offers and he also tries to keep them updated with monthly newsletters during a student's senior year.

But it's up to students to stay organized and to identify and meet deadlines, he said, noting that parents can assist by insuring tasks are completed in a timely manner.

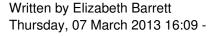
"That can sure relieve a lot of stress," Wiggins said.

Learning how to register for college and what information is needed has been helpful for junior Chase Dachtler.

At this point, Dachtler plans to attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney and pursue a career in physical therapy.

For junior Brittany Melvin, doing an in-depth comparison of two colleges has been the most useful.

THE NEXT STEP



Melvin is also looking at UNK and is interested in law.

Trevino is exploring what's offered at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and also the University of Texas.

"I'd like to be a Longhorn," she confessed.

ebarrett@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636