

Narraguagus High School's C.A.K.E. NIGHT Care About Kid's Education

Narraguagus High School was the place to be on November 6th. Maybe it was the delicious cake that brought out a hungry crowd, however I have a feeling it was the concern for students future post-secondary education.

This was NHS second annual C.A.K.E. NIGHT. The event is hosted for high school juniors, seniors and more importantly their parents. This special event is a team effort organized by the school's Guidance Director, Brittany Ray and GEAR UP Liaison, Cory Fleming, as well as the entire school faculty. The successful evening started off with an ice breaking speech that delivered the motivational message that college is for all. Next, parents and students entered their names into some amazing raffles, which included prizes from flip-flops to scholarships. Then, onto the main event! NHS provided a series of sessions that gave information in regards to college readiness.

Bruce Hazam, from the College of the Atlantic and a representative from the Financial Authority of Maine (FAME) hosted a workshop on "Making Your Way Through the Financial Aid Maze." This presentation took a look at the financial aid process and what you should be doing NOW to prepare.

Another College of the Atlantic Faculty, Dave Baldwin, hosted "Getting it Right So You Can Get In." His focus was a walk through how an application is read and how decisions are made. His information gave families a head start and the confidence to "Getting It Right."

The University of Maine at Machias was also present. UMM offered a panel of professors and admissions, which included Stewart Bennett and Sherrie Springer, as well as a board of active students. UMM's "Peaks and Valleys of College Life" gave students and parents the chance to directly ask questions. Concerns from the guests ranged from "What criteria do you use to determine your college choices?" "What is the yearly cost of tuition?" "What is the hardest part of college?" "What is available for social activities and job offers?" These were all real questions that were directly answered from a college going student body and professionals.

Susan Mingo, from the Washington County Community College, was present and ready to educate guests about the community college life. Susan's, "Tell Me More About Community College Options" was a presentation that took a look at the programs offered through the Community College System.

Last but not least, was Narraguagus High School's Guidance Director Brittany Ray. Ms. Ray encourages that it's never too early to start down the path to college. "Jump Start for College: How to Start Preparing Junior Year" was a helpful session that assisted families with the planning of the exciting and sometimes scary journey to college.

C.A.K.E. NIGHT at Narraguagus High School was a busy and eventful evening. This special occasion offered many options that aided in information and resources that families need to know in order to help their child achieve and further their education. The college going process is not easy, but NHS is an educational facility that will go the extra mile to help families make that process more understandable and achievable.

Special thanks go out to Cory Fleming, GEAR UP Liaison, for the personal invite. It is a personal goal of mine that I encourage as many students and parents as possible to further their education. I witnessed a community and a school come together for the well-being of our future and I can't express enough how important it is for this to happen. Studies prove that students who have support will achieve higher goals in life. NHS is one high school that has this figured out. Another tip that NHS is aware of...food will recruit a crowd. Did I mention the cake? I had two pieces!

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