

# Higher Education

## Getting Ready for College is First Step

By Lee Martinez

When and where do I apply? When should I start taking the ACT and/or SAT? Why should I go? These are some questions most seniors and juniors need answered.

When picking a college you should pick one that will fit you well. You will have better success this way.

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade year is when your record starts as to what career will be right for you and what college you want to attend. You can't be failing math and then try to become an engineer.

You should start applying as soon as you know what college or university you want to go to. The counselors recommend that each senior apply to three colleges.

Apply to one that you know you will get into, another just in case, and finally, to one that is near home. You never know what might happen to you between now and graduation.

College application fees range from \$20-\$60. UTPB is the only university that Coach Doege knows that doesn't require this fee.

ACT's and SAT's are best taken immediately after your junior year. The content that both of these assessment exams cover is finished by 11<sup>th</sup> grade. When seeking a degree in college, you must take the ACT and/or SAT. When a student is going to college to earn a certification, then the ACT or SAT doesn't have to be taken in most cases.

"The saying is that college graduates make

\$1,000,000 more during a lifetime than a student that didn't graduate college," Doege said. "If that is important to you, then college is important. One's career choice can become limited without college."

Now that you know how to prepare yourself for college, you need to know what to bring with you. When heading off to college you should be prepared to bring all the things you will need to survive the college life.

One of the most important things that are needed for the college life is an alarm. Teachers won't call you in college if you are late or absent. The more you miss, the worse your grade. Failing a class means paying for it again. Sleeping late and missing class is like throwing money away.

When living in a dorm you will need clothes, pictures of family and friends, a television, and some furniture. Also a fan, to keep cool on those hot summer days, an ironing board, medicines, and other essentials you may need to survive the college life.

A lot of things have changed when packing for college. Electronics have come a long way since the 80's and 90's. Years ago they didn't have all the essentials we do now. Nowadays all you need is a laptop to do all your work, have your music, and pictures of the family and friends.

"There weren't any computers, laptops, or calculators when I went," says

Coach Murray. "I made sure I had my alarm."

In addition to the materials necessities, most MHS teachers recommend taking the proper mindset to college.

"You need to take a work ethic with you," Coach Burns said. Mrs. Linton agreed, saying that being free doesn't mean slacking off. "Keep your mind set on your purpose of being there," Linton said. "Be prepared to do your best and get your

education rather than just partying and playing."

While college seems like a long time, it is in reality a very short period of your life. However, it is a very important time.

"Four or five years will pass no matter what you do," Coach Clay said. "You might as well go to class and get your degree. There is always time at night and on the weekends to enjoy the college life. During the day, go to class."

## Parker Leads the Softball Troops

By Lee Martinez

Coach Michael David Parker, a Chemistry Teacher and a Softball Coach, was born

Parker attended Oklahoma State University. He is married to Sherri and has 3 children. The oldest is Ryan (14), middle is Bailey (11), and the youngest is Denton (8).

Coach Parker said hobbies are hard to come by since they require spare time.

"Spare time?" Parker

asked. "That doesn't exist. I coach and have 3 kids."

After coaching around the state, Parker says he loves West Texas, Monahans, and MHS.

"I've worked in three other high schools and the grass is definitely greener here," Parker said.



in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 24, 1971 and went to Skiatook High School.

While at Skiatook he was in band, football, and baseball. Parker's favorite memory from high school is winning state every year in the FFA Farm Structures Contest and being Valedictorian.