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HILTON

Attending the
College of Her
Third Choice!



KEITH O. HILTON

Recently I had a follow-up conversation with the family of an incoming college student. During the spring, this student applied to three colleges.

Her first choice was a prestigious west coast liberal arts college. Her second choice was a highly selective private midwestern liberal arts college and her third choice was a mid sized west coast state university.

In my opinion, these institutions have strong reputations and would be solid choices, provided there are sufficient multi-cultural and African centered support programs in place to complement classroom study.

Her mother informed me that although her daughter (let's call her Nairobi) was accepted to all three schools, finances dictated that Nairobi would be attending school number three (the state school) in the fall.

"Nairobi," her mother lamented, "was very disappointed that the other two schools did not offer better financial packages. It seems as if we are being punished for being middle class."

Previously, I had directed Nairobi to several resource people, including a colleague who was director of financial aids at another institution.

They were able to find some money, but not nearly enough this time to make a significant dent in the monetary mound that stood in her way. A major portion of her expenses would have to be provided by her parents.

The decision, therefore, was to enroll in the state university and get the very best education possible.

In four years, graduate school will be the next hurdle and Nairobi should once again be positioned to pick and choose her institution. In the interim, she will also do her "homework" about financing future graduate studies.

Will she attend another state institution or this time a private school? It is likely that the overall cost of attending a private college will again be greater than that of a public institution.

Is there a difference in the quality of these two types of schools? Let's see, Harvard, Howard, New York University, Chicago and Stanford are privates. The university of North Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin and UC-Berkley are publics. These are ten pretty good high visibility schools.

We suggest that Nairobi not limit herself to just high profile schools because there are other solid alternatives. For example, Pace, Selma, Fisk, Ferrum and Occidental are private colleges while Temple, SUNNY-Buffalo, South Carolina State, Wayne State and UC-Riverside are publics. Also ten strong institutions of higher learning.

To those students who are or will be attending schools of their second, third or even fourth choice, please take it from this guy who

has attended both public and private institutions, "Take it one step at a time."

"Get that undergraduate education where ever you can (however and whenever). We are going to need your expertise, short term and long range. We know that you will quickly get over any immediate disappointments. JUST DO IT (as one popular commercial likes to

say)."

P.S. In the future, we will periodically give updates on Nairobi's collegiate career. We sincerely wish her the very best.

HILTON HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk. (909) 899-0650.

EDUCATION

MANY VARIABLES TO AFFECT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS AND TEACHER RELOCATION

With a record-breaking variety of attendance options in the Clark County School District, in addition to continued growth and movement over the summer, it's likely that actual enrollment at some schools will vary from projections.

When enrollment falls too far below or above projections, then teachers must be relocated to account for the difference.

With so many variables this school year, more teachers probably will be relocated than in past years, according to district officials. The variety of attendance options, what appears to be a good number of new residents moving into the district over the summer, and families who moved within the district over the summer all will affect projections, said Barbara Snider, assistant director of demographics and zoning.

"We're trying some new things in Clark County that we've never tried before," said Snider. "We've attempted to get people to declare where they want their children to attend, but people change their minds. It causes more uncertainty than we've ever had before because there are so many more options."

New programs this year are many. They include: Prime 6 schools, the first major revision of the sixth grade center desegregation plan which also opens up attendance options for West Las Vegas students; two secondary magnet programs, the Las Vegas Academy of International Studies and Performing Arts and the Academy of Math, Science, Engineering and Applied Technology at Clark High School; and the first elementary magnet

school program, Mabel Hoggard Math/Science Magnet School.

In addition, Snider said, "With all these new jobs coming open, it would suggest to us that we'll have an influx coming into the district." Snider's office, which closely monitors growth, said local utilities are reporting many new residential hook-ups. Her office also has been receiving numerous phone calls from people new to the district. She said the frequency and type of calls is reminiscent of the 1989-90 school year, when Clark County grew by 9.1 percent over

the summer.

An estimated 141,980 students are expected to enroll in the district this school year, an increase of approximately 4.3 percent from the previous year.

As they always do, Snider's office and the divisions of elementary and secondary education will keep an eye on enrollments during the early weeks of classes, and will be in contact with schools in high-growth areas. Among the areas of concern are Summerlin, other sections of western Las Vegas, the north central part of the valley

near Craig Road and the southern part of Green Valley.

The district's personnel division oversees the relocation of teachers, which usually takes place in mid- to late September. Generally, schools with enrollment figures under projection will lose teachers, while those with higher-than-projected enrollment stand to gain teachers.

Meanwhile, officials are asking parents, students and district staff to be patient as necessary adjustments are made to accommodate a changing, growing district.

STUDENT DRESS, GROOMING EXPECTED TO MEET "COMMUNITY STANDARDS"

As children and their parents head to the stores to stock up on the latest back-to-school fashions, they are reminded that Clark County School District students must meet certain dress and grooming standards.

The district, according to regulation 5131, "reserves the right to insist that the dress and grooming of students are within the limits of generally accepted community standards." It is excepted that students' dress, personal appearance and conduct "be of such character as not to disrupt or detract from the educational environment of the school."

School principals have the right to designate what types of dress, fashion, fads or appearance disrupt or detract from the educational program, or

may be a potential safety hazard. Although principals have latitude in enforcing the regulation, there are some specific requirements and prohibitions. Among specific requirements, students must wear shoes with soles, shirts or blouses appropriately buttoned and with the length extending beyond the belt level, and attire that is hemmed or rolled up and at least fingertip length.

Prohibited items include transparent or see-through tops, strapless or low-cut clothing, clothing with slits, hats (except as part of a school-approved uniform), and slogans or advertising on clothing "which by their controversial or obscene nature disrupt the education setting."

Copies of the district's regulation may be obtained from school offices.

CLARK COUNTY YOUTH ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER EARLY FOR SCHOOL

Students who have not yet registered for school may do so beginning August 9 at schools throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

Students who are new to Clark County or families who

have moved during the summer may call the school district's Demographics and Zoning Department at 799-7573 to determine which school their child should attend. Then parents should call the school to determine the best time to register their child because registration hours may vary slightly among schools.

Parents who are registering students new to the Clark County School District are required to

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bring two proofs of residence, the child's birth certificate and immunization records.

Parents are reminded that Nevada law requires children to be five years old by September 30 to attend kindergarten and six years old by September 30 to attend first grade. Kindergarten attendance in Nevada is not mandatory.

A back-to-school publication, The Reporter, is available for families new to the Clark County School District. Copies may be obtained by calling the district's Public Information Office at 799-5304, or copies are available at all Clark County library branches.

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