

# Guidance News!!!



**September 2018**

This newsletter can also be found at [www.brandywinebobcats.org](http://www.brandywinebobcats.org). Just click on the student link and select Counseling

## **Scholarships**

- **College Scholarships**  
Scholarships are available from individual colleges. Be sure to check with the college of your choice for financial aid opportunities.
- **Mensa Scholarship**  
The Mensa Foundation essay scholarship program requires students to write a 550 word essay describing their career, vocational, or academic goals. This scholarship is worth \$650 at the local level and \$1,000 if you make it to the national level in the competition. Go to [www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships) for an application. The deadline is **January 15<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Questbridge**  
QuestBridge connects high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds with scholarship opportunities at some of the nation's best colleges and universities. More than 1,500 QuestBridge National College Match applicants were admitted to their partner colleges with generous financial aid last year, and 310 of these students received a full scholarship. The College Match application is due **on September 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please also note that it is free to apply just go to [www.questbridge.org](http://www.questbridge.org).
- **UNCF Scholarship Program**  
This foundation awards over 10,000 scholarships to minority students from low and moderate income families. Go to <http://www.uncf.org> to check out all of the scholarship opportunities.
- **Coca-Cola Scholarship Program**  
Coca-Cola Scholarships are awarded based on character, personal merit and commitment. Merit is demonstrated through leadership in school, civic and extracurricular activities, academic achievement, and motivation to serve and succeed. You can apply online at [www.coca-colascholars.org](http://www.coca-colascholars.org). Two hundred and fifty high school students will receive either a \$20,000 scholarship. Application deadline is **October 31<sup>st</sup>**.

- **Wendy's Heisman Award**  
The Wendy's High School Heisman is the high school awards program that recognizes student scholar athletes and their accomplishments. One male and one female student are honored during ESPN's national telecast of the college Heisman Memorial Trophy presentation. Each National Winner receives a Wendy's High School Heisman trophy, a Heisman patch, and a \$10,000 monetary award for their High School. The two National Winners will also receive a \$500 Wendy's gift card. Eligible students are: high school seniors, have at least a 3.0 GPA, and participated in at least one school-sponsored, extracurricular sport. Go to [www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com](http://www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com) to apply. The deadline is **October 17<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Horatio Alger Scholarship Application**  
The Horatio Alger Scholarship is given to students who demonstrate integrity, perseverance, strength of character, financial need, and a good academic record. To apply you must have a GPA of at least a 2.0. For more information and for an application go to <http://scholars.horatioalger.org>. The deadline is **October 25<sup>th</sup>**.
- **AES Scholarship**  
AES believes that achieving a high grade point average should not be the only criteria for determining who deserves to be helped. For that reason they are offering a scholarship that will be awarded on the basis of character, as determined by evaluated the essays that are submitted. The deadline for this \$500 scholarships is **October 6<sup>th</sup>**. Go to <http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm> to learn how to apply.
- **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards**  
If you've made a difference by volunteering in your community over the past year, you could win \$1,000 and a trip to Washington D.C. Prudential would like to celebrate your volunteerism by offering several \$1,000 scholarships. If you are interested you can go to <http://spirit.prudential.com> for an application. When asked for the access key, type the word **spirit**. The deadline is **November 6<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Lakeland Health Care Volunteer Scholarship**  
If you have at least a 3.0 GPA and would like to pursue a career in health care then this scholarship is for you. If you get 100 hours of community service at Lakeland Hospital you could apply for this \$3,000 renewable scholarship. Call 269-985-4548 or visit [www.lakelandhealth.org/volunteer](http://www.lakelandhealth.org/volunteer) for more information!
- **John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest**  
The JFK Library Foundation invites high school students to write an original essay on the political courage of a U.S. elected Official. The first place winner will receive \$10,000! Go to [www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org) for more information. The deadline for submission is **January 18<sup>th</sup>**.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **College Fair At LMC**

LMC will be hosting a college fair on **Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00p.m.-7:30 p.m. at their Benton Harbor Campus in the Mendel Center. Over 60 colleges will be there!

### **College Night At SMC**

SMC will be hosting a college night at their Dowagiac Campus in the Student Activity Center on **Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30-8:00p.m. Sixty colleges and universities will be represented.

### **St. Joseph County College Fair**

There will be a huge college fair at the Century Center in South Bend on **Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** Approximately 80 colleges, universities, two-year schools, and the military will be there.

### **SENIOR MEETING**

There will be a meeting for all seniors and their parents on **Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.** in the school library. We will be discussing important information about the senior year.

### **Financial Aid Meeting**

**A financial aid meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in school library for all seniors and their parents.** At this meeting we will be discussing how to fill out the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and answer any questions you may have about financial aid and the FAFSA form.

### **FAFSA Meeting**

**We will be having a meeting on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the library computer lab** to help students and their parents complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) form. **ALL STUDENTS WHO PLAN TO GO TO COLLEGE SHOULD FILL OUT THIS FORM,** even if you don't think you'll qualify for any financial aid. This form is often required to apply for scholarships that are available from the high school and colleges. **YOU SHOULD NEVER PAY TO COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA! IT'S A FREE FORM!** This event is for all seniors and their parents. Students and parents should bring 2015 financial information with them.

### **ACT and SAT**

If you need to take the ACT or SAT Test you can register online. For the ACT go to **[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)** and for the SAT go to **[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)**. If you receive free/reduced lunch or if you're a member of ETS you could take these tests for free! For the SAT we also have fee waivers for unlimited score reports. Contact Mrs. Roeder for details or for help registering.

## **Additional Information**

### **Test Scores**

If you do not wish to have your test scores on your transcript, please contact the Counseling Office.

### **Online College Applications**

If you have applied to colleges online by filling out online applications be sure to print off the School Counselor portion of the application. You should turn this portion of the application in to the Counseling Office so that we can send your transcripts to the colleges.

Request transcripts through Parchment. You should have received a copy of your Parchment registration code. If you need another copy, see Mrs. Roeder.

### **NCAA Clearinghouse**

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II athletics, you must be certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse. It is your responsibility to make sure the Clearinghouse has the documents it needs to certify you. These documents are: Your NCAA application, your official transcript sent electronically using Parchment, and your ACT or SAT scores mailed directly from the test company. You can apply online at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). See Mrs. Roeder if you have questions.

### **Testing Out of A Class?**

Any senior trying to test out of a class must do so by Thanksgiving Break. Talk to your counselor if you have any questions.

### **College Applications**

All seniors who are planning on going to college should have their college applications submitted by **Thanksgiving Break**. The Counseling Office has applications from a variety of different colleges. You may also apply to most colleges on-line.

### **College Visitation**

A junior or senior may take up to two DNR college visitations per year. A visitation may be approved for more than one day for distant locations with counselor approval. College visitation days must be approved by the counselor 3 days prior to the visitation date. Pick up forms for such visits in the Counseling Office.

### **Job Shadowing**

You may take up to two DNR job shadowing days per year. These days provide a great opportunity to check out careers that interest you. Job shadowing days must be approved by the counselor 3 days prior to the actual job shadowing date. Pick up forms for such visits in the Counseling Office.

### **Andrews University Center for Reading, Learning, and Assessment**

Are you struggling in school and don't know why? Do you need a little extra help? Andrews University offers academic testing to help identify reading challenges, one-on-one tutoring, and many other services. For more information call 269-471-3480.

## **A senior "to do" list for the fall:**

1. Make sure that you have all the information necessary to apply to colleges of your choice.
2. You are going to need letters of recommendation, start-identifying people who can speak highly of you.
3. Surf the web for scholarships and financial aid information.
4. Take campus tours of colleges that you are interested in attending.
5. Update your calendar with all application and financial aid deadlines.
6. Make sure that all transcripts and test scores have been sent to colleges you have selected by using Parchment.com.
7. Prepare applications and have family, friends, and your counselor look them over.
8. If you have selected a college already, submit your applications as early as possible.
9. Find out if your selected colleges have financial aid orientation and also check with them to see if they have any scholarships that you may want to apply for.
10. Tak/retake appropriate tests: SAT, ACT, etc...

## **FAFSA Guide**

### **What is the FAFSA?**

**FAFSA** stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government uses it to determine your eligibility for federal aid, which includes grants, work-study, scholarships and loans. The form collects financial and demographic data. FAFSA on the Web is an Internet-based version of the paper application form. You must file this form every year in order to be eligible for State and Federal financial aid. **ALL STUDENTS WHO PLAN TO GO TO COLLEGE SHOULD FILL OUT THIS FORM**, even if you don't think you'll qualify for any financial aid. This form is often required to apply for other scholarships that are available from the high school and colleges. **This form is due on March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### **Where do you get the FAFSA?**

- Download or complete the FAFSA on the Web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- If you completed the FAFSA last year, you may receive a Renewal FAFSA through the regular mail or a link via e-mail
- If you need a paper version of the FAFSA you may call 1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4-FED-AID)

### **How does it work?**

Using your FAFSA, the federal processor determines your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), or the amount of money your family can be expected to contribute to your college costs each year. The College Administration will try to meet your needs through a financial aid award made up of funds from federal, state, institutional and private sources as well as grants, student employment and loans.

### **Completing the FAFSA**

Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible (application opens on October 1<sup>st</sup>)! Grants and other scholarships are granted based on a FAFSA submission date of **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. **Submit the FAFSA even if you don't think you qualify for aid. Sometimes being rejected for federal aid is a prerequisite for receiving other forms of awards or student loans.**

### **After You Have Completed the FAFSA**

- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) carefully. The SAR is proof that your FAFSA was received. You should receive it 4-6 weeks after you submit a paper FAFSA and 1-2 weeks if filed electronically. If you find any errors, report them to the Financial Aid Office and as how you should make corrections.
- Call the federal processor at 800-433-3243 if you do not receive your paper SAR in 4-6 weeks. Be ready to provide your name, SS# and date of birth for verification.

### **How do I fill it out?**

Visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and click "Before beginning a FAFSA" to get started.

If you want a paper copy to use as a guide, use the online FAFSA worksheet, not a regular paper FAFSA. To download a copy, click "Print a FAFSA On The Web Worksheet." Also, print a completed FAFSA for your records!

## **Online Help**

**Big Future:** [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org) is a great site for researching colleges and financial aid.

**Cappex:** A free website where you can learn which colleges want you, before you apply and learn about more than \$11 billion in merit aid scholarships. Just go to [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com).

**Career Cruising:** [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) is a career exploration and planning tool that you can use to explore career and college options and to develop a career plan. If you need your password/ID stop in and see Mrs. Roeder. Check it out!

**CHEGG.com:** [www.chegg.com](http://www.chegg.com) has information on over \$1.9 billion dollars in scholarships! You can also research colleges from this site.

**Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation:** Educational and scholarship opportunities for students of all levels. Just go to <http://www.cksf.org>.

**FastWeb:** [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) “find your dream college” by using this website. You can also do scholarship searches.

**FinAid:** Visit [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) for comprehensive and current information on athletic scholarships and much more.

**Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA):** To find out more information about the FAFSA form visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). This form must be filed in order to receive most State and Federal financial aid. You can not file this form until October of your Senior year.

**FAFSA 4caster:** [www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA4caster.ed.gov) is a financial aid estimator that you can use before officially applying for financial aid using the FAFSA.

**Good Call:** Go to <https://www.goodcall.com/scholarships> for an outstanding scholarship search!

**KnowHow2GOMichigan:** [www.KnowHow2GO.org](http://www.KnowHow2GO.org) helps students plan for college.

**My Scholly:** This is a great app or website that can help link you up with 100's of different scholarship. Just go to <https://myscholly.com> or download that app on your phone.

**Pathfinder:** This website helps you explore careers, schools and programs in Michigan to find the path that is right for you. Just go to <https://pathfinder.mitalent.org/>.

**Peterson's Undergraduate Channel:** [www.Petersons.com](http://www.Petersons.com) provides information and tools that will help you prepare, search, and pay for college.

**Scholarship America:** Provides information and resources for your scholarship searchers. Just go to [www.scholarshipamerica.com](http://www.scholarshipamerica.com).

**Scholarships.com:** Go to [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) for a free college scholarship search and financial aid information.

**Student Aid:** [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) is a great website from the federal government that contains a lot of college/financial aid information.