

Guidance News!!!



October 2018

This newsletter can also be found at www.brandywinebobcats.org.
Just click on the student link and select Counseling

Scholarships:

- **AXA Achievement Scholarship**

In order to apply for this scholarship you must be a current high school senior who plans to enroll full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college or university. You must also demonstrate ambition and self-drive as evidenced by outstanding achievement in school, community or work-related activities. Scholarship amounts range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 dollars! The application deadline is **December 14th**. Go to <https://us.axa.com/axa-foundation/about.html> for more information and to apply.

- **William G. Coyne Credit Union ONE**

This scholarship is for seniors who will complete 30 or more hours of documented, qualified community service during Junior/Senior year of high school, are a member or has a family member that has belonged to Credit Union ONE for a minimum of 6 months in good standing, have a cumulative high school grade point average of 3.0 or above. Go to <http://www.cuone.org/about/scholarships.aspx> for an application. Application deadline is **April 1st**.

- **Voice of Democracy**

Students compete by writing and recording a broadcast script on a patriotic theme that is chosen by the VFW. Students compete for more than \$2.5 million in scholarships, with the top scholarship of \$30,000. All entries must be turned into the local VFW post before midnight **on October 31st**. Go to the www.vfw.org and then click on community and then select Youth and Education for more information.

- **Elks National Foundation 2018 Most Valuable Student Scholarship**
The Elks National Foundation provides more than \$3.7 million in scholarships each year. To be eligible for this scholarship you must be a high school senior and a U.S. citizen. **Applications are due by November 15th.** Applications can be completed at <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/MVS.cfm>.
- **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 for an application. The deadline is **January 15th**.
- **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. Two hundred and fifty high school students will receive either a \$20,000 scholarship. Application deadline is **October 31st**.
- **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 to apply. The deadline is **October 17th**.
- **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 25th**.
- **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 6th**. 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 6th**.

- **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 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 for more information. The deadline for submission is **January 18th**.

Upcoming Events:

St. Joseph County College Fair

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

Financial Aid Meeting

A financial aid meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17th 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 14th 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 and for the SAT go to 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:

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. **YOU CAN BEGIN FILLING OUT THE FAFSA ON OCTOBER 1ST.**

Where do you get the FAFSA?

- Download or complete the FAFSA on the Web at 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! Grants and other scholarships are granted based on a FAFSA submission date. **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.**

How do I fill it out?

Visit 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!

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 have questions.

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. 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 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.

Selective Service Registration

All males are required to register with the Selective Service when they turn 18. If you don't register you will not be able to apply for federal student grants or loans for college. Go to www.sss.gov to register today!!

College Applications

All seniors who are planning on going to college should have their college applications submitted by **NOVEMBER 1ST**. The Counseling Office has applications from a variety of different colleges. You may also apply to most colleges on-line.

Early decision plans:

- Students can apply to only one early decision college.
- If the college accepts a student and offers them enough financial aid, they must go to that college. That's why these plans are referred to as "binding."

- Some colleges have two early deadlines, called "early decision deadline I" and "early decision deadline II." They work the same way, but the second deadline gives students more time to decide whether to apply early.
- Although students may apply to other colleges through the regular admission process, they must withdraw all other applications if they're accepted by this college.

Early action plans:

- Students can apply to more than one early action college.
- If they're accepted, they can say yes right away or wait until spring to decide.
- They can also decline the offer.

ONLINE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES

FastWeb: www.fastweb.com "find your dream college" by using this website. You can also do scholarship searches.

Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA): To find out more information about the FAFSA form visit 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 January of your Senior year.

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

KnowHow2GOMichigan: www.KnowHow2GOMichigan.org helps students plan for college.

NCAA Clearinghouse: This website has lots of helpful information for athletes who are interested in participating in sports at a Division I or II college. Visit www.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter for more information.

Scholarships.com: Go to www.scholarships.com to conduct free scholarships searches.

Good Call: Go to www.goodcall.com for an outstanding scholarship search!

College Calculator: <http://netpricecalculator.collegeboard.org> lets you see how much a college or university will really cost you.

College Cost: Collegecost.ed.gov is a great site to go to see how much a specific college will cost.

College Navigator: nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator is where you want to go to learn more information about a college that you have in mind.

You Visit: youvisit.com is where you want to go to take a virtual college tour.

Campus Tours: Go to www.campustours.com for a virtual tour of the college of your choice.