

SENIOR SCOOP

December 2009

DEADLINES

Seniors with college application deadlines of January 1st must request their transcript and senior sketch via Naviance, & submit \$1.00 to the guidance office **no later than December 3rd**. Transcript requests for January 15th deadlines must be in no later than **December 16th**. Have you requested letters of recommendation from teachers and arranged for your letter to be forwarded to the colleges to which you are applying? **Please remember that during the month of December there are only 3 weeks to process any information and requests you provide your counselor and guidance secretary. Meeting the December 3rd & 16th deadline will ensure the timely delivery of your application materials.** If you have any questions, please visit the guidance office.

Are Your Colleges Requesting Mid-Year Transcripts??

You're in luck! Mid-year transcripts are automatically sent to each school for which you have already submitted a transcript release form. Colleges review your grades throughout the year, so make sure you end first semester with a strong finish! Have questions? Stop by guidance to find out all the answers!

STEPS FOR FINANCIAL AID

✓ Documents Needed

For the 2010-2011 school year, you will need financial information from 2009:

W-2 Forms and other records of money earned; 2009 Federal Income Tax Return - for you and your parents; 2009 untaxed income records - Social Security, TANF, welfare, or veterans benefits records; 2009 bank statements, business and investment records

✓ Pre-Application Worksheet

You can print and complete a FAFSA on the Web Pre-Application Worksheet. You may find the Pre-Application Worksheet is helpful to:

- ❖ Familiarize yourself with the kinds of questions you'll need to answer
- ❖ Familiarize your parents with the required information
- ❖ Remind you of the documents you'll need to complete the online application

✓ Signatures Required

The U.S. Department of Education is required to collect signatures from you and your parents when you file the FAFSA, using your PIN number to sign electronically:

****Both student and parent will need to apply for a PIN. This can be done at the Department of Education's PIN website: www.pin.ed.gov Select "PIN Request and Information" followed by "Apply for PIN"**

✓ Student Eligibility

The Department of Education uses the information provided on your FAFSA to determine your eligibility for aid from the Federal Student Aid (FSA) programs. Once your FAFSA has been processed successfully, you will receive a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR), as will the schools that you identify when completing the FAFSA. Your family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be indicated on your SAR.

✓ Deadlines

In addition to the federal deadlines for filling out a FAFSA, you may also use the FAFSA to apply for aid from other sources, such as your state or college. The deadlines for states or colleges may differ from the federal deadlines, and you may be required to complete additional forms.

Check with your high school guidance counselor or a financial aid administrator at your college about state and college sources of student aid.

You don't need to file your tax return before you submit your FAFSA!!

Filling out your tax return first will make completing the FAFSA easier. However, it is okay to estimate on your FAFSA in order to meet priority financial aid deadlines if your parent's or your tax return is not completed. Once you file your tax return, be sure to correct your Student Aid Report (SAR) with any income or tax information that may have changed from your original FAFSA estimate.

Still Need Teacher Recommendations?

The procedure for requesting a Teacher Letter of Recommendation has changed slightly. The form below is now required when you request a Teacher Letter. The form is available in the guidance office and via this link: <http://staff.orcsd.org/shared/hs-guidance/Teacher%20Rec%20Supplemental%20Info.pdf>. You must fill out one form for each teacher whom you are asking for a letter.

A few tips for answering the 5 self-reflection questions:

- The questions are specific to the class(es) that you completed with the teacher.
- Try to think of a project or unit that you feel demonstrated who you are as a student. Did you show growth during the length of the course? If so, how?
- What do you want colleges to know about you as a student?

Remember that you must provide **at least 15 school days notice** when requesting a letter of recommendation!

If you have already requested a letter of recommendation from your teacher and provided the requested information, you do not need to complete the form. Please stop by the Guidance Office with any questions.

Supplemental Information for Teacher Recommendation

Student Name: _____

Dear _____:

Thank you for agreeing to write my letter of recommendation. I appreciate the time and effort it takes to write this type of letter. I will be sure to keep you updated on my college plans. Thank you!

I am applying to the following schools:

College Name	I will be sending my application materials out by this date	Common App School? Y or N
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Proposed college major: _____

I completed the following course(s) with you: _____

I received the following grade(s) with you: _____

I have provided you with comments on the following self-reflection questions:

- * What distinguishes me from the other students in your class?
- * What contributions have I made to your class and how have I made a difference?
- * What 2 or 3 words capture me as a student in the classroom?
- * What skills have I demonstrated in your class that would prove helpful in college?
- * How have I balanced the many demands on my time during high school from work, sports, school activities, etc.?

Sending Materials:

_____. You have indicated to me that you would like to submit your recommendation **online**, if available. I will provide you with the required information to do so.

_____. You have indicated to me that you would like to submit your recommendation materials **via the regular mail**. I have enclosed a stamped, addressed envelope for each school for your convenience in mailing out my information.

Don't Get Scammed! Don't Get Scammed!

Look for these warning signs that a scholarship may be a scam!

1. "This scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
2. "You can't get this information anywhere else."
3. "May I have your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship?"
4. "We'll do all the work."
5. "The scholarship will cost you some money."
6. "You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship" or "You're a finalist in a contest."

Keep in mind that no one can guarantee to get you a grant or scholarship. Many free lists of scholarships are available. Check out www.finaid.org. Get all the information about a scholarship in writing. You must apply for the scholarships and grants yourself! Don't pay anyone who claims to have access to a scholarship for you. Make sure the foundation or program sponsoring the scholarship is legitimate.

Scholarship Search Websites

www.fastweb.com
www.srnexpress.com
www.collegenet.com
www.collegelink.com
www.scholarships.com

Financial Aid Websites

www.fafsa.ed.gov (FAFSA)
www.collegeboard.org (PROFILE)
www.finaid.org
www.nhheaf.org
www.state.nh.us/postsecondary

Share your Good news with Guidance!

We need copies of your acceptance letters for information used for graduation. Please share your good news!

Scholarships in Guidance

Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship	December 11, 2009	Information in Guidance
Cumberland Farms Scholarship	December 15, 2009	https://cumberlandfarms.scholarshipamerica.org
NFIB Young Entrepreneur Foundation Scholarship	December 31, 2009	Information in Guidance
Juniata College Scholarship for students hoping to attend Juniata College	January 2, 2010	Information in Guidance
Burger King Scholars	February 1, 2010	Information in Guidance
KFC Colonel's Scholarship	February 10, 2010	http://www.kfcscholars.org
Dr. Seuss's Oh, the Places You'll Go! College Scholarship	February 15, 2010	Information in Guidance
University of Dayton Leadership in Service Scholarship for students hoping to attend University of Dayton	February 15, 2010	Information in Guidance
Keep Sound Minds Scholarship	February 28, 2010	www.keepersoundminds.org
The Janice M. Scott Memorial Scholarship Fund	March 31, 2010	Information in Guidance
NH Retired Education Association Scholarship	May 1, 2010	Information in Guidance
Morgridge Family Opportunity Scholarship for students hoping to attend Plymouth State University	May 15, 2010	http://plymouth.edu/development/docs/MFOApplication.pdf
Abbott and Fenner Scholarship	June 19, 2010	http://www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm
BigSun Scholarship	June 24, 2010	http://www.bigsunathletics.com