**Guidance Notes November 2020**

**College Application Deadlines:**

Reminder for Seniors…College applications need to be completed in a timely manner, especially if you are: attending a four year college (versus a community college), applying for a competitive program, or plan on receiving any type of scholarship assistance from that college. Some colleges have priority deadlines of Nov. 1st. Please see Mrs. Hardiek for assistance.

**Financial Aid/FAFSA (Seniors)**

Seniors, November is designated as Financial Aid Month! If you plan on attending any type of College or Vocational School, the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) needs to be completed if you plan on receiving any type of financial assistance. Please keep in mind, the FAFSA is required for graduation unless you complete a waiver. Please make sure you are going to the correct web site to complete the application; it is [**www.fafsa.ed.gov**](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**.** Deadline for application is usually based on a first come, first serve basis. On several occasions, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission suspended the MAP Grant seven to eight weeks after the opening date because the state ran out of money. Consequently, the suspension date for this year could be by the end of November or early December. Please see Mrs. Hardiek for questions or assistance.

**Scholarships, Scholarships, Scholarships!!** Most seniors will probably be tired of this word by the end of the year. WHY? Because scholarships take a lot of time and effort. First of all, what is a scholarship? According to the dictionary, a scholarshipisa grant of financial aid awarded to a student, as for the purpose of attending a college. Students usually must meet a certain criteria such as a specific grade point average, participate in community service, or write an essay on a given topic.

The Guidance Counselor receives a variety of scholarship opportunities in her office on a monthly basis. These scholarships are posted in the monthly Guidance Notes. Students can also do their own **scholarship search.** Some useful sites include [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com) or [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). These and additional search sites can also be accessed at Mrs. Hardiek’s Homepage. Colleges have their own scholarships, as well. It is the student’s responsibility to be informed on College scholarships by attending college presentations here at school, visiting the college of their choice, visiting that college’s web-site, etc.

 **Need some tips on how to write a great scholarship essay?**

* Share something personable, reveal something about yourself, and/or talk about your experiences. They call this sharing a slice of your life. For example: when listing community service at a inner city soup kitchen, bring that experience to life and talk about the people you met and how it may have changed you.
* Use memorable quotes to spice up your essay. Recent statistics or a moment in history are good ideas, too.
* Remember the “hook” when starting your essay. Right away, you want to find a way to hook your audience. It could be a question, a quote, a personal story, etc.
* Organization, neatness, proper grammar and sentence structure are a must!
* Look at your verbs and adjectives in the essay. Do they bring your story to life?
* Ask yourself: What sets your essay apart from the crowd? How is it unique like no other?

**Career Awareness**

The Guidance Department is hosting a **Career Awareness Week** for the Sophomores. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a career interest assessment, take part in a career awareness activity, research their career on-line, and write a paper on a career that interests them the most.

**College Open House Dates**

Just a reminder for juniors and seniors. Area colleges will be hosting their 2nd Open House Day in November. This is an excellent way of finding out more about a college, specific programs, financial aid, scholarships, etc. Some colleges are doing a virtual Open House and some are in person. If you are interested, contact the Guidance Office to reserve a spot or to get additional information. Most colleges are hosting their 2nd Open House Day around Veteran’s Day (Nov.11th). Lakeland College is hosting virtual visits and in person on most days. SIU Edwardsville is hosting a Virtual Open House on Nov.2nd and Dec. 7th for Nursing and Nov 9th for anyone.

**Scholarships**

**eCampusTours.com**

* Go to [www.ecampustours.com](http://www.ecampustours.com) and simply register your name
* Students can win $1000. No deadline.

**Sixth Scholarship Program**

* Must have at least a 3.7 GPA
* Go to [www.sixt.com/sixt-scholars/](http://www.sixt.com/sixt-scholars/)
* Financial need and School/community involvement is considered
* Looking for Entrepreneurs of tomorrow
* Awards are $5000 each
* Must be submitted by Nov. 30th.

**National Trail Conference (Area Award)**

* One senior boy and girl is nominated (must have at least a 3.2 GPA)
* The student must have completed at least 2 varsity seasons during their junior and senior year (one sport each of the two years or two sports their senior year)
* A 300 word essay is required
* Two awards will be given, $1000 each
* Must be submitted to **Guidance** by Nov. 24th.

**South Central FS (Area)**

* Must pursue an agriculture related career
* Must describe Ag related projects or leadership programs, etc.
* Must commit to working for them for 2 years
* Covers full tuition for two years
* Must be postmarked by Nov. 30th.

**Lamber Goodnow**

* Essay required: “Tell us how you are driven to innovate, how you plan to influence progress, or how you have affected positive change with creative thinking
* Go to <https://lambergoodnow.com/scholarships/>
* Awards are $1000 each
* Must be submitted by Dec. 1st.

**Burger King**

* Must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher
* Must work anywhere, 15 hours a week
* Go to <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/all/burger-king-scholars-award/1794> for an application
* Many Students can win at least $1000
* Must be submitted by Dec. 15th.

**Lake Land College (Must attend Lake Land)**

* Based on an online application that asks about career goals, making your family/community a better place, and describing a significant change or experience in your life
* Go to [www.lakelandcollege.edu/scholarship-opportunities/](http://www.lakelandcollege.edu/scholarship-opportunities/). Click on “Laker Hub Login”
* Over 500 awards, some as high as $1500
* Application period opens Nov, 1st –Feb. 1st.

**Kassy Fulk Memorial Scholarship (Local)**

* Applicant must be in the top 40% of his/her class
* Looking for someone who is well-rounded, outgoing, has leadership skills, personal integrity, and self-initiative/drive. Financial need considered, as well.
* Essay required describing career goals, etc.
* Award is $1000
* Turn in to Guidance by Dec. 3rd.

**Sandra R. Stine Health Physical Education (Local)**

* Must be in the top 50% of his/her class
* Essay required explaining why you have chosen the Health/Physical education field
* Award is $500
* Submit to Guidance by Dec. 3rd.

**CBAI Banking (Local)**

* Essay required: “Why is a trusted partner such as a community bank so valuable to have during the global pandemic”?
* Awards as high as $4000, A Brownstown student could win up to $500.
* Turn into Guidance by Dec. 17th.