

Senior Newsletter



September 2017

From The Counselor's Office

Welcome back to school, seniors!! This will be a great year full of fun and excitement! During this time of year, you should be taking some very important steps in preparing for college. You have already met the LEARN Counselor, Mrs. Villareal, when she gave her initial presentation. She will be returning to campus once a month, starting on September 19th, to meet with each of you at your scheduled time.

One of the most important things you need to be doing **RIGHT NOW** is registering to take the ACT, SAT or both...as soon as possible!! You need these scores for college entrance purposes as well as for scholarships. Some colleges set score requirements that allow you automatic acceptance. Some colleges automatically award academic scholarships based on your scores. In other words, if your scores meet their requirements, you don't have to worry about whether or not they will accept you, and you could receive scholarships without even applying for them! Mrs. Schaap and I will be working with you next week to get you registered to take the ACT on October 28th. We hope to have as many seniors from Smyer testing on that day as possible.

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are many websites that use the information you provide to find scholarships that match your interests and needs. Here are a just a few you can visit.

Scholarship matching services

www.fastweb.com

www.UCanGo2.org

<http://ScholarshipExperts.com>

www.highfivescholarships.com

www.aie.org

I often receive information about scholarships in the mail. I pass this information on to you through these newsletters, so please take time to read them and get busy applying!!! If I receive hard copies of scholarship applications, I will make those available to you. Some applications you will turn back in to me and others you will mail yourself. Just check the application instructions for submitting it. Please remember it is up to YOU to pick up these applications as they become available.



What do scholarship committees consider?

Scholarship committees consider many different things. Some are unique (race, career interest, creativity, leadership) while other considerations are more common (grades and/or financial need). One thing that has become an important consideration for many scholarships is community service and school involvement. If you want to increase your chances of earning scholarships, make sure you are INVOLVED at school, in the community, at church, etc. Take part in service projects, become an active member in organizations such as Spanish Club, National Honor Society, FCA, FCCLA, etc. Keep a record of the activities in which you participate, including dates and times, past and present! This will help you build a nice scholarship application that just might pay off!

**Enough about scholarships!! (Not really!!)
See more scholarship advice on the back...**

Are you on Facebook?

Are you planning to attend a 4-year university or live in the dorms at a 2-year college?

Consider searching Facebook for a page for your class. For example, if you are going to Texas Tech, search for "Texas Tech Class of 2022". This will give you the chance to meet other students who are coming from many different places to join you as a freshman at that school. You may get to know someone and decide to be roommates!

Scholarships = \$\$\$\$\$\$

Things to keep in mind about scholarships:

- **Sign up for fastweb or other scholarship websites to access lists and receive emails about application opportunities**
- **PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES! Fill out scholarships in the order of when the applications are due.**
- **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION...start getting them NOW (from teachers, coaches, youth ministers, bosses, etc) and keep copies to use for multiple scholarship applications.**
- **ESSAYS...You can often write one good essay, then reuse or tweak it a little for different applications. Ask your English teacher to help revise and edit your essays.**
- **Please report any scholarships you receive to Mrs. Cooke so they can be added to your list of accomplishments that are recognized during the awards ceremony and graduation at the end of the year.**