



FROM THE



COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE

!!!Happy Mardi Gras!!!

Announcements for the week of 02/06/2012

SENIORS: YOU CAN NOW COMPLETE THE FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), THE FORM EVERYONE COMPLETES TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID. This form also serves as the TOPS application. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is a FREE form. If you are prompted to pay for the form, you are on the wrong website! WHAT TO DO ABOUT FINANCIAL AID, THE FAFSA, THE CSS PROFILE. NOW IS THE TIME.

It is now after January 1, 2012 so you can complete the FAFSA and Profile TODAY.

What should you be doing for Financial Aid at this point??? There are TWO needs analysis forms that are part of the financial aid application process. If your student is applying for financial aid at a school that requires the CSS Profile, now is the time to get started with that application. The application and a list of schools that require it can be found at <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp>. The Profile must be completed ONLY if the college requires it. There is a fee for the Profile.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed by EVERYONE who is applying for financial aid. Additionally, the FAFSA serves as the TOPS application. The form cannot be completed until January 1, 2012 and can be found at WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV. DO NOT GO TO www.fafsa.com. Both student and parent will need a PIN.

My best advice is to begin collecting your 2011 tax information as it will be needed when you file the FAFSA as well as the CSS Profile. If you are like most people, especially post-Katrina, you will not have your taxes prepared until April. If this is the case, use estimates from your 2010 tax returns. Additionally, the FAFSA Worksheet is available on the FAFSA website. Finally, feel free to call me if you have any questions.

What you should be doing now that we're beyond January 1, 2012 is completing the FAFSA. Before doing so, complete the worksheet on the FAFSA website. This form can be downloaded.

- You will need the following information to complete the FAFSA. Your parents and your **W2 forms** (employers are required to distribute these forms no later than January 31). Ideally, the FAFSA should be completed after your 2010 income tax forms are completed. BUT, if your and your parents aren't going to complete those forms until near the due date of April 15, you may use estimates from your 2009 income taxes.

- The needs analysis forms (financial aid forms) look much more complicated than they are. Read and follow the instructions in completing the forms. **If you or your parents have questions, PLEASE CALL ME. If I don't know the answer or can't find an answer, I have contacts that will help you.**
- **EACH COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY HAS ITS OWN FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE.** Find out the earliest deadline from among the colleges you are applying to. Complete all financial aid applications by that date.
- If you have an older sibling or a parent in college and either has already applied to financial aid, then your parents already have a PIN. That PIN will be used for your financial aid application.
- **If you are using the FAFSA as your TOPS application (if you're applying to ANY Louisiana schools) make sure to list a Louisiana school first on your FAFSA.**



Seniors and Juniors, don't forget to check which standardized testing is needed for the schools to which to plan application, SAT, SAT + SAT Subject Tests, ACT with writing or ACT with writing + Subject Tests – or are you applying to a school that does not require standardized testing? See www.fairtest.org.

SAT I & SAT Subject TEST DATES AND REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Test Dates	Test	Registration Deadlines	
		Regular	Late
March 10, 2012	SAT only	February 10, 2012	February 24, 2012
May 5, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	April 6, 2012	April 20, 2012
June 3, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	May 9, 2012	May 22, 2012

ACT TEST DATES AND REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline(regular fee)	Late Registration Postmark Deadline Period
February 11, 2012*	January 13, 2012	January 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 18, 2012

If you miss the late registration deadline for ACT or SAT, you may try to take these exams "on standby." See Ms. Flair or Ms. Degrazio for details.

JUNIORS: Interested in some free online standardized test prep?? Try this site: http://www.internet4classrooms.com/enrichment_2011/signup.htm

COLLEGES & PROGRAMS COMING TO YOU

Ochsner STAR Program (Science-Technology-Academics-Research) will host an information session about this wonderful opportunity for students who will be 16 years of age or older by the start of the program.

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Brent House Conference Center, Ochsner Medical Center

1514 Jefferson Highway

Learn about the application process, schedule, and associated costs for this excellent summer high school research opportunity.

http://academics.ochsner.org/uploadedFiles/Education/Knowledge_Management/Community_Outreach/STAR/STAR-2012-Informational-Flyer.pdf

Check your Naviance Account daily as college and university representatives call everyday to schedule their appointments.

PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE ATHLETE? If so, now is the time to complete and submit the NCAA Clearinghouse form.

Anyone considering participation in college athletics MUST submit this form. **We cannot send your transcript through Naviance unless you have registered with the NCAA.** See your counselor or go to

http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Every junior and senior should have started an online scholarship search. Use www.finaid.com, www.fastweb.com, www.collegeanswer.com or any of the many free online searches available.

DEADLINE **The Overture to the Cultural Season** is pleased to announce their annual auditions
FAST scholarship program in the areas of **Creative Writing, Instrumental Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater and**
APPROACHING **Vocal Music.** Students planning to graduate in 2012 and planning to pursue further study in one of the above
areas are encouraged to apply. See Ms. Flair for an application. **The deadline to submit your application is February 17, 2012.**
Auditions will be held March 3, 2012.

DEADLINE **THE LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF FEDERALLY ASSISTED**
FAST **PROGRAMS** is pleased to announce their scholarship program. The purpose of the program is to recognize
APPROACHING high school seniors planning to major in education. To apply for this one-time \$1000 award, see Ms. Flair for a
copy of the application. **The deadline to apply is February 15, 2012.** Three letters of recommendation and an essay are needed
and financial need is considered.

DEADLINE Honoring the legacy and character of our nation's 40th President, **THE GE-REAGAN FOUNDATION**
FAST **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** rewards college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive,
APPROACHING integrity, and citizenship with financial assistance to pursue higher education. Applications for the 2012 GE-
Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program will be accepted online between **November 14, 2011 and February 17, 2012.** Like
President Reagan, candidates use the formative experiences of their youth to lead, serve, and pursue a life of purpose and
significance, both individually and for their communities. Each year, roughly 20 Scholars will receive a \$10,000 scholarship
renewable for an additional three years – up to \$40,000 total per recipient. For more information, go to

DEADLINE **KFC COLONEL'S SCHOLARS** is looking for high school seniors with financial need and an entrepreneurial
FAST spirit to qualify for the **KFC Colonel's Scholar Program.** Awards are up to \$20,000 for tuition, fees, textbooks,
APPROACHING room and board. To qualify, graduating high school seniors must earn a minimum high school cumulative GPA of
2.75, enroll in a public college or university within their state of legal residence, plan to pursue a bachelor's degree, be a U.S. citizen
or permanent resident, and demonstrate financial need. **Online applications will be accepted between December 1, 2011 to**
February 9, 2012 at www.kfcscholars.org. For questions, visit the website or call toll-free 1-866-KFC-7240.

DEADLINE **THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION** is pleased to announce their
FAST annual Co-op Scholarship program. If you are interested in any of the following institutions of higher learning

APPROACHING and have achieved great things in the classroom and community, go to www.co-op.edu for more details. **The deadline to submit your application is February 15, 2012.**

DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING **THE BEST BUY@15 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** is currently open for application. If you are a student who has solid grades and has been involved in community service or work experience, YOU SHOULD APPLY. The **APPROACHING** deadline to apply online is February 15, 2012. Go to: WWW.BESTBUY-COMMUNITYRELATIONS.COM for more information or see Ms. Flair

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY is now accepting applications for ACS Scholars, award program for underrepresented minority students pursuing a college degree in the chemical sciences or chemical technology. Awards of up to \$5,000 are given to African American, Hispanic, or American Indian high school seniors or college freshman, sophomores, or juniors. **Application deadline is March 1, 2012.** Go to http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_SUPERARTICLE&node_id=2031&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1&uuid=cab8d73f-318a-4b73-9c89-b51e197df409 for more information and the application.

Applications are now open for **THE BUICK ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**. Are you a student who is dedicated both in and out of the classroom? Do you drive positive change in the communities? Buick wants to celebrate these students' lives by helping to make college dreams a reality. Don't miss this opportunity to become a Buick Achiever of 2012. Go to <http://www.buickachievers.com/>. **The deadline to apply is February, 29, 2012.**

Each year, **THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA** sponsors scholarships for children of military officers. If you are the child of an officer, go to [www. http://www.moaa.org/Education/](http://www.moaa.org/Education/), register, and apply for the available scholarship funding. **The deadline to apply online is 12:00noon, March 1, 2012.**

ETA PHI BETA SORORITY is pleased to annually award three \$500 scholarships to African American, female seniors planning to major in special education, business or any health related field. They must be planning to attend Dillard, Grambling, Southern Baton Rouge, Southern New Orleans or Xavier. **The application deadline is Friday, March 16, 2012.** See Ms. Flair for an application.

THE BROTHERS OF THE SIGMA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC. and its Scholarship Foundation would like to offer the opportunity to African American male graduating seniors to apply for our 2012 Academic Scholarship Awards. Seven (7) scholarships totaling \$4,500.00 will be awarded to students who apply and meet the criteria listed on the application. Please feel free to contact a representative with any questions either by email or by voice at the following number, 504-708-4502. See Ms. Flair for a copy of the application. **The deadline to apply is a postmark of Tuesday, March 13, 2012.**

THE AYN RAND INSTITUTE proudly announces their annual essay competition for students in grades 8 through 12. Students who have read (or are willing to read) Anthem, Letter of Ayn Rand, and/or The Fountainhead are encouraged to visit www.aynrand.org/contests to get the details of the competition. Scholarship awards range in value from \$50 to \$10,000. **The deadline for the 8th through 10th grade competition is March 20, 2012. The deadline for the 11th - 12th competition is: April 26, 2012.**

DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING **THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION** is pleased to announce their annual CO-OP Scholarship Program. If you are interested in any of the institutions/programs listed on their **APPROACHING** website and have achieved great things in the classroom and community, go to WWW.CO-OP.EDU for more details. **The deadline to submit your application is February 15, 2012.**

THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROJECT NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS offers college scholarships, cash prizes, and a trip to Boston (for top writers) to winners. Go to <http://holocaust.hklaw.com> to access more information including the 2011-2012 writing prompt, contest rules, uploading portal for participating student essayists, and the free teacher guide. **Essays will be accepted until Midnight of April 19, 2012, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Entries received after 12:00 a.m. (EST) will not be accepted.**

LOUISIANA SMART START SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM is a 4-yr full tuition scholarship at qualifying LA colleges for seniors interested in business, communications, computer science, engineering, liberal arts, or social science. For more information and requirements visit www.jpmorangchase.com/smartstart or call 866-520-2976.

The Milk Mustache Campaign brings you the **SAMMY 2012 "SCHOLAR ATHLETE MILK MUSTACHE OF THE YEAR" Awards**. If you're a graduating senior who pushes yourself to the limit, gives back to those around you and takes care of your body by making smart choices like drinking milk, then you could be rewarded with a \$7,500 college scholarship. Visit www.bodybymilk.com for complete rules, information and an online application. **The application deadline is March 4, 2012.**

THE BIGSUN ORGANIZATION is proud to be able to help young athletes succeed in their academic pursuits. In order to do our part we are offering an annual scholarship to a deserving student. All student athletes are eligible for this award, regardless of which sport they are participating in. This \$500 scholarship can be used to attend any college or university. For more information, go to <http://www.bigsunathletics.com/>. **The deadline to submit your application is June 23, 2012**

Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors,

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER??? Take a look at some of these opportunities or search for a program that is right for YOU!

If you have no plans for the summer, search for a summer program, get a job, or volunteer! We have numerous brochures from college and university programs. Come by the Guidance Office to fine a summer activity!

<http://www.enrichmentalley.com/>

www.teenink.com

<http://www.summeroncampus.com/>

<http://www.fastweb.com/college-search/articles/787-summer-programs-for-high-school-and-college-students>

There is a file drawer in the Counselors' Office with lots of information about summer opportunities so stop by and check it out.

*****Ben Franklin High School is not endorsing any of these program, we are simply providing you with the information we receive by mail.*****

ALL DATES are approximate based on last year's programing.

Looking for a great volunteer opportunity? Then consider volunteering as a camp counselor at the **Louisiana Lions Camp**, summer camps for mentally and physically challenged youth in Leesville, LA. The hours are long and the work is plentiful in a very challenging and structure environment. The Lions are looking for sincere and responsible 16 and 17 years olds who will commit to the entire seven week program. Request an application at (800) 348-6567 or download one at <http://www.lionscamp.org/>. Junior counselors receive \$700 for the season. Senior Counselors receive \$875. Camp provides a week of training, room and board, insurance, time off, and lots of challenges.

Ochsner Medical Center STAR (Science Technology Academic Research) Program – DEADLINE TO APPLY is March 14, 2012 no later than 4:00pm. Students interested in this outstanding research opportunity (great for budding scientists and pre-meds!) should attend the informational meeting January 27 AND submit a completed application by the deadline. The application requires to recommendations so ask teachers for those NOW! Students must be 16 years old by June 1, 2012 and cannot be 18 years old before August 1, 2012. See Ms. Flair for more details.

Service Learning in Paris, July 3 – 30, 2012 – www.study-serve.org

Center for Language Studies at Beloit College – Summer Intensive Programs in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Russian; June 11 – August 5, 2012; apply online at www.beloit.edu/cls Scholarships are available for needy students.

University of Alabama 2011 Capstone Business Leadership Academy – approximate dates, June 13 – 22, July 11 – 20, 2012 www.cba.ua.edu/summeracademy

The Louisiana Scholastic Journalism Institute (June 5-10, 2012) provides high school students with the opportunity to visit the LSU campus and student media in a one-week course that includes workshops, presentations from experts and faculty and the opportunity to work in professional-level labs and production facilities. Registration deadline is April 29, 2011 and scholarships are available to Louisiana residents who show financial need. Go to their website for more information:

<http://uiswcmsweb.prod.lsu.edu/manship/MassComm/ProspectiveStudents/Manship%20School%20Experience/item19978.html>

The Catholic University of America (DC) “Engineering New Frontiers” July 17 – 22, 2012. Go to <http://engineering.cua.edu/ENF.cfm>.

Washington University (MO) – <http://summerscholars.wustl.edu>

Choate Rosemary Hall Summer Programs – www.choate.edu/summerprograms.

Tulane University’s 3 week Summer High School Program in Architecture – for more information, call Wendy Sack – 865-5389.

University of Notre Dame (IN) Summer Scholars - June 19 – July 2, 2012, for rising juniors and seniors (Tuition based * limited scholarship assistance is available). 11 tracks of academic study offered. Application deadline: March 15, 2012. Additional programs include Global Issues Seminar, Latino Community Leadership Seminar, and Seminar for African American Scholars.

Discover the world’s Greatest Classrooms, Oxford, Cambridge, Paris, Montpellier and Barcelona – summers abroad – www.oxbridgeprograms.com.

Ringling College of Art & Design (FL) Pre-College Perspective – June 26 – July 23, 2012
www.ringling.edu/precollege.

Wesleyan University (CT) Center for Creative Youth Summer Arts Residency – June 26 -2 July 30, 2012 – www.crec.org/ccy.

Harvard College Prep (MA) – June 25 – August 12, 2012 – www.ssp.harvard.edu. Harvard Summer School Program for Secondary Students.

Columbia University (NY) Summer High School Programs in New York City, Barcelona and the Middle East – www.ce.columbia.edu/hs.

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