Halfway December Newsletter

**SENIOR TO-DO’S FOR DECEMBER**

Hopefully you applied to colleges you are considering last month during Apply MO month. If not, you need to do so! Remember to stop by the counseling office and fill out a transcript request form so your official high school transcript can be mailed there. If you have taken any dual credit courses through SBU, OTC or MSU, you will need to request your transcripts from them at the end of the year to have your college transcript(s) sent from SBU/MSU/OTC to the college of your choice. If you have not visited the college(s) you are considering, you are encouraged to do so. This will help you make decisions and comparisons of what each college “feels” like when you visit. If you want to take a college visit, set it up with the college by visiting their Admissions webpage for more information. Once you have one setup, fill out a College Visit Form from the Halfway Counseling Weebly Website. After your visit, bring back a note or something from the rep you met with to the attendance office to verify that you went on the visit. If you take these steps, the college visit day will be counted as a school field trip for you and won’t count against your attendance.

**PAYING FOR COLLEGE AND UNDERSTANDING “FINANCIAL AID”**

Below are some important definitions to know when paying for colleges and applying for financial aid.

**Financial Aid**: Grants, loans, and scholarships that help fund a college student’s education

**Grants and Scholarships**: Financial aid awards that do not have to be repaid

**Loans**: Sums of money that must be repaid

**Work-Study**: Counts as financial aid when employment is arranged

 for you through the financial aid office at your college choice

**EARLY GRADUATION DEADLINE**

Seniors wanting to apply for early graduation in December must pick up an application from Mrs. Henderson and have it returned, along with a letter stating your career plans to justify early graduation, by November 15, 2016. Failure to meet the early graduation paperwork deadline will eliminate your option of graduating in December.

**MISSOURI CONNECTIONS**

On this website, you will find access to interest inventories, college searches, financial aid/scholarship information, and MUCH MORE! For a free account, see Mrs. Henderson in the Counseling Center for log-in information.

**ACT TEST REGISTRATION**

The next ACT test is February 11th. Registration has to be completed online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org/) by January 13th to avoid late fees. When registering, be sure to include our high school code (261300) when it is requested. The test costs $42.50 (unless you are on free/reduced lunch; in this case, see your counselor for a fee waiver) and is recommended for students who are in, or have taken, Algebra II during high school. ACT information and practice test booklets are available in Mrs. Henderson’s office, and can be found on the counseling website.

**OTC-BOUND?**

If you are planning to attend OTC this fall and have not yet applied, go to [www.otc.edu](http://www.otc.edu/) and click on “Apply Online.” The application is free. Once you receive your acceptance letter from OTC, double check that you are completing the required tasks on the checklist you receive in the mail:

* Complete online orientation
* Complete the FAFSA
* Have your high school transcript sent to them (if you’ve taken dual credit, you will have to send your SBU/MSU transcript as well)
* Schedule an advising appointment

**OTC ENROLLMENT PROCESS**

Many of our graduating seniors consider OTC, an A+ designated college, as an option for their postsecondary plans. To apply for free and/or look at the next steps you need to complete after applying, visit<http://students.otc.edu/admissions/getting-started/first-time-student/#5faaa1bc-ad7e-4>.

**A+ COLLEGE LIST**

This link provides a list of 2-year colleges and technical schools that accept the A+ Scholarship: <http://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/grants/documents/EligibleAplusPostsecondarySchools.pdf>.

### **NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE APPLICATION REQUIRED FOR PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE ATHLETES**

Seniors who plan to compete in college level athletics (Division I or Division II) need to meet the academic eligibility and core-course requirements as determined by the NCAA Clearinghouse. Seniors planning to pursue athletics in college need to apply to the Clearinghouse as soon as possible. Students are strongly encouraged to apply online at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). When you register, please also sign up on the Transcript Request form in the Guidance Center to request that your high school transcript be sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse in your behalf. (There is a fee to register with the Clearinghouse. If you are on free/reduced lunch, please make an appointment with your counselor to request a fee waiver be submitted to NCAA in your behalf after you complete your registration.) The NCAA requires that you have your ACT scores sent to them directly from ACT. For more information on how to do this, go to <http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/>.

**COLLEGE VISITS**

Seniors are allowed to take 2 college visits, and are highly encourage to take advantage of this opportunity. When planning to take a college visit please let Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Barbara know, and return a College Visit Form. These forms can be found at [www.halfwaycounseling.weebly.com](http://www.halfwaycounseling.weebly.com)

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**(Please note: If an organization requires payment for scholarship applications. Do NOT apply!) Please check with prospective colleges for scholarship deadlines and application deadlines for scholarships.**

**TYLER PHIPPS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

The Tyler Phipps Memorial Scholarship Foundation was established in the memory of Tyler Lee Phipps, 2003 graduate of Ozark High School and 2008 graduate of York College. This $3500 scholarship was established in honor of Tyler and to provide opportunities for others, like him, on their path to leadership success. The Tyler Phipps Foundation will help provide opportunities to high achieving individuals**.** The scholarship will provide funds to assist in the advanced education in the agriculture and produce industries. For more information about Tyler and the scholarship opportunity, please visit [www.tylerphippsmemorialfund.org](http://www.tylerphippsmemorialfund.org). Deadline to apply is December 15.

**AXA ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

This program is awarding $670,000 to AXA Achievers. To qualify, you should be well rounded, determined to succeed, and have achieved excellence outside the classroom--at a job, sport, or extracurricular activity. Go to<https://us.axa.com/axa-foundation/AXA-achievement-scholarship.html> to learn more about the 2016 scholarship program. Download an application and read the inspiring stories of some AXA achievers. Apply **by December 15**.

**GEORGE C. BROOKS SCHOLARSHIP (MU-COLUMBIA)**

Students from ethnic groups including African-American, Hispanic, and Native American are eligible for this $7500 scholarship. High school seniors who wish to apply must have a minimum ACT score of 25. Interested applicants must apply for admission to MU and submit official transcripts and test scores no later than December 15. See the following website for more details: <http://financialaid.missouri.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/scholarships/brooks-scholarship/index.php>.

**MISSOURI PORK ASSOCIATION AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP**

The Missouri Pork Association is now accepting applications for the 2016 Youth Pork Ambassador Scholarship program. This program combines a scholarship opportunity with the chance to actively participate in Missouri 's pork industry. The Ambassador will receive a $1,000 scholarship, payable to a technical school, community college or a four-year university, as well as many opportunities to increase their knowledge of the pork industry.

Visit<http://www.mopork.com/youth/youth-pork-ambassador/> for complete details and an application. Applications and three letters of recommendation are due December 16.

**NFIB YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR SCHOLARSHIP**

If you are a young entrepreneur or have dreams of owning your own business, visit [www.NFIB.com/YEA](http://www.nfib.com/YEA) to apply for the 2017 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award. Deadline to apply is December 18.

**ANNIE’S SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Annie’s offers $75,000 in funds to students studying sustainable agriculture. More information is available at <http://www.annies.com/giving-back/agricultural-scholarships/apply>. Applications are due by January 6.

**WASHINGTON CROSSING FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

If you are a history buff and/or enjoy politics, visit [www.gwcf.org](http://www.gwcf.org/) for information about the Washington Crossing Foundation scholarship. Deadline to apply is January 15.

**NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP**

High school seniors who have MS or who have a parent with MS are invited to apply for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Scholarship. Applicants must plan to attend an accredited post-secondary school at a two or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school in the United States. Most awards are between $1000-$3000. Applications are available online at<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/Resources-Support/Insurance-and-Financial-Information/Financial-Resources/Scholarship-Program/Scholarship-Program-Information>. Deadline to apply is January 18.

 **THE UNITED STATE JCS SENATE FOUNDATION**

The United States JCI Senate Foundation awards $1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in the United States who plan to continue their education at accredited post-secondary colleges, universities or vocational schools. This is available to Missouri residents only. The application form can be downloaded from: <http://www.usjcisenate.org/index.php/programs/scholarship>. Deadline January 20, 2017.

**ED STEGNER NATURAL RESOURCE SCHOLARSHIP**

The Foundation’s Ed Stegner Natural Resource Scholarships were established to provide major financial aid to encourage and assist students in five areas of natural resource management: Fisheries, Forestry, Wildlife, Parks and Recreation and Soil and Water conservation. Priority for this $1000 scholarship is given to those who demonstrate financial need. More information is available at <http://www.conservemo.org/ed-stegner-natural-resource-scholarship.html>. Deadline to apply is January 31.

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE OZARKS**

 Application will not be available until February 1, 2016.

<http://www.cfozarks.org/cfo-grantmaking-programs/scholarship-programs/>

**MISSOURI VALLEY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ENGLISH MAJORS**

Planning to go to Missouri Valley and major in English? Check out these $10,000 essay contests (Virginia Zank Scholarship and Loren Gruber Scholarship) at <http://www.moval.edu/financial_aid/scholarships.php>. Deadline to apply is February 15.

**MIKE ROWE WORKS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP (MIDWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE)**

If you are interested in attending MTI, scholarship information is available at <https://midwesttech.edu/scholarship>. The application through the Mike Rowe Works Foundation involves registering for the program, completing the application, submitting a video, and attending a campus tour to complete an applicable program assessment and meet with financial aid. Deadline to apply is March 17.

**MISSOURI SOCIETY OF CPAs SCHOLARSHIP**

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| The [Missouri Society of CPAs (MSCPA)](http://www.mmsend51.com/link.cfm?r=O6vOFqsG7w7jb8dB-lucYg~~&pe=_wyHmih5JXuHSCbN5-NExJL_f2SOWH04f28TKf01EbKObg3Vd5UYSzccZ-ZaNsj-n7WBtD7US0mKDJ5PNGCU1w~~) sponsors a $500 scholarship for seniors meeting the following criteria: MSCPA high school student members (which is free of charge and can be obtained online [here](http://www.mmsend51.com/link.cfm?r=O6vOFqsG7w7jb8dB-lucYg~~&pe=7C0IMNaVusbPWZt9MdcFDCmzw7oSQBFrKFrKPlkZ8heIfKEitDTkSmjFMdsbRguLmbN2VXF-VGZaKpVVvBCOqQ~~)); recommended by an educator or school administrator; Missouri resident (or child of an MSCPA member); enrolled in a college/university in Missouri (after high school graduation); and declared as an accounting major. High school winners are selected based on a point system, rating their GPA, ACT or SAT, educator recommendation, and leadership potential (honors, awards and activities).Links applicant will need to apply:[Scholarship Application](http://www.mmsend51.com/link.cfm?r=O6vOFqsG7w7jb8dB-lucYg~~&pe=tlK_xA3HGJl6oBaBhF_PY5VU_qHxPRbhSlzcMmF-A0S4m2GafRxgURN9tzmFQdYN9FH3l_O3CQTrDJ3PVtqLVQ~~)[Recommendation Form](http://www.mmsend51.com/link.cfm?r=O6vOFqsG7w7jb8dB-lucYg~~&pe=SttYCkmVhbyMFdL_m6safmYHA7k5Mb0_wQXFzZygvXnWFFnpSR8QBbB4VK5EXb3VkHpYqZrzU6O1ZxIf-oaFmA~~) (to be completed by teacher or school administrator)[Complimentary Student Membership Application](http://www.mmsend51.com/link.cfm?r=O6vOFqsG7w7jb8dB-lucYg~~&pe=hgCPSy4_u6wP8zmAv6-srv30GCAQa59cjrfU-J4svNvw6nTsno85eim7GzwNDParbkwQUwmRm_QWsA_DYWDx2g~~)Online applications will be accepted through February 24th. The 2016-2017 winners will be announced in April 2017 and recognized at an MSCPA event.**CMH MEDICAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**The Medical Excellence Fund was established by CMH to encourage students from the surrounding areas to begin a rewarding career in the medical profession and to provide the financial support to fulfill their dreams. Students planning to pursue college in the areas of medical school, nursing, therapy, pharmacy, and other fields are encouraged to apply. Scholarships are awarded based upon scholastic achievements, aptitude, financial need, and the available resources and professional needs of CMH. The amount of financial assistance varies with each recipient based upon the chosen medical field and the number of scholarships awarded each year. If selected for this scholarship, the student will commit to return to work for CMH for a period of time that is based upon the amount of assistance that was provided. If you are interested, applications are available at <https://www.citizensmemorial.com/professionals/careers/medical-excellence.html> and should be returned to the CMH Human Resources Office by February 28 to this address: Citizens Memorial Hospital, Attn: Lauren Cook, 1500 N Oakland, Bolivar, MO 65613. |

**PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS SCHOLARSHIP (FOR SONS/DAUGHTERS OF MILITARY/FIRST RESPONDERS)**

Missouri seniors who are the son/daughter of military personnel or first responders who lost their life in the line of duty, was honorably discharged, or was disabled in the line of duty are invited to read more about this $2500 scholarship. Information is available at <http://www.cpsk12.org/cms/lib8/MO01909752/Centricity/Domain/5783/2017PatriotRidersScholarship.pdf>. Deadline to apply is April 1.

**SAE ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS**

Criteria: Varies for each scholarship but all require applicant to enroll in an engineering program, have a 3.75 or higher GPA, meet ACT/SAT minimum requirements at stated

Value: Varies

<http://students.sae.org/awdscholar/scholarships/hsengineering.htm>

**2015 GE-REAGAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

This national program awards college scholarships to high school seniors who embody the characteristics of President Ronald Regan at school, in the community, in the workplace, and at home. They’re looking for students with “leadership, drive, integrity and citizenship.” Recipients receive $10,000 renewable scholarships, up to $40,000 per student. Apply online through www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships or <http://facebook.com/GEReaganScholarships>

**ABBOTT & FENNER BUSINESS CONSULTANTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants will continue with their scholarship program for the 4th year awarding up to $1,000 to the winner(s) each year. Deadline June 12, 2017. Students will submit an essay on the topic that appears on the scholarship page of our web site: <http://www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm>

**GLOBAL LIFT EQUIPMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

Criteria: Plan on attending a post-secondary institution in Canada or the US in September 2017, submit a short story-instructions on application page, GPA of 2.5 or greater

Value: $500

Deadline: June 15th, 2017

Apply online: <http://www.scholarshipguidance.com/scholarship_global_lift_equipment_scholarship_8934.php>

**BIGSUN ORGANIZATION SCHOLARSHIP**

The BigSun Organization is proud to be able to continue to help young athletes succeed in their academic pursuits. We are offering an annual $500 scholarship to a deserving student. All student athletes are eligible for this award, regardless of which sport they are participating in. Students can apply online at http://www.bigsunathletics.com Deadline: June 19, 2017

**SANSONE & LAUBER SCHOLARSHIP**

First prize is $500, 2nd prize is $300, and 3rd prize is $200. This scholarship is open to high school seniors and students currently enrolled at a college or university in Missouri. The link to all the scholarship information and rules are on this page: <http://www.sansonelaw.com/scholarship/>.

**DAR – DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION – NATIONAL**

Various scholarships [www.dar.org](http://www.DAR.org)

**GATES MILLENIUM SCHOLARSHIP**

Criteria: African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American; citizen, national or legal permanent U.S. resident; 3.3 GPA; demonstrated leadership in community, extra-curricular, or other activities; financial need.

Value: Up to 5 years education

Apply online at [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org)

**FREEDOM ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP**

The Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund honors Americans in our Armed Forces who have sacrificed life or limb defending our country by providing educational scholarships for their children. For more information, go to <http://www.fascholarship.com/>

**AIR FORCE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Air Force ROTC offers scholarships at over 1000 different colleges and universities across the United States. For more information, visit<http://www.afrotc.com/scholarships>.

**FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES**

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com/)

[www.salliemaefund.org](http://www.salliemaefund.org/)

[www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org).

[www.collegesavingsplan.org](http://www.collegesavingsplan.org)

[www.studentloans.org](http://www.studentloans.org)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org/)

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/)

[www.mappingyourfuture.org](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/)

[www.finaid.org/calculators](http://www.finaid.org/calculators)

**CHOOSING A MAJOR/CAREER**
[www.monstercollege.com](http://www.monstercollege.com)

[www.stats.bls.gov](http://www.stats.bls.gov)

[www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)

### **PRACTICE ACT QUESTIONS**

<http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/index.html>

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

<http://www.number2.com/>