Halfway Senior

January Newsletter

**January came quickly upon us, and the graduation countdown has begun! At this point, all seniors planning to attend a technical school, junior college or university should have completed their college applications. If you are interested in a military pathway, you should be speaking with a local recruiter. Many scholarships have come and gone, and the time is NOW to make sure you are applying. Please see the newsletter, counselor’s website or Mrs. Henderson for more information or assistance with the scholarship process.**

**SENIOR TO-DO’S FOR JANUARY**

**Financial Aid Help for Parents**

As you are applying to colleges, you may start hearing about needing to complete the “FAFSA” (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This is something you and your parents will have to complete after your 2015 taxes are done. The FAFSA information you complete will be sent to the colleges that you have applied to and then the colleges will send you an award letter to specify the types and amounts of financial aid for which you qualify. The FAFSA is required at most all colleges, including colleges in which A+ money is being used. We will have an open computer lab session to assist parents who would like help with this process on **February 18th from 6-7 p.m**. It is recommended that you have your 2015 taxes completed prior to attending this workshop. For more information on the FAFSA, you can visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

**Senior Class Meeting with Mrs. Henderson**

We will have a senior class meeting during lunch on January 12th. This meeting will discuss scholarship applications, local scholarships and timelines for the spring. Every senior needs to be in attendance!

**Project Princess**

Students who are in need of or would like to donate a prom dress, please see Mrs. Henderson regarding the Project Princess Organization. Their goal is to ensure every girl gets the opportunity to go to prom, and is a wonderful resource.

**ACT Test Registration**

The next ACT test is April 9, 2016. Registration has to be completed online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) by March 4th to avoid late fees. When registering, be sure to include our high school code (261300) when it is requested. The test costs $39.50 (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 the Guidance Center. Looking for some helpful ACT Test Prep help? Try these websites:

<http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/>

[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)

**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 a Transcript Request form 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)

**Selective Service Registration**

All males are required by the Federal Government to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday.  Now, 17 year-old males can submit their registration information early at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov/)  or by filling out a form available from any post office.  Selective Service registration is required to be eligible for a federal student loan, job training, most federal jobs, and U.S. citizenship.

**CMH Medical Excellence Scholarship**

Citizens Memorial Hospital offers a scholarship for seniors interested in attending college and majoring in a healthcare related field. Upon accepting this scholarship, you agree to return to work for CMH after you finish college. This is a huge opportunity for students who would like financial assistance and who would like to work for CMH in the future. Please see Mrs. Henderson for more details.

**Compass Test for the A+ Program**

If you are planning to meet all A+ Scholarship requirements, but did not score Proficient or Advanced on a math EOC test in high school as required for A+, you can take the Compass exam as another attempt at meeting the test requirement. If you are interested in taking the test for this purpose, please see Mrs. Henderson. The Compass test will be discontinued as an option, so students are encouraged to take it ASAP if they need it for A+.

**A+ college list**

This link provides a list of 2-year colleges and technical schools that accept the A+ Scholarship:

<https://dhe.mo.gov/documents/EligibleAplusPostsecondarySchools.pdf>

***SCHOLARSHIPS***

Remember, scholarship deadlines are important. Scholarship applications are not accepted late. Newsletters are online at [www.bolivarschools.org](http://www.bolivarschools.org/) under High School, Counselors’ Corner.

**GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

 Students must be African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American. They must have an unweighted 3.3 GPA and demonstrate financial need. This is a very extensive application calling for references that must be submitted online. The application is available at<http://www.gmsp.org/publicweb/AboutUs.aspx> and must be submitted by January 13.

 **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 15.

 **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.

**MENSA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Seniors planning to attend an accredited college are invited to apply for this scholarship that ranges from $300-$1000. Awards are made on the basis of an essay of fewer than 550 words, which describes the applicant’s career, vocational, or academic goal toward which the scholarship is to provide aid. Entries will be judged and awarded at three levels: local, regional, and national. To download and print an official application, go to http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships. Applications must be postmarked by January 15.

**MISSOURI JCI SENATE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

The United States JCI Senate Foundation awards $1000 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. The Missouri JCI Senate will pick 2 nominees to represent Missouri for the US JCI Senate scholarships. The Missouri JCI Senate will present these 2 winners each with a $250 scholarship. The application can be downloaded from<http://www.mojcisenate.org/public_html/Programs/Scholarships/Scholarships_Index.html>. Deadline to apply is January 15.

**ROBERT J STUCKEY ESSAY CONTEST**

Each essay should be between 1,200 and 1,500 words in length and should address one or more aspects of books and reading. Essays which review a single book are not acceptable. See Mrs. Henderson for more details regarding. Also, the Robert J Stuckey Essay Contest Flyer is posted on the scholarship bulletin in the high school hallway. All entries must be postmarked by January 30, 2016. Entries should be sent to: Shelia Voss, 104 Ellis Library University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65201-5149

**JOHN DENNIS SCHOLARSHIP (FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJORS)**

The Missouri Sheriff’s Association will be awarding a $1000 scholarship for criminal justice majors to sixteen college-bound Missouri high school seniors who will be attending a Missouri college or university. Applicants must be in good academic standing, demonstrate financial need, have a 2.0 GPA or higher, and be active in extra-curricular activities. Applications are available at<https://www.mosheriffs.com/scholarships/> and must be submitted to the address on the application by January 31.

**LIVE MÁS SCHOLARSHIP**

The Taco Bell Foundation is giving away $1 million through the Live Más Scholarship - 220 scholarships ranging from $2,500 to $25,000. Students submit a video - a short film, animation or even a simple testimonial - and winners are selected based on the story about their life's passion. The deadline for the first round of 40 scholarships ends on **Jan. 31, 2016**, students check out www.livemasscholarship.com. Students must be 16 - 24 years old and at least a high school junior.

**JAMES & NELLIE WESTLAKE SCHOLARSHIP**

Seniors who have at least a 2.5 GPA and demonstrate limited financial resources (adjusted gross income of $50,000 or less) are invited to apply. Applications are available at https://www.scholarshipamerica.org/westlake/. Postmark deadline is February 1.

**NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Current senior FFA members who plan to be full-time students in a post-secondary institution should visit[www.ffa.org/participate/scholarships](http://www.ffa.org/participate/scholarships) to download a copy of the application for various FFA scholarships. Deadline is February 1.

**ECCU SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP**

Students who are members of the Educational Community Credit Union may apply for this $1000 scholarship. For more information see Mrs. Henderson. Deadline to apply is February 29, 2016.

**BUICK ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

High school seniors who plan to enroll full time at a 4-year college or university and who plan to major in a field of study that focuses on engineering, technology, design or business, with an interest in the automotive industry are invited to apply. Applications are available at www.buickachievers.com. Deadline to apply is February 29, 2016.

**MISSOURI GAMING ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP**

The Missouri Gaming Association is the trade organization of casino companies in Missouri. MGA is announcing the Project 21 2016 Scholarship Program. The goal of the scholarship program is to inform youth that it is not permissible in Missouri for persons under the age of 21 to gamble in a casino and to also educate them about the dangers and consequences associated with underage gambling. The program provides students an opportunity to disseminate their message by writing an article or creating a video or poster addressing the issue of underage gambling. $1500 is available for winning entries. For more information and an application, see Mrs. Henderson. Entries must be submitted by March 1.

**KANSAS CITY ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTORS SCHOLARSHIP**

The Kansas City Associated Equipment Distributors awards up to four annual scholarships in the amount of $1000 each. Both men and women attending a vocational/technical school, and pursuing a certificate or associates degree in Diesel Mechanics or Heavy Equipment Repair, are eligible to apply. Applicants must be in good academic standing with a minimum 2.5 GPA. Application includes a 750-1000 essay, recommendation letters, and other necessary application and transcript paperwork. Applications are available in the counselor’s office. Postmark deadline is March 1.

**NATIONAL FARMERS FARM KIDS FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

Students interested in attending an accredited college or university to study for a career in agriculture may apply. Application includes typing answers to essay questions, two letters of reference, and a recent photo. Applications are available online at http://www.nfo.org/Scholarships/Default.aspx and are due by March 3. Completed applications should be mailed to: Eunice Fisher, Missouri Coordinator, Farm Kids for College, National Farmers Organization, 405 East Martin Street, Perry, MO 63462.

**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, please see Mrs. Henderson. The application should be returned to the CMH Human Resources Office by March 4 to this address: Citizens Memorial Hospital, Attn: Lauren Cook, 1500 N Oakland, Bolivar, MO 65613.

**NICK HARKINS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The Piddington family is sponsoring a scholarship to honor the memory of Nick Harkins, who passed away in October 2013 due to a very rare and deadly brain disease called PML. Hopefully this scholarship in his memory will remind others that even if you walk a different path than the majority, you are not walking alone. Entries must focus on any theme related to diversity, equity and/or inclusion. May be descriptive and/or issue orientated and may be of any genre. Only one entry per student will be accepted. Candidate must be a graduating senior. Candidate should be college bound by fall 2016. Candidates should create an original written entry specifically for this scholarship award. Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 11, 2016**. See Ms. Henderson for the Scholarship Application.

**AYN RAND ESSAY CONTEST**

This essay contest for juniors and seniors will award cash prizes from $10,000 to $50 for 255 winners. Students will be required to read The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand and to select one of three topics to write an 800-1600 word essay. You may mail or submit the essay online at [www.aynrand.org/contests](http://www.aynrand.org/contests). Deadline to apply is March 25.

**MARY RILEY WOLFE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Female seniors who have a minimum 3.5 GPA, have admirable character and life experiences, and have leadership experience in community volunteer work are invited to apply for this $2,000 scholarship. Applications are available at https://www.jlspringfield.org/community/scholarships/. Deadline to apply is March 25, 2016.

**MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS FOUNDATION**

The Missouri State Teachers Foundation will award up to four, non-renewable $500 scholarships to college seniors planning a career in education. The recipients of the scholarships must enroll as full-time students at a college or university in preparation for the teaching profession. Students must also have met the requirements needed to enter their institution’s student teaching block.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO: info@mostf.org with the subject line Kent King Educator Scholarship. Applications must be received no later than **March 31, 2016**. The following is a link to the scholarship application: <http://www.mostf.org/?cause=grants-and-scholarships>

**AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MO SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarship awards are available for descendants of a veteran who had at least ninety days active service in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard, who received an Honorable Discharge for such service. Applications are available at http://www.missourilegion.org/molegion\_019.htm. Completed applications should be mailed to:

The American Legion Department of Missouri, Inc.

Attention: Education and Scholarship Committee

P.O. Box 179

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0179.

Questions regarding scholarship rules, regulations and eligibility should be addressed to Mr. John Buckwalter by calling (660) 627-4713. Deadline is April 20th.

**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/>

**CHRISTIAN CONNECTOR, INC. SCHOLARSHIP**

This website provides free Christian college information as well as allows you to enter in a $2500 scholarship drawing:  [www.christianconnector.com](http://www.christianconnector.com/).

**DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Many scholarships are offered through the National Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. View more information at [http://www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org/).

**AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION**

American Legion provides helpful information about scholarships and the financial aid process at [www.legion.org/needalift](http://www.legion.org/needalift).

**ASPIRING FASHION PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This $1000 scholarship is awarded to students who are interested in pursuing a fashion degree at an accredited post-secondary school or college. Interested students can find more information at http://www.fashion-schools.org/aspiring-fashion-professional-scholarship-program. Deadline to apply is June 1, 2016.

**ASPIRING ANIMATION PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This $1000 scholarships is for students interested in pursuing an animation career path at an accredited post-secondary school or college. More information is available at http://www.animationcareerreview.com/animationcareerreviewcom-aspiring-animation-professional-scholarship-program. Deadline to apply is June 1, 2016.

**ASPIRING NURSE SCHOLARSHIP**

This $1000 scholarships is for students interested in pursuing an aspiring nurse who demonstrates academic excellence, particularly in science and math and has a passion for the nursing profession and the overall field of healthcare. This scholarship is for seniors planning to pursue college education in nursing, including LPA/LVN, ADN, and BSN programs. Applications are available at http://www.nursingschoolsalmanac.com/articles/2016-aspiring-nurse-scholarship. Deadline to apply is June 30, 2016.

**EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA SCHOLARSHIPS**

ESA International is a philanthropic service organization with state councils in 39 states and Australia who operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The ESA Foundation awarded over $200,000 in scholarships last year to worthy recipients. Find many scholarship opportunities through ESA online at<http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/Homepage>.

 **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>.

*(NOTE: Deadlines and application requirements may vary. Please check the websites for the most current information.* ***Legitimate scholarship sponsors and websites do not charge a fee to apply.  If a web search or scholarship affiliate asks for payment, EXIT immediately!)***

**HELPFUL WEBSITES**

**Missouri Connections**

Not sure exactly what you want to do after high school? Need help searching for colleges or scholarships? HHS has access to the Missouri Connections online program that lets you investigate all of these topics. 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. Dansby in the counseling office for log-in information.

**Student Aid**

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) - This website is designed specifically for students and provides details about the entire financial aid process.

**College Profiles**

[www.collegeprofiles.com](http://www.collegeprofiles.com) - this free site assists students looking for a college or career school. It features in-depth college profiles with information about academic programs, athletics, campus life, facilities, expenses, financial aid, and much more.

[**http://www.college-scholarships.com**](http://www.college-scholarships.com/)

[**http://www.college-scholarships.com/missouri.htm**](http://www.college-scholarships.com/missouri.htm)