Halfway Senior

March Newsletter

**SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE**

All seniors planning to apply for scholarships should visit with Mrs. Henderson regarding the opportunity to have Mrs. Bewley work with you on crafting and refining your personal essay statement. Mrs. Bewley has been kind enough to offer her assistance, and I would like to see all seniors make use of this.

**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

**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***

**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.

**MFA FOUNDATION HALFWAY FARMERS EXC. SCHOLARSHIP**

All high school seniors can apply for the scholarship by obtaining an application in Mrs. Henderson’s office. The completed application must be returned to **Mrs. Henderson by March 16, 2015**.For more information regarding committee consideration for scholarship winners, please pick up a flyer in the counseling office.

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE OZARKS SCHOLARSHIPS**

 **TO LOCATE SCHOLARSHIPS on the CFO WEBSITE:**

 Go to [**www.cfozarks.org**](http://www.cfozarks.org/) –

1.    From the HOME page, center column, click on, “CFO SCHOLARSHIPS”

2.    Next page, click on the large type “Browse Scholarships”

3.    Where it says, “Search by CITY” – type in the city where your high school is located, you can view ALL of the scholarships that are available for students residing in that city. [If you don’t find your city, click on the first city choice “AAAll HS in CFO’s service area.” Any student in SW MO can apply for these scholarships if they meet criteria.]

4.    Scroll down thru the ‘named’ scholarships – and click on to view details

**Please note all DEADLINE dates are NOT the same!**

**The MARCH 18th DEADLINE** – is for all Scholarships that can be applied for ONLINE: March 18th is also the deadline for many of the scholarships w/ PDFs that can be downloaded from the website.

If you have scholarships specifically for your school that CFO administers: The DEADLINE for CFO receiving those recipients’ names & copies of their Apps -- is APRIL 15th –

**SHELTER INSURANCE SCHOLARSHIP**

Our local Shelter Insurance Company will be offering a $2000 scholarship to all graduating seniors. Seniors will need to be enrolling in an accredited college or university following graduation. For more information or to pick up a scholarship application, see Mrs. Henderson in the counseling office. **Deadline: Return to Mrs. Henderson by March 23, 2016.**

**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 Courage Scholarship**

Due **March 31, 2016** - The Missouri Courage Scholarship (MCS) and Pride St. Louis will be awarding up to $20,000 in scholarships to college-bound seniors from Missouri high schools. Applications will be comprehensively evaluated on a variety of metrics including academic achievement, school involvement, community engagement, diversity, demonstrations of courage, and commitment to enhancing the lives of LGBTQIA individuals and other groups that have historically faced discrimination. If necessary, the scholarship committee may ask for follow up information from applicants such as letters of recommendation or a phone interview to help determine the final recipients. The application can be found at the following link: <https://docs.google.com/a/halfwayschools.org/forms/d/1he7wTT-ako6fkwVgbRKeTWQoH-pxXintQ67YtmQUTpc/viewform>

**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>

**HALFWAY PTA**

Every year the local chapter of the PTA gives a graduating senior a scholarship for $350.00 for the college of your choice. All high school seniors can apply for the scholarship by obtaining an application in Mrs. Henderson’s office. The completed application must be returned to **Mrs. Henderson by April 1, 2015**.

**OZARKS AREA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS**

Seniors you can find the Ozarks Area Association of Educational Office Professionals application in the counselor’s office. The scholarship is for seniors planning to major in Business or Education. Applications are due back to me by **April 13, 2016.**

**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.

**HALFWAY SCHOOL FOUNDATION**

All high school seniors can apply for the scholarship by obtaining an application in Mrs. Henderson’s office. The completed application must be returned to Mrs. Henderson by **April 15, 2016**.

**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)