Halfway Junior February 2017

Newsletter

**4 YEAR AND TRANSITION PLANS**

All students will be completing their 4 year plans/ transition plans the last week in February. We are hopeful this year to move to an online google forms format, so that you will be able to have access to your plan at any time. This will kick off our scheduling process for the spring semester!

**APRIL ACT FOR ALL JUNIORS ON APRIL 19TH**

The State Board of Education approved the administration of the ACT test to 11th grade students in Missouri public schools as a required assessment to be given on a school day. Statewide ACT test administration will take place on April 19, 2017 for all 11th graders during the school day. Students will receive the opportunity to produce a valid ACT score that can be used when applying to colleges at no cost to students. Students will register for this test at school and do not need to do anything at this time.

**ACT APRIL NATIONAL TEST DATE**

While all juniors are taking the ACT at school on April 19th at no charge, there is also a national ACT test date on April 8th for those who would like to sign up. The cost is $42.50. Register at www.actstudent.org (use school code 261300).

**MISSOURI CADET PATROL ACADEMY**

Students ages 16-18 who have at least a 2.0 GPA, have good moral character, have a valid driver’s license, and who are interested in pursuing a career in the Criminal Justice System are invited to apply for the Cadet Patrol Academy that is offered by the MO State Highway Patrol and the American Legion during the week of June 11-16, 2017 in Jefferson City. Applications and more information are available at<http://missourilegion.org/molegion_005.htm>. Deadline to apply is February 15.

**MISSOURI CONNECTIONS**

Not sure exactly what you want to do after high school? Need help searching for colleges or scholarships? BHS 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. Henderson or Mrs. Agee for more details.

### MISSOURI FINE ARTS ACADEMY

Missouri State University offers a Fine Arts Academy June 4-24. Sophomores and juniors may apply for this academy that offers the following areas of focus: acting, creative writing, dance, instrumental music, visual arts, and vocal performance. More information is available at <http://www.missouristate.edu/mfaa/>. See your Halfway Counselor for more information and help in applying. Deadline to apply is February 15.

**MU MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL**

The University of Missouri School of Medicine offers an exciting and informative summer experience for high school students interested in a career in medicine. MU’s High School Mini Medical School is a one-week program that gives students a preview of life as an MU medical student. The program includes: hands-on experience in anatomy, microbiology, and clinical skills, introduction to MU’s innovative problem-based-learning (PBL) curriculum, and seminars on college and medical school entrance and medical school life. In addition, students will attend special sessions with clinical and research specialists and have meaningful interactions with current medical students, faculty and staff of the School of Medicine. Mini Med School is intended for students who will begin their senior year in the fall of 2017. Selection criteria includes evaluation of the student response to an essay question, academic effort and success, involvement in extracurricular activities, and your high school teacher recommendation. Scholarships are available for some students who meet a financial need and want to attend. Interested high school juniors can find more application information at<http://medicine.missouri.edu/admissions/minimed.html>. Application deadline is **March 1.**

**AYN RAND ESSAY CONTEST**

This essay contest for juniors and seniors will award cash prizes from $50 to $10,000 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<https://www.aynrand.org/students/essay-contests#thefountainhead-1>. Deadline to apply is April 26.

**AL NEUHARTH FREE SPIRIT AND JOURNALISM CONFERENCE**

High School juniors with a passion for journalism have until **February 1** to apply for the annual Al Neuharth Free Spirit Scholarship and Journalism Conference held in Washington, D.C. June 17-22. Eligibility is limited to students who are interested in journalism careers and who demonstrate qualities of “free spirit.” Online applications and more information are available at [www.freespirit.org](http://www.freespirit.org).

**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 on the Internet ([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.

**COUNTDOWN TO COLLEGE CHECKLIST**

As a junior, college is just around the corner. Here is a checklist of some things for you to start doing/considering:

* Grades matter! Did you know that you will begin applying to colleges at the beginning of your senior year? The grades you make this year in your classes will be viewed soon by college admissions and scholarship committees!
* Begin investigating private scholarships on your own. Websites like www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com are a great place to start.
* Consider taking a college tour on your Spring Break. You can set this up by calling the Admissions office of the college(s) you would like to visit.

**SCHOOL SOUP**

Many scholarships listed for the state of Missouri. http://www.schoolsoup.com/scholarship-directory/state/missouri/

**Tuition Funding Sources**

(TFS) is a private website designed to help students gain access to over 7 million scholarships totaling more than $41 billion. This resource can be found at: tuituinfundingsources.com

**FASTWEB SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH**

To search over 600,000 scholarships and find information on over 4,000 colleges, go to [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) for a free account.

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS SEARCH**

A listing of scholarships that students from Missouri school districts are eligible for can be found at [www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org). *(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**

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)