

The Grapevine

A GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER



HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

ATTENTION SENIORS: *In most cases, transcript requests are electronically sent on the day you request them. If you plan to apply to college over Winter Break, your transcript will not be sent out until **January 2**, when we return to school. If all your credentials are required by **January 1**, we suggest you apply the week before Winter Break and **request your transcript no later than December 20th after you send your application.** Requesting transcripts before you apply to college can jeopardize your application, as many colleges do not know what to do if they get a transcript before the application, since they have no profile on the student. For most colleges, **the deadline for applying is for your application – high school transcripts and letters of recommendation can be sent after you send your application.***

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REMINDER: *The high school does not send SAT/ACT scores – these **MUST** be sent directly from the College Board...www.collegeboard.com **ALSO**, Keep in mind if you are filling out **FREE college applications** – it is **not FREE to send your SAT/ACT scores.** You must pay \$12 to send your scores to each school. In some cases, you will also need to pay to send the **Profile**, an additional financial aid form required by some private schools.*

Thinking about taking a year off before starting college? Check out www.usagapyearfairs.org.

Grad Party Information: *The grad party meetings will take place monthly at 7PM in the Staff Lunch Room across from the cafeteria at the high school on the following dates: 12/7, 1/11, 2/8, 3/8, 4/5, 5/10 and 6/7, If you have any questions or would like to help contact Olga Rella olgarella@att.net*

ATTENTION JUNIORS/SOPHOMORES:

PSAT scores will be released to students in CT on **December 13th**. In all math classes the **week of December 11th**, teachers will be assisting students in creating a College Board account and linking their account with Khan Academy. This will allow them to get personalized practice recommendations based on their results.

Students should take these steps to connect their College Board and Khan Academy® accounts:

1. **Go to satpractice.org**
Create an account on Khan academy or log in to your existing account.
2. **Link Your Accounts**
When prompted, agree to link your Khan Academy and College Board accounts. or sign into link your Khan Academy your existing account. and College Board
3. **Send Your Scores**
Log in to your College Board account, and hit "Send" to get a personalized practice plan.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY: Prospective student athletes, who plan to participate in intercollegiate athletics at an NCAA Division I or II institution should register online by logging on to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. To understand the NCAA initial-eligibility requirements, visit the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org. Please note "SAT scores MUST be sent directly from the College Board as they no longer accept scores from the school."

SENIOR UPDATE: Some of the colleges our seniors have been accepted to this month are:

University of Alabama, Central Connecticut, The Citadel, Curry, University of Delaware, Elms College, Florida Institute of Technology, Franklin Pierce, Illinois Institute of Technology, Iowa State, Ithaca, Johnson & Wales, , Keene State, La Salle University, Lasell, College, Mercy, Mitchell, University of Michigan, Michigan State, Mount Saint Mary, Northern Illinois University, Plymouth State, Seton Hall, Siena, University of South Carolina, University of Tampa, Western Connecticut and Western New England.

LITERACY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM A GREAT SUCCESS!

We have been fortunate enough to have two wonderful Literacy Volunteers in the Career Center on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings this fall. Many of our seniors have taken advantage of this opportunity and found the assistance in perfecting their college essays invaluable. The volunteers

will continue as long as there is a need. Interested students should get a permission slip in the Counseling Office or Career Center and have it signed by a parent or guardian and return it to Mrs. Neill in the Career Center.

FAFSA-On-line: All students/parents should file the on-line version of FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Completing the on-line FAFSA will shorten the process from weeks to days. In addition, the help screens and checks built into the on-line form greatly reduce the possibility of making an error or omission that might delay processing or require correction. The high school does not have paper applications. If you need to obtain a paper application you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 or 1-319-337-5665. You may request up to three copies and should receive them in three to seven business days. You may also download and complete a PDF version of the FAFSA at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov – these must be mailed for processing.

Important Reminder: Check to see if any of your schools require the **CSS Profile**. This is a separate financial aid form required by several private colleges for use in determining their own institutional aid. This form can be filled out immediately, however, there is a cost for each institution. Go to www.collegeboard.com and check out the CSS Profile and see if any of your schools are listed.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1. Anyone who missed Financial Aid Night can click on the link on our Website. Go to Guidance on the left and scroll down to the bottom Financial Aid 2017**
- 2. Remember Seniors: Watch those college application deadlines! If your application deadlines are January 1st, be prepared to send them out by December 20th, and request your transcripts so that they will arrive by January 1st or shortly after. Remember we do not return to school till January 2rd. Marking period grades are not sent automatically, if your school requests them you must see Mrs. Neill in the Career Center and fill out a form requesting grades be sent. Mid-year grades will be sent to all selective schools automatically; but if you receive an email saying your school needs 1st semester grades, be sure to request them from Mrs. Neill – NOT ON NAVIANCE.**

PARENTS AND STUDENTS NOTE: The Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 is open from 8:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. seven days a week. The Center's information specialists will answer any question a caller may have about federal student aid in general, or about his or her specific application.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NOTES:

The National Honor Society inducted **77** new members on October 16th. As of now, if members have not paid their dues, an increase of \$5.00 is added for a total of \$25, or \$40 if the student entered NHS as a senior this year. Dues are required of all members and are used to purchase tassels and stoles for graduation and to pay our national fee. We are happy to report that we completed our leaf raking project without a rain date this year, and our **Thanksgiving Food Drive**

was incredibly successful thanks to our students and staff. For the fifth year, the National Honor Society participated in **Ann's Place Festival of Trees** where we decorated a themed tree "*Take A Trip*" and received a Tree Committee Award. Trees were raffled off to help this wonderful cancer support center. We are now in the process of writing "**Santa Letters**" with Key Club members to all 1st Graders at H&P School. We will be meeting in the LLC classroom after school until December 8. NHS also purchased boots and a book for a child through the **French Honor Society's Star Project**. Our latest project is a **Christmas Drive for the Homeless**. We are collecting thermal underwear (long johns) in size large and extra large, men's and women's through Friday, December 15th. NHS members can receive service hours if they donate. Future events include, a **Baby Bundles diaper** collection, a **Pet Food Drive** in February a **Flower Sale** during the school musical, a spring bake sale and our annual **NHS Blood Drive in May**. **Thank you** to all those that participated in our projects. **REMINDER:** All NHS members are required to have 10 hours of service each year, 5 of those hours must be done through NHS. Please do not wait to participate in NHS service activities till the end of the year – get involved now.

**If anyone is getting rid of a small table top tree, NHS would be happy to take it and use it for next year's Festival of Trees. Contact Mrs. Neill or Mrs. Duggan.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SCHOLARSHIPS!!

Please be aware that all local and many state and national scholarships are listed in **NAVIANCE and students should be in good standing in order to apply for scholarships**. If you log into your account and click on the **Colleges Tab** and scroll down to the **Scholarship List** on the left you will see a current list of scholarships. In some cases you may download the application or click on the website. Most applications are renewed and rewritten each year and most forms are not received by the Career Center until after February 1st. Please make sure you are using the **2018 application**. Also, continue to watch the Grapevine for reminders. Remember, seniors will **NOT** be given their letters of recommendation. If you need to send out scholarship applications, please bring in a **stamped envelope addressed to the organization** and Mrs. Neill will enclose your letters in the envelope and mail for you. If scholarship applications are being picked up by sponsors, students only need to drop off application and Mrs. Neill will enclose your transcript and letters of recommendation

The following scholarship applications are currently available on the Naviance Scholarship List:

Scholarship Name – Due Date

Big Y – 2/1

Burger King – 12/15

Ct Alarm Systems 3/12

Design a Better Future 2/11

Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation (vocational-hairdressing, automotive, etc.) – 4/1

GE Reagan – 1/4
Meserve Memorial – 2/1
Milton Fisher for Innovation and Creativity – 5/1
CT Governor’s Scholarship (Roberta B. Willis) – 2/15
New England Chapter National Association of Water Companies – 2/15
Peter Ladd/Johnny Moran – 4/1
Roger Sherman DAR – 5/1
Thrift Mart – 4/1
U.S. JCI Senate Foundation – 1/5