

# College and Career Update for Seniors- August 19, 2013

As many of you already know, we no longer have Naviance. You should make plans to stop by Guidance regularly to check the scholarship book, listen to announcements, and check the school's website. \_ Mrs. Richard

- Upcoming ACT Test Date is September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013. You must register by Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> to avoid late registration fees.
- University of TN- Knoxville just announced that they will be releasing "admit" decisions starting on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications for 2014 are now open.

## What is the difference between applying for Early Decision and Early Action when submitting your college application?

### Early decision versus early action

Early decision plans are binding — a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college. Early action plans are nonbinding — students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.

Approximately 450 colleges have early decision or early action plans, and some have both. Some colleges offer a nonbinding option called **single-choice early action**, under which applicants may not apply ED or EA to any other college.

ED plans have come under fire as unfair to students from families with low incomes, since they do not have the opportunity to compare financial aid offers. This may give an unfair advantage to applicants from families who have more financial resources.

### Early Decision applicants

- Apply early (usually in November) to first-choice college.
- Receive an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date (usually by December).
- Agree to attend the college if accepted and offered a financial aid package that is considered adequate by the family.
- Apply to only one college early decision.
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Withdraw all other applications if accepted by ED.
- Send a nonrefundable deposit well in advance of May 1.

### Early Action applicants

- Apply early.
- Receive an admission decision early in the admission cycle (usually in January or February).
- Consider acceptance offer; do not have to commit upon receipt.
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Give the college a decision no later than the May 1 national response date.

## **Scholarship Opportunities**

1. Tennessee Concrete Association High School Essay Contest- Open to all high school students ages 16-18 at the beginning of the school term. Essay must be typed; double-spaced and not exceed 600 words. The essay should be on concrete and not a report on concrete. Prizes range from \$50 to \$250 and you may have an opportunity to win a \$2,000 scholarship. Deadline for entry is Monday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please see Mrs. Richard for an entry form.
2. Barnard College in New York City Free fly-in program- Barnard College is offering a chance for promising high school seniors who self-identify as students of color and/or for students who couldn't otherwise afford to visit a chance to fly free to New York for a program on October 12-October 14, 2013. The program will consist of an overnight stay on campus with current Barnard student hosts, experience student life, experience the cultural diversity of New York City, participate in workshops, panels, and classes and meet Barnard students, faculty and administrators. The students must complete an online application and have an advisor recommendation from guidance. The deadline for the completed application is Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and all other materials by September 10<sup>th</sup>. Please see Mrs. Richard for more information.
3. The TN Economic Council on Women's Foundation announces scholarship awards of \$2,000 to high school seniors. Scholarship selection will be based on the following: record of academic achievement both in high school and college entrance exams, participation and leadership demonstrated in school activities, participation in community activities and/or Girl Scout activities, demonstration of need and quality of letters of recommendation. Applications must be completed online by September 6<sup>th</sup>. The website is [www.womenseconomicfoundation.org](http://www.womenseconomicfoundation.org).
4. Washington University in St. Louis invites you to area Admissions Information Sessions. Two will be held on Sept. 15, 2013 in Knoxville, TN and Atlanta, GA. For more information, visit [admissions.wustl.edu](http://admissions.wustl.edu).
5. Horatio Alger Scholarship Opportunity- Awards range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Students may apply online August 1- October 25, 2013 at [www.horatioalger.or/scholarships](http://www.horatioalger.or/scholarships). This scholarship is awarded to students who have financial need and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity. The criteria are as follows: Be enrolled full-time as a high school senior with plans to enter a college in the United States no later than the fall following graduation. Exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a bachelor's degree at an accredited non-profit public or private institution in the United States (students may start their studies at a two-year institution and then transfer to a four-year institution). Demonstrate critical financial need ( \$55,000 or lower adjusted gross family income is required). Be involved in co-curricular and community service activities. Display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0. Be a United States citizen.

### **Visit the following websites for more information:**

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com); [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov); [www.collegefortn.org](http://www.collegefortn.org) (great for ACT prep also)