

September 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

VHS Senior Newsletter

In this issue:

- Important dates to remember
- SAT/ACT Information
- Scholarship Information
- Yearbook and senior picture information

Financial Websites:

Dept. of Education =
www.ed.gov

FAFSA on the Web=
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Financial aid information =
www.finaid.org

Scholarship search =
www.fastweb.com

Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp. =
www.tglsc.com

Texas Higher Education Coord. Board =
www.thecb.state.tx.us

College for Texans =
www.CollegeforTexans.com

Scholarship Searches:

www.Cappex.com/scholarships

www.fastweb.com

TEST TAKING TIPS:
www.makingitcount.com

Candi Patterson, Senior Counselor
951-8909 or cpatterson@vidorisd.org

What Do Colleges Want?

During the admissions process, colleges look at your high school rank, SAT/ACT scores and the coursework listed on your transcript. If they require an essay, they want to read something unique about you! Remember, colleges have different admission standards, so visit college websites and review admission standards. If you are planning to go to a 4-year college or university, you need to have taken the SAT/ACT. If you have not, **time is of the essence!** You need to sign up for the October or November Test (dates listed at the end of this newsletter.) Many colleges start reviewing applications for scholarships in December, so it can't hurt to apply for early admissions in December. Remember, if you are on free or reduced lunch, you will qualify for a fee waiver and will not have to pay to take the SAT or ACT. See your counselor for fee waivers. There are FREE online practice tests at www.collegefortexans.com; www.actstudent.org; and www.collegeboard.com. Register for the ACT at www.actstudent.org. Choose REGISTER FOR THE TEST on the far right of your

screen... then click on GET STARTED on the far left of the screen. **Be sure to choose the essay option, because most colleges want the essay!** You must put in the VHS code on the registration form so we will receive your scores for your transcript. The VHS code is: **447275**. Register for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com.

Register for the reasoning test first and the SAT subject test later only if the college you wish to attend requires it. Choose for STUDENTS...choose REGISTER NOW... SIGN IN or SIGN UP. You may send scores to 4 colleges for free.

If you have registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse for Athletic scholarships, you need to have your scores sent from College Board to them. This is true of the SAT and/or ACT. Use their code number: 9999.

Please check out the **GO CENTER** for more information regarding colleges, admissions, and assistance with SAT/ACT registration. Whether you are going to a 2 year or 4 year college in Texas, you must take the THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment.) You can register online or by paper. www.thea.nesinc.com/ Most 2 year colleges have their own version of the THEA. Spring is the best time to take the THEA.

Concentrate on the SAT/ACT for now.

We are proud to have Ms. Tammy Parker as our new Go Center manager. She is ready to help you with all sorts of information.

Don't want to attend a 2 or 4 year college? There are establishments in our area that offer certifications that do not take 2 or 4 years. Stop by the Go Center or see your counselor for details.

There will be a **career fair at Lamar University** later in the semester. See Ms. Singleton in the 500 building and register to attend.



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE!

2010 YEARBOOK and SENIOR ADVERTISEMENTS

SENIOR PICTURES



VHS is under contract with Anderson Studio for the 2009-10 senior yearbook pictures; therefore, all senior pictures for the yearbook must be taken at Anderson's Studio. The deadline for pictures submissions is September 30th. Call for an appointment ASAP. No walk-in's will be accepted.

SENIOR ADVERTISEMENTS

Parents... Show your SENIOR PRIDE by purchasing a senior ad in the 2010 yearbook. The smallest as is not that expensive. The 2010 yearbook will be in color, so bring out those baby pictures....



Contact Brandon Minton (yearbook teacher) at bminton@vidorisd.org for more info...

Did you know?

Any senior graduating in the top 10% of their class has an automatic admission to any public university in the state of Texas..

How Do You APPLY FOR COLLEGE?

If you plan to attend a college in Texas, you may be able to complete one application that is common to many Texas colleges. It is called the APPLY TEXAS Application. You can complete it online at www.applytexas.org. You will be able to work on it a little at a time and save what you have done. You can return to complete it on another day. Be sure to SUBMIT it when you are completely done. I understand that many students forget to submit. Many colleges charge an application fee. If you received a fee waiver for the SAT/ACT, I can also give you a fee waiver for the college admissions application.

If the college you want to attend is not listed in the APPLY TEXAS application, search the college website on the internet, and click on ADMISSIONS. There should be an online application or information telling you how to get an application. If you need help from Ms. Parker or me, come in to see me or stop by the Go Center. You will need an official high school transcript to mail along with the college application. See Mrs. Clark or Ms. Campise in the senior office for a transcript.

Athletic Scholarships....



If you are interested in athletic scholarships and are **GRADUATING RECOMMENDED** you need to register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. You must have SAT/ACT scores. If you are just now registering for the SAT/ACT, be sure to include the code number for the NCAA as one of the places you want your score reports to go. They will require an official score report from SAT or ACT. The one on your transcript is not enough.



FINANCIAL AID ANYONE.....

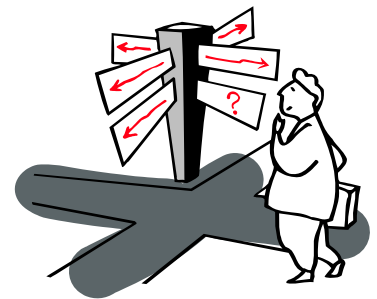
The Federal Application for Financial Student Assistance (FAFSA) is a must for financial aid. Typically, you can apply online or on paper in early February. Parents and students will be required to submit information regarding the previous year's income taxes, so have those forms available when you sit down to complete the FAFSA application.

This federal application covers grants (free money,) scholarships (free money,) loans, and work-study programs that help pay for college costs. **ALL Money (FREE OR NOT) is decided on this application and must be completed in order to qualify for grants and loans.** To be eligible for Texas grants, you need to be on a recommended or distinguished diploma track and apply for financial aid.

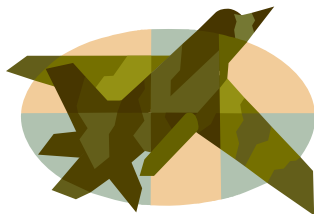
There have been students who did not qualify for a Pell grant but received a Texas grant, so fill out your financial aid forms. For more information on the FAFSA, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov.

So Many Choices... Where Do I Begin...

- Start by narrowing down 2-5 choices and begin requesting information from the various colleges or universities. Most colleges or universities will send you a packet that has information about the campus, academic requirements and financial costs.
- Visit a college or university. You may have two college days to visit potential colleges. College days are excused absences. You must pick up a form from Mrs. Wheat and complete it at least two weeks before you visit. *Your teachers, Mr. Clark, and I must sign it. Then, you must get the visit approved by Mr. Killgo... All before you leave for the visit.* I encourage you to go and visit... sometimes a visit seals the deal on whether or not you really want to attend that college or university.



"Start by narrowing down your choices to 2-5 schools."



The Military offers career training without financial expense to you. They require that you take the ASVAB. VHS will be giving the ASVAB to seniors, free of charge, on October 15th.

Letters of Recommendation...

Be thinking about letters of recommendation. Most scholarship applications ask for two letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors, principals, pastors, club sponsors, community leaders and such. Notify those people in advance so they can write you a worthy letter. Be sure to give them a list of your accomplishments to add to what they know about your and ask them to save the letter on their computer in case you need to adjust it for another application. Scholarship applications all ask similar

information. Be compiling this information now. If you have a computer at home, I suggest that you put the following information on your computer and save it: 1) School activities you have participated in during high school, 2) Community and church activities you have participated in during high school, 3) Awards and honors that you received in high school, 4) Reference names and addresses, 5) Put together an essay that describes your long and short term goals, any hardships you may have, and why you need scholarship money. I think that your English teachers are planning on helping you with the essay process.

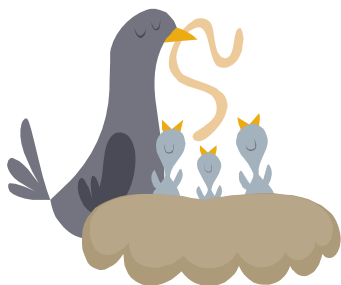
Scholarship Process

- 1) Take the SAT/ACT.
- 2) Apply for a college.
- 3) Complete the free application for financial aid from the federal government called the **FAFSA**.

You can start this process in February 2010. Your tax info will be required.

Colleges require you to do this before they will consider you for free money!!!

4) If you are going to a college in Texas, you must take the THEA exam.



"Scholarship don't just happen--- You must apply, apply, apply!"

The Early Bird Gets the Worm...

Scholarship opportunities will come into the counseling office weekly. They will be announced first over the intercom system and put into newsletters, like this one, and handed out and/or emailed, and then filed in the plastic bin on the top shelf across from my office. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THE LAST APPLICATION!!! You wouldn't like it if that were you who missed out! Finding and applying for scholarships takes a lot of time and effort. Those who work the hardest at this process usually receive the most. Do not get discouraged. The largest scholarships are generally awarded directly by the different universities. All colleges give their own private scholarships...they usually have a separate scholarship application form. Contact the college financial office and ASK about those private scholarships.

The GO CENTER has information from many colleges. Keep in mind... all scholarships have DEADLINES. They will not accept after the due date. The days of retest and late work are OVER! Type your applications. They should look neat and professional. Get your English teachers to look over your essays for you.

Scholarships... What I have right now...

AI's Formal Wear – Two \$2500 college scholarships essay contest. Pick up an application at AI's formal wear. **Begins September 28th – Ends May 5th.**
www.alsformalwear.com/scholarship-rules.asp.

QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship – For high school seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence and are financially needy. College match scholarships cover tuition, room and board. Many past recipients have been first generation in their family to attend college. **Apply by September 30th.**
www.questbridge.org.

Wendy's High School Heisman Award – For incredible senior athletes! Must have at least a "B" average. Applications must be reviewed by a school representative, so don't wait until the last minute. Apply online
www.wendyheismanman.com. **Apply by October 1st.**

Outstanding Students of America – Copy application from the website:
www.outstandingstudentsofamerica.com. (205) 344-6322. **Apply by October 10th.**

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards – Who? Any student who is a US citizen and has engaged in a volunteer activity in the last year. Apply online at www.prudential.com/spirit, click on Apply Now, print out application and submit to K. Clark for review. If selected, you will be nominated for this scholarship of \$1000. **Apply by October 31st.**

Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation – Gives 50 (\$20,000) and 200 (\$10,000) scholarships based on character, personal merit, and commitment. For details visit www.coca-colascholars.org. **Apply by October 31st.**

Walmart Scholarships – Email <http://www.scholarshipadministrators.net> to request information. Watch the website in **October** for information:

Sam Walton Community Scholarship, Higher Reach Scholarship, Walmart Associate Scholarship, Walton Family Foundation Scholarship:
www.walmartfoundation.org or call 1-866-524-7385.

Dr. Suess's Oh, The Places You'll Go! 2010 College Scholarship Program

Essay Contest. Pick up an entry form from the go Center. Mail Entry form and Essay by **February 15, 2010**.

Horatio Alger Scholarship: Apply online: www.horatioalger.org/scholarships
 Deadline **October 30, 2009**

AES Engineers Scholarship (not just for engineering majors): Apply online:
www.aesengineers.com/scholarships Deadline **October 6, 2009**

Students interested in BUSINESS:

Entrepreneur Scholarships: look at the website
www.entrepreneuru.org/scholarship It has several scholarships.

LOOK at

www.studentscholarshipsearch.com



Be sure to ask your employers and your parent's employers about company scholarships.

More Scholarship, Financial Aid Info....

Helpful VHS Information

500 Orange Street
Vidor, Texas 77662

PHONE:
(409) 951-8900

FAX:
(409) 769-6767

CANDI PATTERSON
SENIOR COUNSELOR
(409) 951-8909
cpatterson@vidorisd.org

PRESTON CLARK
SENIOR PRINCIPAL
(409) 951-8903
pclark@vidorisd.org

DEBRA BERTRAND
VHS REGISTRAR
(409) 951-8914
dbertrand@vidorisd.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.vidorisd.org

MeritAid.com is a new, FREE resource that helps students find merit aid scholarships from colleges before they apply. \$11 BILLION in MERIT AID SCHOLARSHIPS, THOUSANDS of COLLEGES, ONE SITE! www.meritaid.com.

United States Senate Youth Leadership Program Two Texas students (junior or senior) are selected in the fall by a committee of school principals to represent the State of Texas at this event.

APPLICATION OPENS annually in **August 1**.

APPLICATION CLOSES annually **October 15**.

For details and forms go to the following link on the Texas Education Agency website:

http://www.tea.state.tx.us/guidance/syp_AppCriteria.html

If you have any questions or I can be of any assistance, please contact me by e-mail at lauralea.bauer@tea.state.tx.us.

Global Solutions Multimedia Contest

Award Amount: \$2,000

The Global Solutions Multimedia Contest 2008 is available to high school students, college students, grad students, aspiring artists, multimedia designers and activists who have an interest in international affairs. To be eligible for this contest, you must submit a short video addressing the question: "How can the United States support Peacekeeping and the International Criminal Court, or working through the international community, as viable solutions to ending the genocide in Darfur?" This contest is open to students of all majors, though those interested in international relations, political science, government, human rights, computer science, graphic design, and IT are particularly encouraged to apply.

For graduating high school seniors wanting early admission to Medical School, we have the Partnership for Primary Care Program. This is an early admissions program that guarantees a space in our College of Medicine. Students will find information at this web address:

<http://cbhec.tamhsc.edu/hcp/early-admissions/com-ppc.html>

The A&M Undergraduate Universities have the JAMP program and students wishing for early acceptance to Medical School can find information by clicking the following:

<http://cbhec.tamhsc.edu/hcp/early-admissions/jamp.html>

For the Baylor College of Dentistry early admission opportunities, you can check here for information: <http://cbhec.tamhsc.edu/hcp/early-admissions/cod.html>

For an early admissions opportunity at the Rangel College of Pharmacy, you can check here for information: <http://cbhec.tamhsc.edu/hcp/early-admissions/cop-eao.html>

To find information on all the Texas A&M Universities, you may go here and click on each schools website: <http://cbhec.tamhsc.edu/hcp/early-admissions/colleges-and-universities/index.html>

Athletes: ASK YOUR coach to nominate you for the STATE FARM Athletic Scholarship.