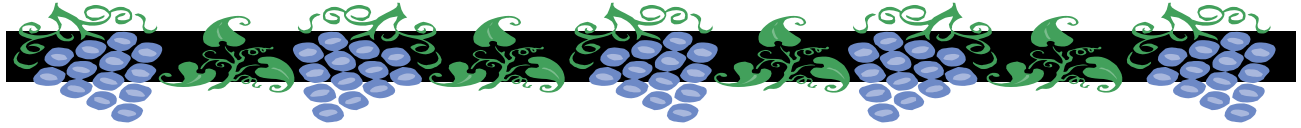


The Grapevine

A SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER



December 2014/January 2015

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

If your Freshman, Sophomore or Junior took the PSAT's on October 16, they should be mailed home in December. If you have any questions, please call your students counselor.

Attention Seniors: Please remember to let your Counselor know if you are applying to or have been accepted to schools over break.

Senior Parents: SENIOR PARENT NIGHT is December 9th from 5:00pm – 6:30pm. We will be discussing financial aid, college applications and acceptance.

FAFSA-On-line: Starting January 1, 2015, 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. GPA 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. For students who are the first in their family to attend college, the process of applying for college can seem complicated, especially finding financial resources and applying for aid to make the dream of attending college a reality. Participating in College Goal Sunday gives students and their families a great first step on the pathway to college. It gives students an opportunity to learn about preparing for college and financial aid in a comfortable setting. Free professional assistance is available on Sunday, January 25, 2015 from 1:30-4:30 at the following locations:

East Hartford Public Schools
869 Forbes Street
East Hartford, CT 06118

MCC
Great Path
Manchester, CT 06040

New Britain High School
110 Mill Street
New Britain, CT 06051

Windsor High School
50 Sage Park Road
Windsor, CT 06095

For other locations, please visit the scholarship guide on our website.

Need more information? www.studentaid.ed.gov/completefafsa has detailed instructions for every FAFSA question!

You can start filling out your FAFSA on-line application beginning January 1, 2015 and it must be completed by February 14, 2015.

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. **Seniors:** Watch those college application deadlines! If your application deadline is January 1st, be prepared to send them out by December 18th. ****You must let your counselor know you have submitted your CommonApp. They need to upload and send your information. Remember, we do not return to school until January 7th.**
2. **If the colleges you apply to require first marking period or mid-year grades, be sure to let your counselor know so that they can be sent.**
3. **When you receive acceptance to college, make sure to let your counselor or Mrs. Spencer know so that you can be listed in the Grapevine!**

SENIOR UPDATE:

As of December 9, the following seniors have been recently accepted to college.

Anastasia Allinson: Goodwin College

Tyler Rose Snow: Johnson & Wales

Kelly Shouldice: Bay Path College & University of Saint Joseph

Joe Johnson: University of New Haven

Treonna Hawley: Newbury College

Congratulations also to those reporting scholarships.

Kelly Shouldice: Bay Path College - \$17,000

Treonna Hawley: Newbury College - \$10,000

Seniors: To report scholarships received, see Ms. Corcoran or stop by the Guidance Suite.

Juniors: All Juniors have the opportunity to take the SAT's free of charge at Great Path in April. **Start preparing NOW! Free SAT practice test on CollegeBoard.org.**

Juniors: The following is a timetable to help you prepare for your Senior year and the college selection process:

January/February: Begin to think about colleges you would like to explore. Check college websites and make a tentative list of colleges to research and visit. Use Supermatch in Naviance to help with finding and exploring colleges that fit what you are looking for.

March: The counselors will be bringing all Juniors to the Hartford College Fair on March 25th or 26th.

March/April: Visit colleges during these months. Research the schools acceptance statistics (average GPA & SAT scores accepted). Begin eliminating choices.

May: Plan visits to colleges over the summer.

June/July/August: Continue to visit colleges, take tours and have interviews. Volunteer in your community, and prepare a draft of your Resume on Naviance. Refine your list of colleges; separate it into Reach, Realistic and Safety schools.

State School Open Houses:

University of Hartford **Tuesday, January 13** **4:30pm - 6:30pm**
(Must preregister @ www.hartford.edu/reply)

Check websites to double check time and register.

SR SCHOLARSHIP - Some scholarships are listed on Naviance.com. Click scholarships. Doing a search on scholarships.com is also a good resource.

Latino Scholarship: For Latino students who are citizens or permanent residents. This scholarship is based on financial need, academic standing, character and involvement in the community. **Deadline: April 15**

Big Y Scholarship - 150 scholarships available for customers and employees. These awards are based on academic merit, regardless of financial need. Applications are available at all Big Y stores and at www.bigy.com/education **Deadline: February 1**

Meserve Memorial Scholarship: Must be pursuing a degree in environmental sciences or nursing. Environmental sciences include, but are not limited to agriculture, animal husbandry, ecological studies, forestry or marine sciences. Minimum GPA of 2.5 on 4.0 scale. Apply online at www.csascholars.org **Deadline: February 2**

Connecticut Nurserymen's Foundation: Must major in horticulture, landscape design, nursery or greenhouse management at the University of Connecticut. Apply online at www.flowersplantsinct.com - click the logo for the CGGA Homepage then scholarships. You must email the application or send in the mail. **Deadline: July 1**

CTDAR Scholarships: Daughters of the American Revolution sponsor \$1,000 scholarships to students who are in the top 25% of their class, based on scholarship, character, leadership and financial need. Students must send a request letter to the local DAR chapter listed and include a resume of activities and accomplishments, class rank and a statement of future plans along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Requests without a return stamped envelope will not be considered. After receiving a DAR Chapter letter of recommendation, an application will be sent directly to the student by the CTDAR State Chairman. Please address information to ROGER SHERMAN CHAPTER, Attn: Nancy A. Nichols, 10 Upper Mallet Lane, New Milford, CT 06776 - **Deadline: February 15**

Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association: For children of Police/Fire officials. Students must have a father, mother or natural guardian who is a full-time paid employee of the Connecticut Police or Fire Communities. **Deadline: March 7**

GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program: Students must demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship. For more information and eligibility requirements and online application, visit www.reganfoundation.org/scholarships **Deadline: January 8**

Connecticut Sportswriters' Alliance: To qualify for the 11th annual Bohdan "Bo" Kolinsky Memorial Journalism Scholarship, student must be pursuing a career in sports journalism
Deadline: February 6

Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut: Glenn Moon Scholarship for prospective teachers. Apply online only at www.artct.org **Deadline: March 31**

Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation Vocational Scholarship: For students planning to attend a vocational program or two year college. Criteria include high school vocational courses, employment and community activities, along with an essay on how this scholarship will help you to pursue your goals. One letter of recommendation is needed from an employer or vocational education teacher.

A. Russell Ayre Scholarship: Criteria include service to the community, academic achievement and financial need. A personal statement is required. **Deadline: May 1**

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship: Applicants must be residents of New England but may attend college anywhere. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to apply. Visit www.phillips-scholarship.org for more info. **Deadline May 1**

First Scholarship Opportunities: Over 90 colleges and universities, professional association and corporations from the US and Canada provide 450 scholarship opportunities valued at nearly \$9 million to FIRST high school students. Scholarship amounts and application deadlines vary. Up to date lists of scholarships available at www.usfirst.org **Various Deadlines**

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Parents/Guardians **MUST** call the GPA main office at 860-512-3700 when a student is going to be absent or tardy.

GPA **MUST** have a written note signed by a Parent/Guardian for **ALL** absences, tardiness or early dismissals.