



Guidance News

It's Time to Apply for Financial Aid

It's January and that means its time to apply for financial aid. Apply online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. You must sign your FAFSA with a Federal Student Aid PIN. If you do not have a PIN, you can apply for one at www.pin.ed.gov. Your PIN allows you to electronically sign when you submit your FAFSA. If you are providing parent information, one parent must also sign the FAFSA. To sign electronically, the parent should also apply for a PIN. You should receive the SAR (Student Aid Report) via email within one day. Pre-Application Worksheets for FAFSA on the Web can be downloaded at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/fafsaws01c.pdf> (copies are also available in the Guidance Office). Paper financial aid forms are available by calling 1-800-433-3243. Financial aid is handled on a first come first served basis. If you have any questions, see your guidance counselor.

Alden HS Financial Aid Night

Don't forget to attend the Financial Aid Night on Wednesday evening, January 13th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

(See back page of this newsletter for more details!)

Statewide Financial Aid Day

On January 13th and February 27th, 2010, 30 SUNY campuses across New York State will be offering financial aid workshops for students and their families. This program is designed to answer questions and provide assistance regarding the financial aid application (FAFSA), types of aid available and the award process. The following local campuses are participating: Alfred State, Brockport, Buffalo State, Buffalo University, Fredonia, GCC and Niagara County Community.

You can register for one of these workshops by logging on to <http://www.suny.edu/student/> then clicking on *SUNY Statewide Student Financial Aid Day*.

To make the best of SUNY's Financial Aid Day:

- ◆ Pre-register
- ◆ Obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN) by going to <http://www.pin.ed.gov>
- ◆ Visit the FAFSA website at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> to download the pre-application.
- ◆ Bring your pin number, student and parent's social security numbers, driver's licenses, W-2 forms and other records of income earned for 2009, 2009 bank statements, 2009 business and mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investment information, alien registration card (non-US citizens), 2009 Federal Income Tax Returns (if completed), and 2009 untaxed income information.

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Scholarship Opportunities

Here's a list of current scholarship opportunities. Don't let these opportunities pass you by – **applications are available in Guidance or at the website listed below.**

- ◆ **AT&T and BBB Science & Technology Scholarship**—Awards of \$3000, \$2000 and \$1000 are available to HS seniors interested in pursuing a degree in the fields of technology and/or science. Applications are available at www.bbb.org (Deadline 3/01/10).
- ◇ **AXA Achievement Community Scholarship**— This program offers \$2000 college scholarships to high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their activities in school, the community or their workplace. The student must also be recommended by an unrelated adult who can attest to the student's achievement (Deadline 2/15/10).
- ◇ **Benjamin Milak Memorial Scholarship Fund**—Students applying for this scholarship must be impacted by a learning disability, hearing impairment, or a life-altering illness. An essay and two letters of recommendation are required (Deadline 2/15/10).
- ◇ **Burger King Scholars Program**— \$1000 scholarships available to all eligible HS seniors who have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, work part time, are active in community service, demonstrate financial need and plan to enroll in a two or four year college. Log on to www.bk.com/scholars to apply. (Deadline 2/01/10).
- ◇ **Darien Center Chemical Volunteer Fire Company Scholarship**— Two \$150 awards are available to a HS Senior who is a resident of the Darien Fire District and has applied for continuing education. A 300-word essay is required; applications are available in Guidance (Deadline 2/28/10).
- ◇ **Dr. Seuss's Oh, The Places You'll Go! Scholarship**— Recognizes a high school senior who understands and values the limitless possibilities that education can offer with a \$5000 scholarship award. Applications available in Guidance or at www.ohtheplaces.org. Deadline: 2/15/10.
- ◇ **Dorothea Deitz Memorial Scholarship Grant**—Scholarships are available to female NYS students who are planning to major in Physical Education Teacher Education. Stop in the Guidance Office for more information. (Deadline 3/01/10).
- ◇ **Eight District Federated Garden Clubs of NYS**—\$1000 scholarship to be presented to a graduating senior residing in Allegheny, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie or Niagara County, in these major areas of study: Forestry, horticulture, conservation, environmental science, land management, landscape design, botany, biology, wildlife science or any related field. For information visit <http://www.gardenclubsofwny.com/> - under Youth High School, click on \$1000 application (Deadline 3/20/10).
- ◇ **Elks National Scholarship**—This is a local scholarship available through the Lancaster Lodge #1478. Any HS senior who is a US citizen is eligible to apply; applicants do not need to be related to a member of the Elks. Awards range from \$1000 to \$15,000 per year. Applications must be sent to the Lancaster Elks Lodge by 1/09/10; applications available in Guidance or at www.elks.org/enf/scholars.
- ◇ **Empire State Potato Growers**— Applicant must be a NYS resident pursuing an agricultural-related area of undergraduate study at a NY college; two essays are required. (Deadline 1/15/10).
- ◇ **Erie Community College Foundation**—Various scholarships are available for students attending ECC— (Deadline 2/04/10).
- ◇ **John A. Maderer Memorial Scholarship**—Three \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded to students based on their application, completeness of their submission and letters of recommendation. Applications available in Guidance or at www.madererfoundation.org (Deadline 4/15/10).
- ◇ **KFC Colonel's Scholars**— KFC Colonel's Scholars is looking for outstanding seniors with financial need and entrepreneurial spirit to qualify for awards up to \$20,000 for tuition, fees, textbooks, room & board. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.75 and must be enrolling in a public college or university within their state of legal residence. The online scholarship application will be available from December 1, 2009 to February 10, 2010 at www.kfcscholars.org.
- ◇ **National Co-op Scholarship Program**— Students must be accepted for the 2010-11 academic year at one of these colleges: Antioch, Drexel, Kettering, Northeastern, Wentworth, C.W. Post, R.I.T., Johnson & Wales, U. Of Cincinnati, U. of Toledo or Pace. Information and applications available at www.co-op.edu. (Deadline 2/15/10).

Scholarship Opportunities (Cont'd)

- ◇ **NAVY ROTC Scholarship**—If you are interested in pursuing a Navy ROTC Scholarship, visit their link at <https://www.nrotc.navy.mil/>
- ◇ **Ned Carter Scholarship**— The Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, Inc. is offering three \$1,500 scholarships to NYS seniors; Applicants must be or be related to a firefighter in an affiliated member organization of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of NY, and must be pursuing a post secondary career in the Community Service related areas of endeavor. Applications available in Guidance or at www.firedistnys.com (Deadline 3/07/10).
- ◇ **NYWEA (NY Water Environment Association) Scholarship**—Six \$1500 scholarships available to students enrolled in an environmentally related field in a 4-year college. For more information, visit www.nywea.org (Deadline 1/21/10).
- ◇ **Sammy 2010 "Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year" Award**— \$7500 college scholarship available based on academic performance, athletic excellence, leadership, community service and milk experience. Applications are only accepted online at bodybymilk.com until March 5, 2010.
- ◇ **St. John Fisher College Foreign Language Scholarship**— St. John Fisher College is offering two foreign language scholarships to high school seniors who will be attending St. John Fisher. For more information, visit www.sjfc.edu/freshman/scholarships or call 1-585-385-8064.
- ◇ **Velma Cobb Scholarship**— Sponsored by the American Association of University Women, Buffalo Branch. All HS girls attending an Erie County high school who have a GPA of 90+ are eligible; must submit 3 letters of recommendation and an essay with the application (Deadline 2/13/10.)
- ◇ **WNY Safety Conference, Inc.**— Offering college scholarships of up to \$1000 to qualified HS students. A 400-500 word essay is required; (Deadline 3/01/10).

SAT PREPARATION COURSE:

Trocaire College is holding a SAT prep course—held on Wednesdays this Spring - from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

(cost is \$119) -

Dates are: March 23, 31 and April 14, 21 and 28

Registration forms are available in the Guidance Office.

Check out these websites:

(For SUNY schools):

www.suny.edu (there are links that will give you access to all campuses)

(For private NYS colleges):

www.college-guide-nys.org

www.collegenet.com

(For online campus tours):

www.nymentor.edu (can take you on an online campus tour or allow you to create your own college e-mail account)

(Financial Aid/ Scholarship Sites): www.wiredscholar.com

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

www.salliemae.com

www.collegeaid.com

www.highschoolhub.org

www.ed.gov

www.scholarships.com— (for a free scholarship search and an online FAFSA guide)

(Career Web Sites):

www.careerpathsonline.com

www.nycareerzone.org

www.science.education.nih.gov/LifeWorks

www.nycolleges.org

(College Search Information):

www.citizensbank.com/edu

(click on resources for students & families; select college search)

www.mymajors.com (can

provide useful advice on college and university majors)

www.collegeboard.com

PSAT RESULTS

Juniors received their PSAT results in December. Counselors met with all test takers to explain their score reports and make suggestions to improve their results on the SAT. The College Board provides all students who take the PSAT with a personal access code for the Quickstart and My Road software available at Collegeboard.com. Students are encouraged to access these sites for college exploration and SAT preparation.

If you have questions about the results, please feel free to call your student's counselor.

SCHEDULING FOR CURRENT JUNIORS

Mrs. Delzer, Mr. Dugan and Miss Martin will be meeting individually with all current juniors during the months of January and February to select their courses for next year.

The 2010-11 Course Description Book is available on our website. Please review the book and feel free to call the Guidance Office if you have any questions. The book is also available in our guidance office if you do not have access to a computer. Some new courses are being offered.

The students will also be completing a Course Selection form, which must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the Guidance Office.

Attention Juniors!

Student Aid on the Web (<http://www.studentaid.ed.gov>) is a great website to visit for information on planning and paying for education beyond high school. Student Aid on the Web offers students and their families a single source of free information on choosing a career, selecting a school, and identifying resources to pay for higher education. The site includes features that allow you to save results of college and scholarship searches, apply to colleges, and pre-populate certain fields of FAFSA on the Web.

BUSINESS STUDENTS CAN GO TO COLLEGE BEFORE LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL

The Business teachers at Alden High School have been working hard aligning their course curriculum with the corresponding business curriculum at a local college. As a result of this alignment, ACHS students can now accumulate up to 21 college credit hours in Business classes offered at the high school.

Through ECC's Advanced Studies Program, high school students can earn college credits for many of the business courses offered at the high school provided a tuition fee (about 1/3 the cost of ECC's tuition) is paid by the student. It is important to note that these credits are not limited to ECC. A student completing and earning a grade of C or better may transfer the course credit to SUNY colleges and most two or four-year colleges and universities. (It is recommended that the student check with their college of choice to be sure the credits will indeed transfer).

Besides earning credits for college, there are other benefits to the program. Students will have access to the same facilities and services as other ECC students, including the library, gym, pool, student services, and academic advisement. Not only does this save a substantial amount of money for the student, it also allows the student to graduate and enter the workforce, or continue their studies in order to obtain an advanced degree much sooner than other students.

Here is the break down of the business courses offered for college credit:

- Business Communications: 6 credit hours in two courses: 3 credits + 3 credits effective Fall 2010
- Advanced Web Design: 5 credit hours in two courses: 3 credits currently + 2 credits effective Fall 2010
- Advanced Computer Applications: 7 credit hours in two courses: 4 credits currently + 3 credits effective Spring 2010
- ◆ CEIP (Career Exploration and Internship Program): 3 credit hours effective Fall 2010

Any student or parent interested in learning more about the Advanced Studies Program through ECC can contact Ms. Susan Siuta (Department Chair), Mr. Allen Turton, or Mrs. Nicole Giambra.

UPCOMING EVENTS:**January**

13-Financial Aid Night
23-SAT Administration

March

13-SAT Administration
23-24-WNY College Night
25-Career Fair-Erie I BOCES

April

10-ACT Administration

May

01-SAT Administration
06-AP English Exam
07-AP US History Exam

June

05-SAT Administration
12-ACT Administration
26-Graduation

SCHEDULED VISITS:

January 6 Army
January 7 Navy
January 8 Army Natl Guard
January 12 Marines
January 20 Air Force
January 21 Lincoln Technical Institute

Representatives come to the Guidance Conference Room during Advisement. Interested students should secure a pass from Guidance.

Seniors—
Please notify the
Guidance Office of
any college
acceptance so that
we can post the
news on our
bulletin board!

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Army Visit	7 Navy Visit	8 Army Nat'l Guard Visit	9
10	11 Freshman Year Planning Nt 6:30	12 Marine Visit	13 Financial Aid Night 6:30	14	15 ASVAB Results 7:15-2:30 DLL	16
17	18 HOLIDAY—No School	19	20 Air Force Visit	21 Lincoln Tech Institute Visit	22	23 SAT
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	REGENTS EXAMS					
31						

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT AT ALDEN HIGH SCHOOL

On Wednesday evening, January 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., the Guidance Office will be sponsoring its annual Financial Aid Night in the Library. Mr. Dan Tramuta will be here from SUNY Fredonia to give an overview of the financial aid process. Dan is the Director of Financial Aid at Fredonia and will discuss both the paper and on line versions of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form is required by virtually every college in the country to be eligible for financial aid. We will be handing out the FAFSA on The Web Worksheet and Mr. Tramuta will be going over this in detail. More than 85% of families applying for aid now apply online.

Mr. Tramuta will go over the worksheet line by line and give you tips on how to file online in a timely fashion.

We hope to see you there! It is a worksheet you cannot afford to miss!