



# Old Steller Yeller

December 2011

Hello Steller Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and ready to spend some quality time with your students over the break. My plans are to spend time with my family on the slopes of Alyeska, at my cabin near Houston, and with my nose in a book. What ever it is you do, be safe, warm, and enjoy some well-deserved rest.

December promises to be short, but filled with many things to occupy our time. Second semester registration will happen on Friday, December 2, and the following is the schedule for students:

## 2nd Semester Registration

12<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 8 am – 10 am

11<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 10 am – noon

10<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 pm- 3 pm

There is a Holiday Concert from Choir, Orchestra and Band on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December at 2:30 PM, and I hope to see many of you there. Also, we will be taking finals this year from December 12 through December 15. Please make sure your students are prepared in the best way possible.

Intensive registration will happen very early next semester, so keep an eye out for the Steller Flash that holds course descriptions and Intensive titles. Our staff has been working on a six-year plan for students wanting to know when

certain classes will be offered throughout their time at Steller.

Looking ahead, we will be able to schedule things much easier and allow for more teaching time in classes. I would like to see us schedule for all of next year before this school year draws to a close.

This month, I'd like to recognize several people for outstanding jobs they are doing around school. I have received several notifications from people in the community about how Nurse Anne has helped them in one way or another. This month, I had the pleasure of awarding Nurse Anne her 15 year pin from the Anchorage School District. Make sure you congratulate her when you see her around. Both, Michelle and Elizabeth deserve recognition for all they do around the office. This year, they made sure Steller had 100% of their Federal Impact Cards turned in. It wasn't easy, but they pursued each and every card until we had them all.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank all the parents, students, and staff who have volunteered their time and efforts this semester. Many committed people gave of themselves for the betterment of our school and it's much appreciated. There will be many other opportunities to volunteer in the future, just watch for notifications.



**From the Principal**  
**Dale Evorn**  
**742-4964**

Our goals for this school year are as follows:

- SBA scores in Reading and Writing will improve compared to the previous school year.
- Steller will retain more students who have been put on probation for not earning at least a 2.0 GPA.
- Students will lead a minimum of 5 Advisory Group Ice Breakers throughout the year.

The last goal is a Social-Emotional Goal, and we are hoping it helps to bring our students closer together.

I look forward to the second half of the year, and again working with your students. They never stop impressing me. Thank you for all you are doing to support our program.

Regards,

Dale



From Left to Right: Cai D., William W., Cheri Spink (Event Director, Anchorage Downtown Partnership) Wright, F., Chandler A., Ocean J.

Steller students brave the cold and Black Friday traffic to help our School business Partner, the Anchorage Downtown Partnership, decorate town Square Park for the AT&T Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.



## Staff Corner



With college application deadlines on the horizon, it's a good time of year for tips on the application process, with specific attention to what this looks like at Steller. Much of this will apply to other sorts of recommendations students seek as well.

The student-advisor relationship is a unique aspect of Steller and can often be a strength when applying to college or for scholarships and other programs. Unlike counselors at most high schools, who often oversee a hundred students or more, Steller advisors are able to get to know their advisees well over the course of six years. This allows advisors, and teachers, to write more personalized and authentic letters of recommendation.

Students should think about which staff members know them best and can comment on their strengths as well as personal and academic growth. It's very helpful if students fill out a form for each recommender that explains the focus of the letter and the specific information they feel the recommender should comment upon. Students should give a minimum of two weeks notice for letter requests.

In addition to the advisor, John Stahl, Steller's guidance counselor, is also a good resource. When students apply for colleges, John must be noted as the counselor so that he can fill out the school profile information. On most college applications, the guidance counselor can submit a letter of recommendation from another person, i.e. the student's advisor.

Although Steller does not offer sports or AP courses, it does offer many opportunities that can help students stand out in the application process. Being a representative to Op-Group, teaching a peer-taught, being a seminar coach, taking self-directed learning courses and doing a passage are all ways that students can take on roles of responsibility and demonstrate their independence and initiative. Participating in a school club as well as class activities, such as helping with the auction or planning a prom, also provide ways for students to get involved with the school community.

Colleges are interested in seeing the whole person, not simply a transcript, so keeping track of extra curricular involvement is very important. Volunteer work, sports, work experience, and school involvement should all be noted. Every student has an individual advisory folder, which is a great place keep a record of this. It's never too early to get involved and to start keeping track.





# Nurse's Notes



Below are some common sense, practical ideas for remaining safe and healthy over the holidays. This information is taken from the Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/family/holiday/>

Enjoy this special time with family and friends. Nurse Anne

**Holiday Health and Safety Tips-** The holidays are a time to celebrate, give thanks, and reflect. They are also a time to pay special attention to your health. Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips.

**Wash your hands often** - Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product.

**Stay warm** - Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems, especially in younger children and older adults. Stay dry, and dress warmly in several layers of loose-fitting, tightly woven clothing.

**Manage stress** - The holidays don't need to take a toll on your health. Keep a check on over-commitment and over-spending. Balance work, home, and play. Get support from family and friends. Keep a relaxed and positive outlook.

**Travel safely** - Whether you're traveling across town or around the world, help ensure your trip is safe. Don't drink and drive, and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle.

**Get check-ups and vaccinations** - Exams and screenings can help find problems before they start. They can also help find problems early, when the chances for treatment and cure are better. Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives. Schedule a visit with your health care provider for a yearly exam. Ask what vaccinations and tests you should get based on your age, lifestyle, travel plans, medical history, and family health history.

**Prevent injuries** - Injuries can occur anywhere and some often occur around the holidays. Use step stools instead of furniture when hanging decorations. Leave the fireworks to the professionals. Wear a bicycle helmet to help prevent head injuries.

Most residential fires occur during the winter months. Keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees, and curtains. Never leave fireplaces, stoves, or candles unattended. Don't use generators, grills, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning devices inside your home or garage. Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home. Test them once a month, and replace batteries twice a year.

**Handle and prepare food safely** - As you prepare holiday meals, keep you and your family safe from food-related illness. Wash hands and surfaces often. Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs (including their juices) away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces. Cook foods to the proper temperature. Refrigerate promptly. Do not leave perishable foods out for more than two hours.

**Eat healthy, and be active** - With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holidays the healthy way. Choose fresh fruit as a festive and sweet substitute for candy. Select just one or two of your favorites from the host of tempting foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music. Be active for at least 2½ hours a week. Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.

**YES, IT HAS BEEN IN THE NEWSLETTER BEFORE, NUMEROUS TIMES...  
IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT ITS WORTH ANOTHER VIEW**



## **SAT VS ACT TESTS... WHICH IS THE RIGHT TEST FOR YOU?**

**Just about everything you may want / need to know about the ACT and SAT tests. If you have any other questions be sure to let me know.**

**Counselor John**



[Click here for the information:](#)



**Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education  
Alaska Student Loan Corporation**

### **Education Planning**



Wondering what the [FAFSA](#) is?

Need a plan to pay for college?

- [Students](#)
- [Parents](#)
- [Educators](#)
- [Community](#)

### **Alaska Scholarship**



New for the 2011 high school graduating class - the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

[Learn more](#)

### **AKCIS**



Tools for career and education planning.

Online, interactive, and free for all Alaskans! Try the [Alaska Career Information System](#).

**The Steller access to  
AkCIS is:**

**User name: Steller  
Password: 4akcis**



Click [here](#) for the video link above for some helpful information regarding the Alaska Performance Scholarship



## Register to Test

### Useful Information

[Test dates](#)

[ACT fees](#)

[Services for students with disabilities](#)

[Standby testing](#)

### Test Centers

[U.S. and Canada](#)

[International](#)

### Codes

[High school](#)

[College and scholarship](#)

## How do I sign up for the ACT?

**[Online registration](#) is the fastest method.** You will know immediately if your preferred test center has space for you to test and can print your admission ticket. How you sign up depends on where and how you plan to test: please see below for how to register.

**Reminder:** You need to [register by mail](#) only if you are [younger than 13](#) or cannot pay by credit card.

- If you plan to test at a [national or international test center](#), sign up online by creating or logging in to your [student Web account](#)
- If you are requesting [extended time](#) or [other accommodations](#) for the first time, sign up online by creating or logging in to your [student Web account](#) or [register by mail](#) in addition to completing the application request and submitting required documentation.
- If you missed late registration deadline, [request standby testing](#) by creating a Web account and complete a downloadable request form.
- If you are [homebound or confined](#), cannot find a test center within 50 miles of your home (U.S. and Canada) or in your country (other locations), or you need a [Non-Saturday test center](#) and one is not established within 50 miles of your home (or in your country if outside the U.S. or Canada), on **all test dates**, check the requirements for [Arranged Testing](#)

Also check the detailed list of [2011-2012 ACT Fees and Services](#)

# PSAT/NMSQT Results

Score report shipments arrive in schools in early December.

We will let you know as soon as we receive them.

Students will need to stop by and get them from John in the office.

Once you have yours you will be able to use your results to access the valuable resources on the College Board web site to understand and use the information your scores provide.

## \* General information:

[PSAT / NMSQT results for students and parents.](#)

## \* Parents & Students

Very useful video to help you understand your scores...

[Understanding Your PSAT / NMQST Score Report & “My College Quickstart”](#)

## \* Student

### Understanding Results from the 2011 PSAT/NMSQT

Suggestions for how to use your results on the PSAT / NMSQT score report and the “My College Quickstart” to improve academic skills and make plans for the future...

[PowerPoint Presentation](#) or [PDF](#)

## \* Parent

Here you'll find great conversation starters for talking about their plans for college and beyond...

[Understanding the PSAT / NMSQT.](#)



View a complete list of statewide scholarships at [www.alaska.edu/foundation/scholarships/listing/](http://www.alaska.edu/foundation/scholarships/listing/)

UA Foundation awards over \$27 million in scholarships each year

Scholarships are available to students attending any UA campus

➤ Most scholarships are awarded in early spring each academic year

➤ Applications must be received by

**February 15**

to be considered for most scholarships

➤ Applications

received through

July 15 will be

used for any new or late-awarded scholarships

➤ Any application

received after

**July 15**

will be disqualified



WHAT STUDENTS

NEED TO KNOW

## SCHOLARSHIPS

AT THE  
**UNIVERSITY OF  
ALASKA**

# HOW TO APPLY:

**1**

Apply for admission to the UA Campus you plan to attend

Go to UAOnline at

<http://uaonline.alaska.edu/>

**2**

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov/](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/)

Priority deadline is February 15 for need-based scholarships and federal financial aid

**3**

Apply for a scholarship at UA

Go to UAOnline and answer the required scholarship questions

Observe all deadlines:

**February 15** for most scholarships; **July 15** for all Statewide Scholarships

Fill out any supplemental applications for scholarships that may need additional information.

**4**

Accept your financial aid on UAOnline

Any scholarship funds that become available are re-awarded throughout the year!



For more information contact:  
University of Alaska Foundation  
PO Box 755080  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5080  
907-450-8030  
[www.alaska.edu/foundation](http://www.alaska.edu/foundation)

View all UA scholarships online: [www.alaska.edu/foundation/scholarships/listing/](http://www.alaska.edu/foundation/scholarships/listing/)

## REMEMBER:

- Apply for admission to your choice of UA Campus
- File your FAFSA by February 15



# Time To Know About Scholarships

## Check your sources

- Counselors and career centers
- Public and school libraries
- Colleges and universities
- Academic departments
- Local businesses
- Native Corporations
- Clubs and Organizations
- The Internet

## Don't pay for free info

Some companies offer scholarship searches for a fee. Often the same reference material is available for free.

## Bookmark these

- Scholarships.com ([www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com))
- Fastweb ([www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com))
- FinAid ([www.finaid.org/scholarships/](http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/))
- CollegeBoard ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com))

## Ask for applications

Start with your high school or college counselors, career center, or UAOnline. In some cases, you may need to obtain application material directly from the scholarship donor. When requesting material directly, be sure to indicate the academic year you're applying for, and always include your address.

## Search early and watch for deadlines

Most scholarships have deadlines starting in October. By March 15<sup>th</sup>, 75 percent of the scholarship deadlines have passed. Allow yourself time to complete required essays, resumes and other materials that may go with your application.

## Your odds are good

Scholarships are available to most who are willing to research available sources and follow through with applying. While many scholarships are awarded based on academic merit, some scholarships also focus on other characteristics such as:

- Leadership
- Athletic ability
- Artistic or musical talent
- Geographical residency
- Non-traditional students
- Military affiliation
- Financial need

## Improve your scholarship potential

- Achieve and maintain at least a 3.0 grade-point average (GPA)
- Be involved
- Be a leader
- Discover and nurture your talents

## Many scholarships pay year after year

Some scholarships are renewable for multiple years. You may have to reapply each year, so keep a record of your awards and reapply if needed. Remember deadlines!

## You can receive multiple scholarships

There are limits associated with ROTC or tuition-only scholarships, but other than that, go for more awards! If you have questions about limits, ask your Financial Aid Office.

## You can receive scholarships & financial aid

Scholarship funding may reduce the amount of financial aid you receive. Typically it will reduce loan and work assistance before grants. Contact your Financial Aid Office to find out how your financial aid award may be affected by scholarships.

# The Twelve Most-Often-Asked Questions About Tuition & Financial Aid.

Your education will probably be one of the most significant, and potentially expensive, investments you will ever make...

Whatever college you finally choose to plant your flag at will ultimately affect the REST OF YOUR LIFE: career, perspectives, personal relationships, faith, in essence your overall peace of mind.

Any institution of higher education college should embrace the reality that the price tag they assign to "their" education will a real financial burden to almost every prospective students and their parents. At the same time we would hope that their belief would be that EVERY QUALIFIED STUDENT should be able to attend the campus that suits him or her without finances being an obstacle. This is where financial aid enters the picture: it BRIDGES THE GAP between what a family can reasonably pay and the total cost of the education, the difference between what have to, and don't have to, ante up.

A VAST MAJORITY of college students receive (or would have received if they knew what you will after you read this) some combination of scholarships, loans, grants, and work-study to prune away at the cost of an education. This happens when you take advantage of those resources and combine them with a college's own ability to subsidize the cost with their merit scholarships in specialized academic and extracurricular areas, e.g.: science, public speaking, sports, the arts, and community service. This is where an admissions office needs to step up and work closely with you and your family to arrive at a FINANCIAL AID SOLUTION that allows you to concentrate on acquiring the best education available.

Take the time to read this carefully...if you're not more comfortable with the financial aid process then let me know. My goal is that after you read through this and have a better understanding of the avenues available you that you can pursue (unfortunately too few do) and you'll discover opportunities hidden under unturned rocks...seek and you will find, paying dividends of LIFE LONG VALUE.

## ONE.

Q. So, what exactly is "financial aid?"

A. Universities, colleges, trade school and training programs use financial aid funds to meet students' financial needs. Think of it as the "need" that reflects the difference between what you and your family can contribute and the total cost of the education: tuition & fees, books, room and board, miscellaneous expenses (which pile up really quickly), etc. Usually the cost of an education is met with funds from many sources. Although most would believe the primary responsibility for financing rests with you and your family you may be surprised, or relieved, that there are many other available sources of funding that can include financial aid from the school and state and federal governments.

## TWO.

Q. What are types of awards I might expect?

A. AWARDS fall into two categories: gift aid (big love) and self-aid (no love).

GIFTS AND AWARDS include scholarships and grants. They need not be repaid.

SCHOLARSHIPS usually are based on your unique skills, achievement, or personal attributes – traits a scholarship donor wishes to recognize.

GRANTS are based on financial need. This includes money like the Federal Pell Grant.

SELF-HELP AID offers you the privilege of taking part in paying for your own education

WORK-STUDY AWARDS are based on need. They are thought of "self-help" because you must work part-time on campus to earn the amount offered.

LOANS also fall in the dubious "self-help" category, because you must repay the principal balance and accrued interest. Schools can help qualified students acquire three types of federal loans: (keep in mind that almost everyone will qualify for a of loan): the Perkins Loan, the subsidized Perkins Loan, and the unsubsidized Stafford Loan; the later of which is never a first choice for financing. Parents may also apply for the Parents' Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), which can be thought of as being "plus more debt."

## THREE.

Q. How do I actually figure out just how I have to go towards an education?

A. It's really a matter of perspective. Since financial aid is determined by a uniform method of looking at with a medical school microscope, financial information provided by you and your family on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA", which seems ironic...you fill out a "free" application to be allowed to borrow what often ends up being exorbitant amount of money). This process helps the school determine the contribution (more irony) your family is "expected" to make. The difference between your expected FAMILY CONTRIBUTION and the actual COST OF ATTENDANCE is the "NEED" (deliberate quotation). Your "need" will be determined by:

Cost of attendance – student and family contribution = need

This "cost of attendance" is only a ballpark approximation of the actual money you'll be doling out for your education because it includes both fixed (hard numbers in ink) and variable (anything but hard numbers that you have to write in pencil and plan on a lot of erasures) costs.

These costs, which can fondly be referred to as "miscellaneous" vary depending on one's personality, comfort zone, flexibility and spending habits...all of which determines "the willingness's of life"; the where to live, what to eat, what to drive, what to wear, etc. Add to these: to medical insurance, plane flights, cell phone bill, pocket change, and so on...then add 10% +/- and you may be somewhere near the dollar amount you'll need to pay for college.

The student / family contribution number is determined by calculations prescribed by the federal law to calculate their perception of your worth (that may already cause you some concern). You and your

family are going to be given the role of having the primary responsibility to pay for education. Parents – if a student is a dependent, or a spouse if a student is married, will be expected to pay out as much as Uncle Sam thinks you should toward meeting educational expenses.

Reality Check: kindergarten through high school – free ride...the day you step off the curb after high school requires deep pockets, a winning lottery ticket, faith in getting a fantastic job to pay back loans, or a keen knowledge of how to get an education as inexpensively as possible.

#### FOUR.

Q. What are awards (FREE MONEY) based on?

A. As a supplement (FREE MONEY) to family support, (your checkbook / credit card), financial aid is offered based on three factors: need, merit, and availability of funding.

NEEDS BASED: A student and his or her family's financial situation is based on what you filled in on the FAFSA form and determines NEED-BASED AWARDS. Need-based aid comes in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, and work study funds from federal and state government, the school, and/or private ("external") organizations. Keep in mind that to pay bills work-study (paid) is going to cover your expenses better than internships (indentured servant hood); always try to negotiate some kind of stipend.

MERIT BASED AWARDS: these are offered (you may have to "ask" for them) based on how good you are at something the college wants and/or needs, i.e.: virtuoso bassoon players can often get "free rides" before a student that can catch a line drive. Schools will pay, sometimes dearly, for a student who shows remarkable academic prowess, especially unique interests, particularly gifted abilities, or a promise for future renowned leadership.

The top five selective universities rejected literally thousands of students applications last year who were valedictorians, had perfect SAT/ACT scores, and/or 4.0 + GPAs. Students with something the schools "wants" (especially when combined with academic skills) can find themselves in a position where a bidding war will ensue to enroll them; nice place to be.

#### FIVE.

Q. What factors are considered in the student / family contributions?

A. The FAFSA analysis form collects information regarding a student's, a student's spouse, and a student's parents **previous year's income**, then applicable, taxes, typical living expenses, and other expenses which the federal folks are gracious enough to for allow are subtracted from your reported income, at which point a percentage of the income that remains is what they believe to be available to "help" pay for an education. The FAFSA requires you to report all sorts of untaxed **money you earn**: veteran's benefits, Social Security, AFDC, child support, TANF, etc.

Besides income, a percentage of the student and parent's **assets** are also going to be looked at as more money you can ante up, once more to "help" meet college costs.

In the end the "contribution" is a factor of

*everything you earn + everything you own – Fed's perception of your expenses*  
\_\_\_\_\_ divided by \_\_\_\_\_  
*factors such as family size & number of family members in college*

#### SIX.

Q. How can I expect my educational financial needs to be met?

A. A number of schools promise that any student who demonstrates financial need will be awarded funds to assist in meeting attendance costs. This is often worded as "does" or "does not" guarantee to meet demonstrated need."

Now this can get sticky because after the Federal Government rakes you through their micro-coals the school is going to run you through theirs. The Financial Aid Offer Package they push across the desk will happen after they have factored in everything you have gotten on your own and what they think you should borrow. They will see their starting point part of helping you after subtracting all the scholarships, grants, etc....and every last cent you're eligible to borrow (which you have to pay back).

Whenever federal funds are part of financial aid package, the total of all aid cannot exceed the need determined by the FAFSA. Exceptions to the rule, as rare as they are, might include the unsubsidized Stafford or PLUS loans, which may be borrowed, up to the cost of attendance, regardless of need or financial aid provided (isn't this nice of them).

Outside scholarships are not considered as exceptions to this rule. If you are offered an outside scholarship after receiving a school's financial aid award package you have to relieve this and the school will reduce its part of their financial aid award. Often you will still be obligated to borrow the "loan amount" you were committed to. So, they will pay less out of their pocket and you will still be just as much in debt after graduation.

There is a good chance your documented financial need will not be fully met solely with all your personal money and the scholarships, grants, work-study funds and (God forbid) loans are added up. What the school usually suggests is to send out more applications and take out more loans. This is where it really helps to be in a position to negotiate...everything can be negotiated.

#### SEVEN.

Q. What are the important dates you absolutely cannot afford to forget?

A. January 1 First day you can submit the FAFSA – **FAFSA.ED.ORG** (beware of imposters)

File the FAFSA as soon after January as possible. This means you will need to have a tax information shoebox well organized for the FAFSA form. If you need to make any educated guesses, that's ok, just try to get your estimations as close as you can because eventually you will need to enter real numbers and "surprises" are notorious for coming back to bite folks.

**Deadlines** Usually between March 1 - April 1, when institutions and states (like ours) require you to submit a FAFSA to get priority consideration for certain awards.

You will also want to make a note of when a school will be sending out their financial aid package offers. This is when you will realize just how much they tell you have, e.g.: assets, scholarships, grants, etc, how much they will give you out of their coffers, and what's left for you to borrow.

Be aware, this does become a case of when the early bird does get the worm. Availability of funding often becomes a critical issue and dries up if you wait until later in the year to apply for money.

**EIGHT.**

Q. What happens after the FAFSA is filed?

A. After the FAFSA is electronically filed a student receives the results straight away. The document is called the Student Aid Report (SAR). All the colleges listed when you fill out the form will also be electronically receiving the information. When you are formally accepted to the school, as a new student the Financial Aid Office from that school will put together an offer of your "package" based on your SAR. After you have received and accepted (remember to negotiate if you can) an award offer and you have completed all the required paperwork for all the loans (UGG) you have signed for the aid will be applied to your student account. Different schools have specific policies so these should be viewed as how the process will generally play itself out.

**NINE.**

Q. Are there specific scholarships for different schools?

A. Absolutely, practically all schools have their own scholarships they have at their disposal to divvy out to students. This money is going to be earmarked for those candidates who are recognized for student achievement and specialized areas of interest or performance. To be in the best vantage point for any and all scholarships that could possibly apply to you, be sure to submit your application admission and the scholarships plenty ahead of any deadlines.

Academic awards are determined by high school grades, SAT or ACT scores, and whatever criteria the school may use, i.e.: how rigorous was the student's course load. These scholarships may, or may not (be sure you know), renewable annually if the appropriate academic standing is met.

Competitive awards are not as, if at all, contingent on GPA. Rather they are based on, but not necessarily limited to, excellence in music (remember the bassoon player), art, science, forensics/public speaking, and community service, anything the college decides to give money away for. A school can give their money away for creative shoe tying if it wants to.

**TEN.**

Q. Is there financial aid available to transfer students?

A. Yes and no. It depends on the college you plan to attend, what you're studying, what you bring to the table (expertise & achievement), and how badly the college wants you to attend. For the most part while

it will be significant easier to get free money (GIFTS) as an entering freshman than a transfer student you should still ask...the squeaky wheel gets the oil.

**ELEVEN.**

Q. How much does it cost to go to college?

A. Let me answer a question with a question, how much does a house cost? How much does a car cost? It is a relative matter. How much of a house, or car, do you need? How much are you willing to pay? How much debt are you willing to take on.

Here is one way to answer the question, keeping in mind the pesky "miscellaneous" fees that won't show up in graphs like these:

	Tuition and Fees	Room and Board	Total
Alaska, four-year public	\$4,721	\$8,622	\$13,343
Arizona, four year public	\$22,319	\$11,436	\$33,755
California, four year private	\$42,818	\$12,078	\$54,896
Colorado, four year public	\$23,096	\$9,084	\$32,180
Idaho, four year public	\$18,376	\$7,304	\$25,680
Montana, four year public	\$19,612	\$7,500	\$27,112
Washington, four year public	\$18,597	\$9,000	\$27,597

*Tuition and fees are averages. Out-of-state averages are based on non-resident prices.*

**TWELVE.**

Q. What does a typical financial aid look like?

A. Depends, there is literally any combination of factors involved in coming up with a number and each specific rules don't necessarily apply to every student. If you really want an answer a "typical" award may look something like:

- Institutional scholarship
  - Other gift aid
  - Campus employment
  - Stafford Loan
  - Perkins Loan
- totally depends on how much a college wants a student  
totally depends on what has been applied for and won  
maybe, maybe not  
no one will stop you from borrowing  
see above



# A Teen's Guide to Protecting Portable Property

Are you a teen who owns a cell phone, a portable music player, or the latest CDs? How about a calculator, a digital camera, or a popular brand of athletic gear? Do you bring these items with you to school and leave them in your backpack or store them in your locker while you are in class, at lunch, or in the gym?

If your answer to these questions is yes, then answer one more: Do you know how to protect your personal property so that it goes home in your backpack at the end of the day and not in someone else's?

Odds are that you or someone you know has had personal property stolen while at school or a school event. Statistics show that young people ages 12 to 17 are far more likely to be victims of property crimes than adults, and most of the crimes occur on school grounds. The majority of these thefts are never reported to police or school officials.



Protect Yourself

## How To Prevent Theft

It's unfortunate, but some people steal. Yet protecting your portable property doesn't mean you can't have it with you or enjoy it. It does mean taking steps to ensure that this property is carefully watched or secured at all times. Here are some approaches that will help keep you from being a victim of property crime.

### Don't Bring Valuables to School

If you don't absolutely need something during the school day, leave it at home. Keep only as much cash in your wallet or purse as you need in one day. Remember, most schools have an "at your own risk" policy when it comes to bringing money and expensive items to school and will take no responsibility for your losses.

### Avoid Calling Attention to Your Valuables

Playing cool ring tones on your cell phone might amuse your lunch buddies, but it can also mean unwanted attention from people around you who you don't know. If you listen to your portable music player on your way to and from school, tuck it in a pocket or keep it out of sight. And don't brag about how much your new basketball sneakers cost at the mall.

### Never Leave Your Valuables Unattended

Most items are stolen because they are left unattended. If you toss your backpack on a table while you get in the lunch line or leave it on the

bench next to your gym locker, either your backpack or an item inside it may be missing when you return. If you must leave your belongings for a few minutes, ask a friend to watch them until you return.

### Secure Your Locker at All Times

Many students report that their belongings are stolen from lockers. Lockers can be broken into easily, especially if they are not properly closed. Make sure your locker is shut tightly at the top, in the middle, and at the bottom. Request a different one if it is not working properly. Always keep it locked and do not share your combination with anyone. Gym lockers are the most vulnerable to theft because they are often left unlocked, and changing rooms are usually not monitored by security cameras or guards.

### Protect Valuables That You Leave in Your Car

If you drive to school, never leave valuables in plain view inside your car, even if you keep it locked. Put them in the trunk or at least out of sight. Buy radios, mp3, and CD players that can be removed and locked in the trunk. Remember, school parking lots are often deserted during the school day and car thieves know this.

# Educate Yourself

## How To Recover Stolen Items

Although many stolen items are never recovered, there is always a chance that stolen items will fall into the authorities' hands. If you take certain steps before and after a theft, you just might get a prized item returned to you.

### Keep a List of All Your Valuables

One of the best ways you can assist the police in recovering your stolen property is by keeping records. Make a list of all of your valuables. Write down a full description of each item including color, make, model, serial numbers, and any other identifiers. You might want to take a picture of each item to keep with the list. Make several copies of the list and give one to your parents.

### Take Part in Operation ID

Operation ID is a nationwide theft prevention program that involves marking property with an identifying number to make it less desirable to thieves, who will have trouble selling it, and to help police locate the owner if the stolen property is recovered. You will need an engraver to mark your personal property. These are often available free of charge from neighborhood watch programs and other groups.

Some items can be ordered from the manufacturer already engraved with personal identifying information such as your initials. If allowed by your school, write your name in the front cover of your textbooks. Use indelible ink to write your name on the inside labels of your gym clothing, jackets, and accessories such as hats and gloves. Many items are lost rather than stolen, and having your name on them will bring them safely back to you.

## Immediately Report a Theft to Authorities

If something that belongs to you is stolen, report the theft immediately to school authorities, your parents, and the police. Be sure to note the date, time, and location of the incident. If someone else witnessed the theft, ask for the person's full name and contact information for the report. Prompt reporting is an important factor in recovering stolen items and in catching the thief so he or she does not commit more crimes.

## Start a School Watch Program

You may have heard of Neighborhood Watch, where neighbors watch out for each other and report crime in their neighborhoods. A school crime watch works the same way. Students watch out for each other to make the entire school safer and more enjoyable. They learn how to keep from becoming victims. They also learn the best ways to report theft and suspicious activities.

When students in a school start and run a crime watch program, they are saying, "Crime is not tolerated here." Talk to your school principal about starting a program at your school. A national organization called Youth Crime Watch of America can also provide you with information on starting a school crime watch. Visit their website, [www.ycwa.org](http://www.ycwa.org), or call them at 305-670-2409 for more information.

**Like your stuff? You're not the only one.  
Remember to keep your things safe.  
Lock them up.**

For more information on protecting portable property and preventing crime visit...

The **National Crime Prevention Council** ([www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)) for resources on preventing theft, preventing teen victimization, witnessing and reporting crimes, and much more.



**NATIONAL  
CRIME  
PREVENTION  
COUNCIL**  
Teens, Crime, and  
the Community

**National Crime Prevention Council**

2345 Crystal Drive, Fifth Floor

Arlington, VA 22202

[www.ncpc.org/tcc](http://www.ncpc.org/tcc)

202-466-6272



# Protecting Teens From Property Theft in Schools: Tips for Adults

By the age of 17, 43 percent of youth in the United States have stolen property worth \$50 or less.<sup>1</sup>

Many of today's teens carry a variety of technological devices, such as mp3 players, cell phones, digital cameras, portable gaming systems, etc. These items are often targets of theft in schools. Such items as school books and clothing can be targets of theft as well.

In 2006, "high school students were more likely to experience property crime than fights at school."<sup>2</sup>

## Preventing Property Theft

Theft in schools may sour students' feelings about their school environment or make them feel unsafe. While many schools have security personnel on site, some schools rely on teachers and administrators to police the halls. Regardless of the level of security, it's important to teach teens to prevent theft.

- Remind teens to keep their lockers locked. Tell them not to keep money or anything valuable in their lockers, especially overnight.
- Tell teens to lock their bikes and not to leave their bikes in isolated areas.
- Don't leave backpacks, purses, other bags, or anything valuable unattended during school hours or at an afterschool meeting or practice.
- Consider leaving valuables, especially expensive electronics, at home. If teens do bring their electronics to school, tell them to write down the serial numbers beforehand and make sure they don't leave valuables in backpacks or on desks.
- Tell teens to keep valuables locked out of sight in their car's trunk or glove compartments.

## Recovering Stolen Property

Stolen property is hard to recover, but there are cases in which stolen property is found and turned over to the appropriate authorities. If teens take appropriate steps before and after a theft, they might be able to retrieve their valuables.

- Tell teens to keep a record of all of the valuables they bring to school. This includes the item's color, make, model, serial number, and any other identifying information. Teens may even want to take a picture of each item to keep with the list (and give a copy of the list to their parents).
- Take part in Operation ID, a nationwide theft prevention program. Teens mark property with an identifying number to make it less desirable to thieves—the number makes it harder to resell the item. The number also helps police locate the owner if the stolen property is recovered. Teens can have items engraved, or write their names in permanent ink on the inside labels of clothing. Since many items of clothing (particularly accessories) are lost rather than stolen, having a name on them may aid in their safe return.
- Immediately report a theft to school resource officers, school security staff, or other law enforcement. When reporting a theft, remember to note the date, time, and location of the incident. If someone else witnessed the theft, ask for the person's full name and contact information for the police report. Prompt reporting is an important factor in recovering stolen items and in catching the thief.

# Protecting Teens

## Keeping Schools Safe

Teens can also take part in school crime watches and safety and prevention education programs to help protect their property and prevent theft. School crime watches work when students watch out for one another and report any crimes that they hear about or witness. When students in a school start and run a school crime watch, they send the message that “crime is not tolerated here.” To learn more about starting a school crime watch at your teen’s school, visit the Youth Crime Watch of America website at [www.ycwa.org](http://www.ycwa.org).

Students can also start a student safety program, such as Youth Safety Corps (YSC). YSC provides youth interested in public safety and crime prevention an opportunity to engage in ongoing, active participation in crime prevention. Youth partner with school resource officers, school personnel, and community volunteers to assess and analyze safety and security issues within their schools and communities that contribute to youth crime and victimization. Youth Safety Corps teams then address those issues by implementing such projects as painting over graffiti on the walls of a school, developing presentations to teach children about theft or bullying, or surveying students about their attitudes toward underage drinking. For more information about Youth Safety Corps, visit [www.ncpc.org/tcc](http://www.ncpc.org/tcc).

Adults can also engage teens in prevention education. Teens can participate in the *Community Works* program to learn about crime and victimization prevention, engage in critical thinking and problem-solving activities, and participate in service-learning projects. *Community Works* sessions are designed to teach youth how to examine violence and law-related issues in the context of their schools and communities and then apply what they learn to real-life circumstances. Students learn about the different types of crime, the costs and consequences of crime, conflict management strategies, how crime affects communities, and what community prevention programs and services are available to them. Issues such as theft, bullying, dating violence, gangs, substance abuse, underage drinking, and police-youth relations are also explored. To learn more about the *Community Works* curriculum, visit [www.ncpc.org/tcc](http://www.ncpc.org/tcc).

## Learn More About Preventing Theft

For more information about preventing theft in schools, check out the National Crime Prevention Council’s Anti-theft Campaign at [www.ncpc.org/preventtheft](http://www.ncpc.org/preventtheft).

1 Snyder, Howard N., and Melissa Sickmund. *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2006 <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/nr2006/downloads/nr2006.pdf>

2 Ibid. 73.



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 Teens, Crime, and  
TCC the Community



# Winter Break Closure Information



Friday, December 16th - In-Service NO SCHOOL  
Monday, December 19, 2011 - Monday, January 2, 2012 -  
Winter Break NO SCHOOL

## **Required Notice to Parents:**

### *2012 Climate and Connectedness Student Survey - Grades 3-12 only*

The 2012 Climate and Connectedness Student Survey is being administered to provide schools with information about perceptions and experience related to school climate and student connectedness for use in setting school goals and redirecting resources. This is an annual survey implemented and analyzed jointly by the ASD departments of Social and Emotional Learning and Assessment and Evaluation. The survey will take place between January 17 and February 24 of 2012.

This survey does not require parental permission and is administered to students in grades 3-12. If parents would like to request that their child does not complete this survey, please contact your student's school. This message serves as a notice to parents about this upcoming survey.

Please follow or type this link to review the survey: [http://www.asdk12.org/depts/assess\\_eval/climatesurvey.asp](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/assess_eval/climatesurvey.asp)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, December 2nd**  
**2nd Semester Registration**

**Friday, December 9th**  
**7:00 - 11:00pm**  
**December Dance**

**Saturday, December 3rd**  
**SAT**

**Wednesday, December 14th**  
**6:00 - 7:30pm**  
**Parent Group Meeting**

**Thursday, December 8th**  
**6:30 - 8:00pm**  
**Ad Board**

**Friday, December 16th**  
**End of 2nd Quarter**  
**Inservice Day - NO SCHOOL**



**STELLER SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**2508 BLUEBERRY ROAD**  
**ANCHORAGE, AK 99503**

