

SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEWS

INCLUDES IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SENIORS AND JUNIORS

Parent/student conferences are coming up next week and I am available for individual meetings. My schedule is on the Conference Scheduler. I am available during the morning hours on Wednesday 10/25 and in the afternoon/early evening on Thursday 10/26.

The seniors are busy with college applications and the process may seem overwhelming to some families. The key is to stay organized and keep a "to-do-list" to make sure every task is completed.

The Common Application

Students applying to private schools and schools outside Alaska should check if the schools are members of the Common Application. The Common App requires information from the school counselor and letters of recommendation. Students need to add at least one college on the Common App to be able to invite recommenders.

- Choose the tab called "My Colleges" and the "invite recommenders" is on the menu on the left.
- **Waive the FERPA rights.** This is important. If students don't waive their rights, the application will not be looked upon as "an honest" application. If you have questions about this, please call me or send me an email.
- You don't need to invite your advisor, but invite Marianne under Counselor. I will work with your advisor for my recommendation, including submitting the letter of recommendation.
- When inviting teachers, choose teachers you have had in core classes, preferably as juniors and seniors.

FAFSA – Financial Aid

FAFSA is the door to scholarships and grants and students are typically automatically considered for scholarships by submitting the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Two FAFSA applications need to be filled out, one by the student and one by a parent. A Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) is also needed for both accounts. Only one parent is needed for a FAFSA account even if the student divides their time between two households. They can choose the household they spend the most time or the household with less income. The FAFSA is easy to fill out as long as

you have the information needed on hand. The application opened October 1 and I recommend submitting the application as soon as possible.

Obtaining a FSA ID:

<http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/college-scholarship/>

Creating a FAFSA account and starting the application:

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Make sure to create a SAVE KEY when prompted so you can log back in and view your application and/or make changes. After you log out the first time, it may take a few days before you can log in again.

CSS Profile

Student applying to private colleges may have to fill out the CSS Profile (College Scholarship Service Profile) to be eligible for scholarships. This application is more detailed than the FAFSA and requires information from both parents regardless of which parent the student lives with. The due date for the CSS Profile varies so please check the due date for each private college if the application is required.

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

I had originally planned to do a financial aid night in September or October but there was not enough time this fall. However, if there is enough interest, I can do a financial aid night in early November. I am also available for individual support.

University of Alaska Applicants

The deadline to apply is May 1, but I recommend that you turn in your application in January or early February so it is processed before fall registration opens up. UAA and UAF have online applications through their websites and it is a simple process. Please request a transcript to be sent directly to the institution through the ASD website:

<http://www.asdk12.org/StudentRecords/TranscriptReqUserFormExt.aspx>

Students need to take the Accuplacer, which is a placement test for Math and English. I recommend that students take this test in February (or early March) so they are ready for class registration:

<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/students/testing/accuplacer.cshtml>

Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)

The scholarship is based on SAT or ACT test scores, GPA, and high school curriculum. We cannot promise that students will qualify for the APS, since not all district courses are approved for the scholarship. Students will automatically be considered for the scholarship by filling out the FAFSA. No separate application needed.

https://acpe.alaska.gov/FINANCIAL_AID/Grants_Scholarships/Alaska_Performance_Scholarship

Planning to participate in college sports?

Seniors and juniors: you need to **register with NCAA**. Seniors need to do it now (I have no seniors on my NCAA list). Juniors need to do it as soon as possible.

<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/how-register>

Students also need to let the coaches at their prospective universities let them know they are interested. Google: name of university/college, name of sport, recruitment questionnaire. This should take you to an online form.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Marianne