

**Welcome
Senior Parents**

Senior Year The Clock is Ticking



Clock

Presentation Overview

Important dates with Mrs. Landry
Mid Year Report Process
Naviance Updates
Financial Aid Discussion
Award Letters Review
Scholarship Search and Reporting
Graduation Overview

MRS. LANDRY

Save The Dates!

- March 10 – Last day to pay class dues (include \$10 late fee) and buy a prom ticket at a regular price.
- March 23- Panoramic picture is taken
March 24- Picture delivered by Goldbeck – money is due upon delivery
- April 7 – Last day to buy a prom ticket
- April 22– Prom @ Las Vegas (8-12)
- May 1 – Senior parent meeting – 6:00pm
- May 15 – Senior Awards Assembly – Hobby Center, Zilkha Hall– 6:00 pm
- May 19 – Senior Picnic – 4:00 pm
- May 23-Cap and Gown Delivery
- May 30 – Graduation-Hobby Center, Sarofim 7:00 pm

**Information can change – please review all information at www.hspva.org for updates.

JANUARY

Mid Year Reports

- Rank has been finalized and mid-year reports will begin to go out at the end of this week
- Mid-year reports will be automatically sent to Common App and electronic submission schools with a **SUBMITTED** status.
- You must email Ms. Love with the names of “postage stamp” colleges who need a mid-year transcript for the other colleges.
- Any new off campus credits received at this time will be reported on the final transcript but we will not recalculate rank or GPA.

JANUARY

Finish
your
college
& and
financial
aid apps

- Complete your applications for regular admissions. Check status online.
- Make sure all documents and scores have been sent.
- Verify deadlines and status in Naviance.
- If you are accepted to a school through early decision, be sure to follow directions carefully. Submit required forms, and notify the other schools to which you applied of your decision.

FEBRUARY

You are
in the
Home
Stretch!!!

- Contact colleges that didn't send you a confirmation receipt for your application.
- Don't put off applying to schools with rolling admissions or late deadlines.
- Keep your grades up!!
- Some acceptance letters may arrive from schools with rolling admission but don't panic as many decisions are not mailed out until April.

MARCH/APRIL

Review and Compare Award Letters

- Keep track of all acceptances, rejections, and waitlists and update information in Naviance.
- If waitlisted, learn more about waitlists and move ahead with other plans.
- If you have ruled out any colleges that accepted you, notify them.
- Go to accepted student open houses if offered.

The ABC's of Financial Aid

Mrs. Latrale Walker
College Access Coordinator

FAFSA

EFC,
COA,
SAR...
OMG!!!

- ◉ If you submitted a FAFSA, you should have received an SAR (Student Aid Report). Review the SAR carefully for accuracy as errors could result in thousands of dollars of lost financial aid.
- ◉ The SAR should include your EFC (Estimated Family Contribution).
- ◉ The EFC is the amount of out-of-pocket expenses that are expected to be provided toward your educational costs from income, savings, or a non-need based loan. The EFC is calculated from the information reported on the FAFSA or TASFA (Texas Financial Aid Application for non-citizens). The calculation of the EFC is established by law and is used to measure a family's financial strength on the basis of the family's income, assets, family size, and number of family members in post-secondary education. It is used to determine eligibility for most student aid programs.

AWARD LETTERS

What to expect...

- A Financial Aid Award letter will include various types of aid including:
 - Gift Aid (Free): Scholarships, Grants, Waivers, etc.
 - Self-Help: Work Study, Employment, etc.
 - Loans: Federal, State, Institutional, Other.
- Letters should include the cost of attendance (COA) which is an estimate of what it costs the typical student to attend the institution. It includes tuition and fees, room and board, and allowances for books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and personal expenses.
- It is important to look at the “out of pocket” cost for attendance (COA-Free Money=Out of Pocket Cost) when comparing financial aid offers.

AWARD LETTERS

What's next?

- Read the Financial Aid Offer Letter carefully before accepting or declining individual awards.
- Clarify renewable and “one-time” only awards.
- Review the estimated cost of attendance on the offer letter to assist in planning for how much aid you will need.
- Review the Financial Aid policies per institution to fully understand requirements for maintaining aid (GPA, attendance, total hours enrolled etc.)
- Accept or decline your offered aid.
- Contact the financial aid office directly if you have questions

Sample Award Letter

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

	Fall	Spring	Total
Deans Scholarship	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00
Chapman Grant	\$ 7,325.00	\$ 7,325.00	\$ 14,650.00
Subsidized Direct Loan	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 3,500.00
Federal Work-Study	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Unsubsidized Direct Loan	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Parent PLUS Direct Loan	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Award Total	\$ 21,075.00	\$ 21,075.00	\$ 42,150.00

PLUS Loan

Based on your enrollment and housing plans:

Estimated Tuition and Fees: \$43,573

Estimated Room & Board: \$12,000 - \$13,500

Cost of Attendance?

Tuition and Fees are ESTIMATES ONLY and can change depending on associated fees with a particular major (e.g. music majors). Please refer to your online eBill from Student Business Services for your semester charges and any payment(s) due. There is a mandatory loan fee deduction of 1% from Subsidized/Unsubsidized Direct Loans and 4% from PLUS Loans.

As you plan for college, remember there will be other costs associated with attendance, including: books, transportation, and various personal and living expenses.

<u>COA</u>	<u>EFC</u>	<u>Need</u>	<u>Financial Aid</u>
\$60,573	- \$12,617	= \$47,956	\$36,150 / \$47,956 = 75% of need (82% + 18%)

CAN I APPEAL?

Can I
have
more
please!

- Take Action ASAP.
- Correct any FAFSA or CSS Profile Errors.
- Report Financial Changes and New Information to colleges.
- Ask for more Gift Aid (be prepared to document higher offers).
- Contact the financial aid office directly if you have questions.

Tips for Appealing Financial Aid

From: www.collegedata.com

- **Know the procedure for filing an appeal.** You can usually find general guidelines for filing an appeal on the college's website. If you can't find this information online, contact the financial aid office directly.
- **Decide whether the student or the parent should contact the aid office.** Aid officers say they are impressed with a student who takes the initiative to make the call. In many situations, however, the parent is better prepared to discuss a family's financial situation.
- **Be prepared to provide documentation.** The financial aid officer is likely to ask for documentation of the circumstances that have changed your financial picture. This could mean an official letter from your mom's company confirming that she was laid off, or financial records for the past six months that show a steady loss of income.
- **Know how attractive you are to the college.** If you believe you are a desirable student, explore the possibility of getting or increasing merit aid from the college. (Merit-based aid may be handled by the admissions office.) If you have been in touch with a professor or coach, they might be able to put in a good word for you as well.
- **Wait until you have other offers in hand.** You will have more leverage if at least one other college has accepted you and offered you a better financial aid package. If another college has offered a more attractive package, say so.
- **Don't challenge the college with an ultimatum.** Explain how much you really want to attend that college, but that the cost is holding you back.
- **Say please and thank you!**

Sample Appeal Letter

Sample Financial Aid Appeal Letter

MM/DD/YYYY

Ms. Jane Jones
Financial Aid Administrator
ABC College
101 Finance Lane
Collegetown, NY 11122

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for the offer of financial aid for attending ABC College. However, my family's financial situation has changed since the application process was completed.

The KQX Corporation recently downsized several employees, and my mother was one of those affected. As a result, my family is not going to be able to support my college education to the extent we expected during the application process.

I would be grateful if you could adjust my financial aid offer in light of this information. Please let me know what paperwork and information you need.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Susie Student
123 Elms Lane
Hutchinson, WV 22211
Home: (555) 555-5555

SCHOLARSHIPS

Where's
the
“free”
money?

- Continue to research scholarships.
- Apply for scholarships well in advance of deadlines. Look for emails from Mrs. Morrow and Mrs. Walker.
- Scholarships Resources
 - > ScholarshipsPlus
 - www.scholarshipplus.com/houston
 - > Escholarships
 - www.collegeguidanceconsultants.com
 - Username: houstonisd
 - Password: houstonisd
 - > Naviance

SCHOLARSHIPS

How
do
I report
my
awards?

- Scholarship Reporting Procedure
 - > Complete Scholarship Form available in Naviance, from Mrs. Landry or from the front office
 - > Attach form to a copy of your award letter and turn in to your counselor or Mrs. Walker
 - > Scholarships earned will be listed for each student in the Spring Awards program unless family opts-out of the listing
- Turn in ALL Award Letters!!!

MAY

You
made
It !!!

- ◉ Avoid **SENIORITIS**! An acceptance letter doesn't mean you can stop working.
- ◉ Most schools have a deposit deadline of May 1st.
- ◉ Prepare for and take any appropriate AP exams.
- ◉ Send thank you letters to everyone who helped you in the application process. Let your mentors and recommenders know the results of your college search.
- ◉ Keep on top of procuring student loans. Notify your college if you receive any scholarships.

Graduation Overview

- *Seniors will report to HSPVA for rehearsal at 7:15am**
- *Last group will be released at 1:30pm**
- *Call to be back at Hobby for ceremony for students is 6pm**
- *Final schedule will be shared later this Spring**
- *May 1st Meeting –Graduation Tickets will be distributed (likely 6 tickets per family for orchestra seating...unlimited seating in mezzanine and balcony sections---official details will be shared in May)**

Questions?