

Seniors 2020

HOSPITALITY

Upcoming Events

February 27: Panoramic Picture

February 28: Panoramic Picture Delivered (Money Due)

March 6: Last Day to Buy Prom Ticket without \$10 Late Fee

April 3: Last Day to Buy Prom Ticket

March 24: Balfour Announcement Orders Delivered

April 17: Prom at The Bell Tower on 34th

April 20: Parent Graduation Meeting 6:30 PM

May 18: Senior Awards Assembly 6 PM in the Denney

May 22: Senior Picnic- 3 PM - 6 PM at Discovery Green

May 22: Cap and Gown Distribution

May 23: Graduation rehearsal and senior breakfast at HSPVA at 7:00 AM

May 23: Graduation at Smart Financial Center 7:00 PM

Exemptions

Contacts: Mr. Tellez & Mrs. Williams

- ❖ Seniors may exempt exams in the spring semester if they have no unexcused absences in an ADA period (2nd and 6th) and no more than three total absences in ADA (2nd and 6th) for the spring semester.
- ❖ For individual classes, ALL of the following conditions must also be met:
 - No more than three total excused absences and no unexcused absences for the semester
 - 85 average or better in the course for the semester
 - S or E conduct average
 - Discretion of the teacher

Please note: hand written or emailed excuses MUST BE TURNED IN WITHIN 3 DAYS OF RETURNING TO SCHOOL FROM AN ABSENCE

College Visits

Contacts: Mrs. Norman

- ❖ Students are allowed 2 college visits that do not count towards their exemption status (this number is set by the state and is not negotiable).
- ❖ Students need to inform attendance and teachers a minimum of 3 days before the visit.
- ❖ After a student returns to campus, they must bring documentation within 3 days of returning from the college visited. A parent letter or email does not meet documentation requirement.

January

- ❖ Mid-Year transcripts/reports are updated with records including fall grades. Required by some schools but not all.
- ❖ Mid-year reports will automatically be sent to Common App and electronic submission schools with a SUBMITTED status. No need to request mid-year transcripts in Naviance.
- ❖ You must email Mrs. Hines with the names of “postage stamp” colleges who need a mid-year transcript.
- ❖ Complete your applications for regular admissions. Check status online.
- ❖ Send your ACT and SAT scores from ACT and College Board.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Request transcripts for all remaining colleges and scholarships.
- ❖ Turn in scholarship/grant reporting forms to Counselors.

February

- ❖ Check your college online portals for any missing documents.
- ❖ Don't put off applying to schools with rolling admissions or late deadlines.
- ❖ Keep your grades up!!
- ❖ Acceptance letters may arrive from some schools early but don't panic as many decisions are not mailed out until March and April.
- ❖ Turn in scholarship/grant reporting forms to Counselors.

March/April

- ❖ Keep track of all acceptances, rejections, and waitlists. Be sure to update your information in Naviance.
- ❖ If waitlisted, follow the information from the college and also 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.
- ❖ Turn in scholarship/grant reporting forms to Counselors.

May

- ❖ Avoid **SENIORITIS**! An acceptance letter does not 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 and let them know where you've been accepted.
- ❖ Keep on top of procuring student loans. Notify your college if you receive any scholarships.

Financial

Aid

HOSPITALITY

FAFSA, EFC, SAR

- ❖ If you submitted a FAFSA, you should receive 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. 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 such as:
 - Free Money: 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
 - $\text{COA} - \text{Free Money} = \text{Out of Pocket Cost}$ 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 Financial Aid policies per institution to fully understand requirements for maintaining aid, such as GPA, attendance, total hours enrolled etc.
- ❖ Accept or decline your offered aid.
- ❖ Contact the financial aid office directly if you have questions.
- ❖ Complete a scholarship/grant reporting form for ALL OFFERS (even if you do not accepted it) and turn into your Counselor.

Tips for Appealing Financial Aid

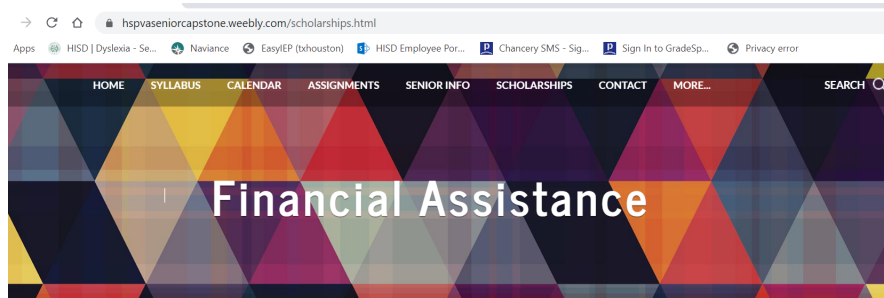
from: www.collegedata.com

- ❖ 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. (Job Loss, any change in 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.)
- ❖ 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!

Scholarship Reporting:

- ❖ Complete Scholarship/Grant Reporting Form available in the Counselor's office.
 - Make sure to attach form to a copy of your award letter or email.
 - Scholarships offered will be listed for each student in the Spring Awards program unless family opts-out of the listing
- ❖ Turn in **ALL Award Letters** that have been offered!

HSPVA Senior Capstone



General Information

IMPORTANT:

Be sure that you are tracking your scholarship awards and begin to report those awards using the attached scholarship reporting form. A copy of the award letter or financial aid portal screenshot should be attached to the form.

Forms should be returned to the 4th floor office (you can get blank copies from Guidance or Mrs. Landry).

All awards will be listed in the senior awards program. A deadline for submission will be communicated later but PLEASE report these items as you receive them to reduce the number of last minute forms that come in.

January

UTDallas Terry Foundation Scholarship

- Deadline: January 15, 2020
- Amount: Varies
- Website: <https://honors.utdallas.edu/terry>

Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (Students interested in Education)

- Deadline: January 17, 2020
- Amount: \$1,000
- Website: <https://www.haabse.org/students>

APIA Scholarship Program (Asian and/or Pacific Islander Ethnicity)

- Deadline: January 22, 2020
- Amount: Up to \$20,000
- Website: <http://bit.ly/36Kb0cb>

 scholarship_reporting_form.pdf
Download File

General Search Engines:

A lot of these search engines are going to produce the same scholarships, but keep looking and don't get discouraged.

With the filters, sometimes getting too specific can filter out some scholarships that the student can still apply to but don't requirements. For example: putting a minimum 3.0 GPA out of 4.0 can take out scholarships with only a 2.5 requirement.

- Naviance – Scholarship search
 - <https://connection.naviance.com/auth/fclookup>
- College Greenlight
 - <https://www.collegegreenlight.com/>
- Scholar Snapp

Scholarships:

- ❖ Continue to seek out scholarships on the Capstone website: (examples)
 - Fastweb: www.fastweb.com
 - Cappex: www.cappex.com
 - Unigo: www.unigo.com
- ❖ Apply for scholarships well in advance of deadlines
- ❖ Look for emails from Mr. Edwards

Questions?

HSPVA