

# SENIOR GUIDANCE NOTES

Fall 2020

## WELCOME BACK

Included in this newsletter is a timeline of important dates and events that you can use as a reference for preparing for college and life beyond high school. All seniors have received a copy of this information during a classroom presentation and/or in their email.

Mr. Trimboli, Director of Financial Aid at Ni-

agara County Community College, will be presenting at our annual Financial Aid Night scheduled October 6th. The presentation will be from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Auditorium. Do to COVID restriction we ask that a maximum of two people per family in attendance. Social distancing and wearing of mask will be expected. I look forward to work-

ing with you in this challenging time making the transition from high school to college and beyond as seamless and stress free as possible for you and your student. Please contact me at (716) 795-9260 or [mgendrue@barkercsd.net](mailto:mgendrue@barkercsd.net) if I can be of assistance.



### SAT DATES 2020 - 2021

<i>Registration Deadline</i>	<i>Test Date</i>
October 7	November 7
November 5	December 5
February 12	March 13
April 8	May 8
May 6	June 5

*To Register On-Line:*  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

SAT Fee: \$49.50 (w/o essay)  
SAT Fee: \$64.50 (with essay)

### ACT DATES 2020 - 2021

<i>Registration Deadline</i>	<i>Test Date</i>
September 25	October 10, 17, 24 & 25
November 6	December 12
January 8	February 6
March 12	April 17

*To Register On-Line:*  
[www.ACT/students.org](http://www.ACT/students.org)

ACT Fee: (w/o essay) \$55.00  
ACT Fee: (with essay) \$70.00

**CEEB CODE: 330-310**

## CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Most students base college selection on four criterias. College visits help in answering these questions.

- **Location**—How near or far from home does the student want to be? In a rural or city location?
- **Major**—Does the college have the intended major or course of study?
- **Type**—Would you feel comfortable in a large or small college, public or private, competitive or open admissions selection?
- **Interest**—Does the college have the other things you want to experience such as sports, foreign exchange programs, etc.

### Optional assignments:

Go to [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

Click on College Search and complete the questionnaire.

- Locate schools of interest and compare, review admission criteria, financial aid and other information.

Go to [www.SUNY.edu/student](http://www.SUNY.edu/student)

- Quickly locate and review any New York State school. Also, you can access online SUNY application.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**PRIORITY #1:**

- National Scholarships-go to [www.Fastweb.com](http://www.Fastweb.com)
- Regional Scholarships-available in the guidance office throughout the year. Go to the guidance home page at-[www.barkeresd.net](http://www.barkeresd.net) for more information
- *Best Scholarships* in **FALL**. Check with clubs, organizations, churches you or your student belong to. Also investigate employer's available funding opportunities.
- *Best Scholarships* in **WINTER**. Check with colleges you have applied to and see if they have additional scholarship forms that need to be completed.
- *Best Scholarships* in **SPRING**. A packet of all local scholarships will be given to each senior during a classroom presentation in March. They are due back in the Guidance Office in April.

## TIMELINE

- **Financial Aid Night will be October 6th from 6:30 - 7:30 pm for parents of seniors in the H.S. cafeteria.**
- Register for final SAT/ACT on line. **Picture ID** is now required when registering and taking the SAT.
- Request application, brochures, and financial aid information from admission offices of interested colleges.
- Visit colleges virtually or in person. Attend college open houses if available.
- NCAA Division I or II athletes need to apply at [NCAAeligibility.com](http://NCAAeligibility.com). Talk with Mr. Gendrue.
- Begin checking the Barker web site for financial aid/scholarship information. Keep checking throughout the year.
- Go to [www.suny.edu/attend/find-a-suny-program/undergraduate/](http://www.suny.edu/attend/find-a-suny-program/undergraduate/) search which majors are on which SUNY campuses. Go to [www.suny.edu/attend/apply-to-suny/how-to-apply](http://www.suny.edu/attend/apply-to-suny/how-to-apply) and quickly learn how to apply.

### October/November

- Apply to selected colleges. Paper applications are almost a thing of the past. If you do apply with paper, bring the completed application to the guidance office and we will attach a transcript and mail it out. Remember you have to let me know that you applied, they won't send me an e-mail.
- **If you receive a free or reduced lunch you may be eligible for application fee waivers . See Mr. Gendrue.**
- If you apply to colleges using the SUNY application or The Common Application they will let me know via email.
- The web site is [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). If you apply to some SUNY and private colleges you may be able to use just the Common Application. Check the Member Colleges tab then ALL Colleges for a complete list of colleges.
- If you are applying to just SUNY campuses use only the SUNY application at [www.SUNY.edu/student](http://www.SUNY.edu/student). Click on Apply and begin. **Important note:** Do not use the SUNY application to apply to NCCC or GCCC (the application is free on the colleges web sites). Most SUNY campuses have a Supplemental Application that must also be completed.
- Review your student application packet and essays to make sure they are error free.
- Create a personal profile for teacher to use for recommendations. Remember to ask early. Common Application, the teacher/recommender will upload the recommendation directly to the site. SUNY application, have your teacher/recommender give me a copy (email is fine) and I can upload to the site. Make sure to give the teacher/recommender a copy of your profile/resume to assist with writing the recommendation.
- **You will need to apply early for certain majors: music, art, health related (RN, PA, OT, PT etc.).**
- Students must ensure that colleges receive official test scores (SAT/ACT) directly from the testing agency, but the test scores (SAT/ACT) are on your high school transcript. All SUNY colleges and some private college have waived the SAT/ACT testing requirement for admission due to COVID. Contact schools if you have any questions.
- Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and register to receive your Personal Identification Number (PIN). This is a free web site.
- **Starting October 1**, you can submit the Federal Student Aid Report (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

### December/January

- Apply to SUNY schools before winter break for priority financial aid and scholarship consideration.
- The FAFSA is the first step. From the FAFSA website, New York State students will be linked to the NYS Tuition Assistance (TAP) website [www.hesc.ny.gov](http://www.hesc.ny.gov).
- Some private colleges ask for additional information and require students to complete the CSS/PROFILE. This can be accessed on [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (there is a fee involved).
- Retake SAT/ACT, if needed, to enhance scholarship opportunities.

### February/March

- Most priority financial aid deadlines are in February. Make sure to complete all forms.
- Stay focused and avoid senioritis.
- Receive admission decisions.
- Begin looking for a summer job to help pay for college cost and gain experience.
- Complete Senior Scholarship Packet. Will be handed out to all seniors in a class/zoom presentation in March.

### April/May

- Inform the guidance office of any scholarships or awards received so your student can be recognized at the honors and awards ceremony. When you receive financial aid award letters, compare the offers.
- Usually the first tuition deposit is due.