

**Class of 2020**

**CITY HONORS  
CENTAURS**

# **JUNIOR PARENT; COLLEGE PLANNING KICK OFF**

**February 6th, 2019**

**Presented by:**

**Your School Counselors**

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# VISIT THE SCHOOL COUNSELING PAGE

- <https://cityhonors.org/academics/school-counseling-office/>
- Monthly Newsletter
- Topics listed alphabetically
  - Updated College Visit Schedule
  - College Info
  - Financial Aid Info
  - Career Info
  - Volunteer Info
  - Athletics Info



# THE COLLEGE SEARCH

- **College Board- Big Future**

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

- **WNY College Connection**

[www.wnycollegeconnection.com](http://www.wnycollegeconnection.com)

- **College Scorecard**

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

- **Next Step U**

<http://www.nextstepu.com/college-search.aspx>

- Self-evaluation and serious discussion in the family



# SELECTING A COLLEGE

- Location
- Size
- Public/Private
- Programs
- Cost



# RESEARCH COLLEGES

- Attend college open houses

(Links to open houses can be found on City Honors website )

- College representative visits to City Honors

(Updated regularly on City Honors website)

- National College Fair

- Buffalo Niagara Convention Center

Wed., March 20: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thurs., March 21: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

- <http://www.buffalocollegefair.com/>



# PUTTING TOGETHER THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

What are colleges looking for?

- Community Service
- Extracurricular Involvement
- Recommendations
- Test Scores
- Grades/ Transcript



# ADMISSIONS TESTS

## ■ SAT I/SAT II (Subject Tests)

- March 9 – Register by February 8<sup>th</sup> (SAT I only)
- June 1<sup>st</sup> - Register by May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - All juniors took the PSAT in October 2018 and have access to free SAT preparation through Khan Academy from the *College Board* [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

## ■ A.C.T.

- April 13<sup>th</sup>- Register by March 8<sup>th</sup>
- June 8<sup>th</sup>- Register by May 3<sup>rd</sup>



**A.C.T.** (36) vs.

**S.A.T.** (1600)

- English (1-36)
- Math (1-36)
- Reading (1-36)
- Science (1-36)
- *Writing (optional)*  
(2-12)

- Evidence-Based Reading  
and Writing (200–800)
- Math (200–800)
- *Essay (optional)*  
*Analysis* (2-8)  
*Reading* (2-8)  
*Writing* (2-8)





# GETTING READY FOR THE S.A.T.

- Read and Write as much as possible  
(Wall street Journal/New York Times)
- Practice taking the test
- Use PSAT results to target weak areas
- Start studying 6-8 weeks before the test
  - S.A.T. question of the day
  - **Free S.A.T. preparation through Khan Academy® from the *College Board***

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)



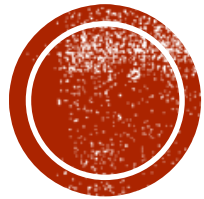
# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## SAT/ACT

- You can retake the S.A.T./A.C.T.
- Colleges will take the better score
- Colleges will mix and match scores(S.A.T.)
- Scores can be sent to four colleges for free
- Additional colleges can receive scores  
([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org))([www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org)) for a fee or with  
a fee waiver (for those who qualify)



# THE COLLEGE ESSAY



- College Application
- Scholarship Application
- Help from Gene Warner, retired from the Buffalo News after 36 years of reporting
- [Gene.warner7@gmail.com](mailto:Gene.warner7@gmail.com) for an appointment

# SELECTING A TOPIC

- **Start Early-** students can begin selecting their topic over the summer
- Choose a topic that sends a positive message
- Choose a topic **YOU** can write about
- Essay Writing is a process that takes time to develop



# COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- Common Application ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org))
- SUNY  
Application ([www.suny.edu/gosuny/index.cfm](http://www.suny.edu/gosuny/index.cfm))
- Paper Applications
- Online directly through the college
- Must submit a transcript request form to Guidance



# EARLY DECISION/ EARLY ACTION

## ***What is the difference?***

**Early Decision:** *Binding* agreement with the college that if you are accepted you will attend

**Early Action:** Accepted early, there is no obligation to attend



# THE EARLY BIRD DOES GET THE WORM

- Be mindful of *Due Dates...*

Many dates are firm and not negotiable

- Scholarship and Admission due dates may be different
- Teachers and School Counselors require time to complete reports. Give them ample notice.



# **FINANCIAL AID**

- **FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid-  
**Window opens: October 1, 2019**
- **NYS HESC TAP:** NYS Higher Education Services Corporation Tuition Assistance Program.  
Can be completed through FAFSA application (at the end)
- **CSS Profile** may be required as well. **The CSS Profile is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid.**
- If you feel you qualify for a fee waiver, you **MUST** complete the income verification form





# FINANCIAL AID WEB SITES

- FAFSA- [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
  - TAP- <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/nys-tap.html>
  - College Board CSS Profile- <https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>
- 
- **All students must complete the FAFSA and TAP to be eligible for the SAY YES scholarship!**

*Links to above financial aid information available on City Honors website under School Counseling Office*



# FINANCIAL AID

## What can be done now?

- FAFSA Forecaster
- Financial Aid Calculator
- Net Price Calculator on College Web-Sites
- Get FAFSA ID



*Links to above financial aid information available on City Honors website under School Counseling Office*



# Say Yes Buffalo Scholarships



# What College Costs Does Say Yes Cover?

For eligible students:

- Tuition at a SUNY/CUNY school
- Tuition at a Say Yes private partner college

[www.sayyesbuffalo.org](http://www.sayyesbuffalo.org)



# 2019-20 EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP

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 TUITION-FREE SUNY



For New York State students  
whose families make less than

**\$125,000/YEAR**

(AGI on 2017 tax return)

and pursue an

**ASSOCIATE** or  
**BACHELOR'S**

degree

and earn

**30**  
**CREDITS**

each year



# EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Recipients must annually complete:
  - [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#)
  - [TAP-on-the-Web Application](#)
- 30 credits per year in college
- Reside in NYS after graduation for the number of years you took the scholarship

*Note: This scholarship is best if you DO NOT qualify for Say Yes*

- ***TO APPLY*** - [www.hesc.ny.gov](http://www.hesc.ny.gov).



# NEW COLLEGE BOARD OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The infographic is titled "College Board Opportunity Scholarships" and "A Clearer Path to College". It outlines six steps to complete the program and earn a total of \$40,000. Each step includes an icon, a description, and a monetary reward.

Step	Action	Amount
1	Build Your College List	\$500
2	Practice for the SAT	\$1,000
3	Improve Your Score	\$2,000
4	Strengthen Your College List	\$500
5	Complete the FAFSA	\$1,000
6	Apply to Colleges	\$1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>Complete Your Journey</b> (by completing all six actions)	<b>\$40,000</b>

Additional text in the infographic includes: "This new scholarship program guides you through the college planning process and offers you a chance to earn money for college for each action you complete." and the website "cb.org/opportunity". The CollegeBoard logo is at the bottom.

- To Enter:
  - Create a College Board account or link an existing account at [www.cb.org/opportunity](http://www.cb.org/opportunity)
  - Follow the steps on the next slide





# OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

## 7 SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

- 1. Build your college list on Big Future™  
[www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- 2. Practice for the SAT on Khan Academy®  
[www.Satpractice.org](http://www.Satpractice.org)
- 3. Improve your SAT score by 100 points or more by practicing on Khan academy for 12 hours or more.
- 4. Strengthen your college list on Big Future™ so that it has a minimum of (1) “safety,” (2) “fit,” and three “reach” colleges
- 5. Complete the FAFSA
- 6. Apply to at least (2) colleges
- 7. Complete your journey by completing all six above activities





# QUESTIONS??

- Thank you for coming!
- There will be a Financial Aid meeting next year for senior parents
- Please check out the City Honors website for links to College Search and Financial Aid:

[www.cityhonors.org](http://www.cityhonors.org)

(click on Academics then School Counseling Office)

**REACH FOR THE  
STARS!!**

