

Class of 2021

CITY HONORS
CENTAURS

JUNIOR PARENT; COLLEGE PLANNING KICK OFF

February 5th, 2020

Presented by:

Your School Counselors



Alexis Williams (A-F)

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Sharon Bertucci (N-Z)

AGENDA

- School Counselor presentation
- Gene Warner – Essay help



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

- **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 18th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thurs., March 19th 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/SAT II (Subject Tests)

- March 14 – Register by February 14th (SAT I only)
- May 2 (BPS will cover cost, student will complete form)
- June 6st - Register by May 8rd
 - All juniors took the PSAT in October 2019 and have access to free SAT preparation through Khan Academy from the *College Board* www.khanacademy.org

■ A.C.T.

- April 4th- Register by February 28th
- June 13th- Register by May 8th



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



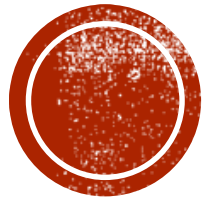
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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)(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 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)
- SUNY
Application (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, 2020
- **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
 - 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



2019-20 EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP

 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.



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 is represented by a numbered icon in a blue circle, followed by the action and the amount earned.

- 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**

Complete Your Journey
by completing all six actions
\$40,000

cb.org/opportunity

CollegeBoard

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



OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP (7 TO BE AWARDED)

▪ *College Board*

- 1. Build your college list on Big Future™
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- 2. Practice for the SAT on Khan Academy®
www.Satpractice.org
- 3. Improve your SAT score by 100 points (Kahn Academy Practice)
- 4. Strengthen your college list on Big Future™
- 5. Complete the FAFSA
- 6. Apply to at least (2) colleges
- 7. Complete **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

(click on Academics then School Counseling Office)

**REACH FOR THE
STARS!!**

