

SENIOR NEWS
December, 2016
Somerset Berkley Regional High School
Guidance Department

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS - Seniors are reminded that they should be in the process of completing school applications. **Students should meet with their guidance counselor as soon as possible but no later than Friday, December 16 if they would like college application materials transmitted before the holiday vacation.** Students who are filing the college application electronically should remember to provide their guidance counselor with a transcript request form in order for the official transcript to be sent.

FAFSA – The Free Application for Federal Student Aid must be completed by all students and parents who may be interested in receiving any form of financial aid for higher education. The federal government strongly urges all applicants to file electronically. At present, the 2017-2018 form is available online. Students and their parents should plan on preparing to file this form as soon as possible. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov for information on completing the FAFSA.

FINANCIAL AID PROFILE - Approximately 750 colleges in the country require students and parents to complete the Profile in addition to the FAFSA if they are applying for financial aid. In the Profile Registration Guide, parents and students will find the list of colleges that require the Profile. Additionally, reading through the Registration Guide will allow you to find out about the Profile process. The Profile application **must** be completed online - www.collegeboard.org.

FAFSA PIN - Whether or not students/parents are filing the paper copy of the FAFSA or filing electronically, it is most important for students/parents to apply for a PIN now - www.pin.ed.gov. This allows students and parents to sign their FAFSA electronically, access their processed FAFSA to review and, if necessary, correct answers, reapply for financial aid in the future, as well as access a number of other financial aid web sites.

SIX - DIGIT FEDERAL SCHOOL (COLLEGE) CODES - (to be entered on the FAFSA or on the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet) can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

FINANCIAL AID ESTIMATOR TOOL - FAFSA4CASTER

The FAFSA4caster provides students with an early estimate of their eligibility for federal student financial assistance. Students considering furthering their education beyond high school can use this FREE tool to: calculate their eligibility for federal financial aid, including grants as well as reduce the time it will take to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To access FAFSA4caster visit www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov.

www.mefacounselor.org - A resource designed specifically for Massachusetts parents of high school students to access credible online information about applying for financial aid and paying for college. The web links available through www.mefa.org serves as a "one stop" site that will assist families in applying for federal, state and college financial aid; explore eligibility and search for thousands of private scholarships; calculate financial need; apply for low cost educational loans; and learn about interest-free tuition plans.

REMINDER – Senior dues were due Oct 25. See Mrs. Ferris in the Social Studies office if you have not done so.

REMINDER! RELEASE OF INFORMATION - No information can be released to colleges, employers or the military without a signed form. If you have not returned your form to guidance, you must do so as soon as possible.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION - All 18 year old men have a legal obligation to register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Not registering with Selective Service can seriously affect eligibility for financial aid for post secondary education, government jobs, job training, and in most states, even getting a driver's license. So please make sure that you register with Selective Service. Go on-line at www.sss.gov or visit your local post office and pick up a Selective Service registration card. Either way, registration is quick and easy. And, it's the law! In addition, Selective Service NOW accepts early submission of registration information by 17 year old men. Students can submit information to Selective Service at age 17 years and 3 months old and be automatically registered when they turn 18.

THINKING OF BCC? In January, representatives from the Bristol Community College admissions office will visit Somerset Berkley Regional High School to receive applications from our students. They will accept the application and a student's transcript and provide students with a temporary acceptance letter at the conclusion of their meeting. It is hoped that by doing this, students will not have to wait so long to hear about their status with BCC and be able to schedule things such as testing and course selection in a more efficient fashion. Students are advised that if they are looking to apply to any of the more competitive programs such as a health science or culinary arts programs, they should plan on applying as soon as possible. If you have any questions about this please see your counselor or plan to attend the **BCC information session** scheduled for **Tuesday December 13 at 8:34 (G day, per 5)**. **Students must register in Guidance to attend this event.**

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

AFL-CIO SCHOLARSHIP EXAM will be administered at Somerset Berkley Regional High School on **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2017**. Students interested in taking the scholarship exam should register with Mr. Poisson in the guidance office by the close of school on **Friday, December 16**. Any high school senior going on to school is eligible for the scholarship based on a competitive exam dealing with labor history. A study guide can be downloaded at www.massafclcio.org/scholarship-program.

AXA ACHIEVEMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP – POSTMARK DATE - December 15, 2016. The AXA Achievement Community Scholarship program offers \$2,500 college scholarships to high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their activities in school, the community or the workplace. Applications are available online at www.axa-achievement.com.

BURGER KING SCHOLARS PROGRAM – DEADLINE DECEMBER 15, 2016. Scholarships are now available to all eligible high school seniors and Burger King employees. Program details and how to apply are available at <http://www.bkmclamorefoundation.org/WhatWeDo/ScholarsProgram>.

DECA 2016 - 2017 SCHOLARSHIP - Application deadline is **January 13, 2017**. Students who participate in DECA, check <http://www.deca.org/scholarships/> for scholarship opportunities.

EMPIRE BEAUTY SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP – Students attending Empire to pursue a career in cosmetology may be eligible for a scholarship opportunity. Information is available at www.empire.edu/highschoolscholarships.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU SCHOLARSHIP – DUE TO ORGANIZATION FEBRUARY 1, 2017. Available to Massachusetts high school seniors, with strong academic qualifications and a commitment to the environmental field. Seniors may now apply for an undergraduate scholarship totaling \$20,000 to be distributed \$5,000 per year, to the student's choice of college. The scholarship also includes a paid internship for the summer between the student's junior and senior college years. Applications are available at www.thoreauscholar.org.

NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - High school students with MS or who have a parent with MS may be eligible. An application must be completed, as well as a personal statement (per the topic in the application). Applications will be accepted from October 1, 2016 to January 18, 2017. Applications are available online at www.nationalmssociety.org/scholarship.

NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTS – Competitions are offered in: Technology and Automotive Technology. Tuition Scholarships will be awarded - \$1,000, \$1,500, and \$ 2,000. Contest requirements and registration can be found at the ADMISSIONS section of NEIT web site at www.neit.edu/scholarships. Students should discuss their plan to attend NEIT with their guidance counselor.

NFIB YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS - **Deadline is December 18, 2016.** Apply online at www.NFIB.com/YEA. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Requirements: high school senior entering freshman year for the fall 2017-2018 academic year who has started a small business such as pet sitting, computer repair, eBay based business or worked part time at a family-owned or other small business, etc. Participation in organizations such as DECA, FBLA, Junior Achievement and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship may also meet requirements.

ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA, GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOLARSHIP **MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 1, 2017.** A minimum of twenty scholarships at a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1000) each shall be awarded annually by the Order Sons of Italy in America, Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Charitable and Educational Trust. Additional scholarships of varying amounts provided by special donors are awarded under the same guidelines. Applications are available in guidance and at www.osiama.org.

ST. ANNE'S CREDIT UNION SCHOLARSHIP – **Deadline is January 17, 2017.** Membership at St. Anne's Credit Union by the student or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) is required. \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to selected seniors who will be furthering their education at an accredited two or four year college program or at a two or four year program at an accredited technical school. Applications should be obtained online (www.stannes.com), at St. Anne's Credit Union or in the guidance office.

Investigate the WEB: Students are reminded that they should also investigate the internet for further scholarship opportunities. Places to look include other high schools' websites. They may be aware of other scholarships that apply to you. Students are also invited to come to the guidance office to make use of financial aid resources that are available there as well as utilize the links available in the guidance section of our website.

Students will be informed as more scholarships become available in the guidance office. Please listen to the morning announcements in homeroom and read very carefully future issues of "Senior News". Adhere to all scholarship deadlines. Put deadline dates on a calendar/agenda book. Please check past issues of "Senior News" for listings of scholarships that were previously announced and are still available. Previous Senior News are posted online at www.sbregional.org in the Guidance Section.

**The
guidance
staff would like
to wish all our students
and their families a happy and
safe holiday season.**

