

**SENIOR NEWS**  
**November, 2017**  
**Somerset Berkley Regional High School**  
**Guidance Department**

**POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS** - Seniors are reminded that they should be in the process of developing post secondary plans and completing school applications. As you work on college applications you should keep your counselor apprised as to the schools you are applying to and the deadlines for those schools. Reminder: a fee of \$1.00 (per transcript) is required to be submitted by a student to the guidance office staff for the processing of an official high school transcript. **Remember, you must use Naviance to request letters/transcripts as well.** Counselors strongly advise students should provide notice for colleges as soon as possible, but no later than mid-December (December 15th) for transcripts and recommendations that are to be submitted before the holiday vacation. Given that students are personally responsible for mailing/submitting applications, payment, essays and test scores, you must remain mindful of deadlines.

**SAT REMINDER !!** - If you were planning to take the December 2 SAT Reasoning Test or SAT Subject Tests, please note that the regular **registration deadline is November 2. Late registration is available until November 21 (online).** Register online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM:** In homeroom, each student received a release form. The release form gives guidance counselors permission to send a student's official high school transcript to college admissions offices, military recruiters and/or employers. If a student is under 18 at the time that they sign the release form, a parent/guardian must also sign the release form. It is the student's responsibility to return the form, with the appropriate signature(s), to the guidance department as soon as possible. If permission is not granted in writing, a copy of the student's **official high school record cannot be forwarded** to the above parties. This can cause significant delays regarding the application process for college admissions, military recruitment and /or employment. To date many seniors **have not returned** the release form to the guidance office. Seniors should return the release form immediately. **Make this a priority!**

**SOMERSET BERKLEY FINANCIAL AID NIGHT** - A financial aid workshop was held at **Somerset Berkley Regional High School on October 18.** A representative from the Massachusetts Education Finance Authority (MEFA) conducted the workshop. Distributed materials are available in guidance.

**FAFSA** – **The Free Application for Federal Student Aid** was available effective October 1, 2017. **The FAFSA must** be completed if you are applying for financial aid. Students and parents should plan to file online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). A link to the FAFSA website can be found in Naviance or the Guidance section of the high school website.

**FAFSA PIN** – As you begin to complete the FAFSA, you will be required to enter a Federal Student Aid PIN. Students/parents can apply for a PIN now at [www.fsaid.ed.gov](http://www.fsaid.ed.gov).

**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. If you have to file the Profile, you must register and file online [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). Click on "CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE" on the bottom of the home page.

**TIPS ON COMPLETING THE FINANCIAL AID FORMS** - The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and the customized Financial Aid Profile have different college codes and separate instructions. The FAFSA has six digit college codes (codes may be obtained online); the customized Profile has four digit college codes (which are in the CSS code list in the Profile Registration Guide). Students and parents having to complete **both the FAFSA and customized Profile should complete the forms at approximately the same time**. The student should report his or her full name, social security number, and date of birth correctly on both the FAFSA and customized Profile. **When completing the FAFSA online, please download a copy of the completed form for future reference. The FAFSA application should be submitted as soon as possible. Remember, many times early application means early financial aid application as well.**

**LINGO OF FINANCIAL AID** - In the land of financial aid, knowing the native dialect is half the battle. Here's a glimpse of the language you can expect to encounter:

- **SAR (Student Aid Report):** A report summarizing financial and other information reported on the FAFSA, sent to a student by the federal government. The student's financial aid need or eligibility is indicated by the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), which is printed on the document.
- **EFC (Expected Family Contribution):** Amount a family is expected to contribute to a student's education, based on family earnings, net assets, savings, size of the family and number of students in college. This amount will appear on the Student Aid Report (SAR) that the student receives from the federal government.
- **Budget:** The total cost of attending a post-secondary institution for one academic year. The student's budget usually includes tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies, travel and personal expenses.
- **Financial Need:** The difference between the cost of attendance at a college (budget) and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC); also known as financial aid eligibility.
- **Award Letter:** An official document issued by a financial aid office listing all financial aid scholarships, grants, loans and/or work-study awarded to the student.
- **Financial Aid Package:** The total amount of financial aid (federal and nonfederal) such as scholarships, grants, loans and/or work study for which a student is eligible. The package is disclosed in the award letter sent to students from the schools they are admitted to.

An informative financial aid web site is - [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov). This web site provides details about the entire financial aid process, from considering which college to attend, to applying for aid, to repaying loans, etc.

**BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE INFORMATION SESSION:** On Thursday, November 30, an information session will be held in the Distance Learning Center during period 4 (9:35). A review of the various programs available as well as transfer options will be discussed. Interested students who are in a study should obtain a pass from guidance. Students scheduled for a class must obtain a pass from their classroom teacher to attend. Students are responsible for any missed work.

**Dual Enrollment** – Dual enrollment allows a student the opportunity to earn college credit during their high school career. Students interested in participating in this program in conjunction with either Bristol Community College or Bridgewater State College should see their guidance counselor. Spring 2018 classes are enrolling now.

**YEARBOOK INFORMATION** - The 2018 yearbook is \$70.00. Please make checks payable to Somerset Berkley Regional High School. Any senior who was not photographed for the senior portrait at Chestnut Hill Studios or Pasternak Photography or did not submit a senior picture to Mrs. Gosson or Mrs. Hoyle will not be featured in the senior portrait section of the yearbook. Anyone with questions or concerns should see Mrs. Hoyle or Mrs. Gosson.

**THE MASSACHUETTS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD** - A high school junior/senior will receive approximately \$200 for a starting salary for 2 days for training each month. For college, the Guard offers 100% free tuition and fees to any state college or university. The G.I. Bill and the “kicker” are given to members of the Guard who attend college. They receive an extra \$400 each month that they are enrolled in college. While attending basic and advanced training, a member will be receiving an active duty salary the entire time he /she attends training. A member will be paid approximately \$1,600 every month. Any questions, please contact the Career Counselor at (508) 889-8289.

**MILITARY SERVICE** - Seniors seriously considering pursuing the military after graduation can make contact with the military branches at the following locations:

AIR FORCE	1 Washington St. #4, Taunton, MA 02780
ARMY	145 Faunce Corner Road, North Dartmouth 02747
NAVY	101 President Ave., Fall River, MA 02720
MARINE CORPS	25 Market St., Swansea, MA 02777
COAST GUARD	Centre Plaza 221 Centre Street, Malden, MA 02748

**SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE:** A variety of scholarship opportunities are received each month in the guidance office. Students are advised to come to the guidance office and look through the scholarship folders. Some scholarships may be limited in scope or may have particular requirements. Please see your counselor with any questions. The following scholarship applications are currently available.:

**AFL-CIO SCHOLARSHIP EXAM** will be administered at Somerset Berkley Regional High School on **Wednesday, FEBRUARY 7, 2018**. Students **interested in taking the scholarship exam should register with Mr. Poisson in the guidance office by the close of school on December 18**. Any high school senior going on to school is eligible for the scholarships based on a competitive exam dealing with labor history. A study guide can be downloaded at <http://www.massafcio.org/scholarship-program>.

**AYN RAND INSTITUTE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY COMPETITION** - **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 2018**. Essay must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophic and psychological meaning of The Fountainhead. Rules and conditions of the essay contest are available online. First prize will be \$10,000; 5 second prizes will be awarded at \$2,000 each; 10 third prizes will be \$1,000 cash awards. 45 finalist prizes will be \$100 cash awards; 175 semi-finalist prizes will be awarded at \$50 each. For an application go to [www.aynrand.org/contests](http://www.aynrand.org/contests).

**AXA ACHIEVEMENT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP – POSTMARK DATE** - **December 15, 2017**. 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](http://www.axa-achievement.com).

**BURGER KING SCHOLARS PROGRAM** – **Deadline December 15, 2017.** Scholarships are available to all eligible high school seniors who are Burger King employees. Program details are available at <http://www.bkmclamorefoundation.org/WhatWeDo/ScholarsProgram>.

**GE-REAGAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** – **Deadline January 4, 2018.** Recognizing students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship. Visit [www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships).

**MASSACHUSETTS JCI SENATE** - **Application deadline is January 5, 2018.** The Massachusetts JCI Senate offers annually, two \$1000 scholarship grants to Massachusetts high school seniors who plan to continue their education at accredited post secondary colleges or vocational schools. Applications may be obtained at <http://majcisenate.weebly.com>.

**ELKS ASSOCIATION** – This organization provides a variety of scholarship opportunities to members and their families. Students whose parents are members of the Elks association should speak with them about potential scholarship opportunities.

**ELKS OPPORTUNITY** - The Elks have opened their Most Valuable Student National Scholarship opportunity to all students. Applications and criteria can be viewed and completed online at [www.elks.org/enf](http://www.elks.org/enf). **Filing deadline is November 27, 2017.**

**RHODE ISLAND MENSA** – This organization, in conjunction with the national Mensa Education and Research Foundation, is sponsoring a scholarship opportunity with awards from \$300 to \$1000. Two awards will be granted locally. The application deadline is January 15, 2018. Online applications are available at [www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships/](http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships/).

**College Specific Scholarship Folder-** **Remember to check this folder in guidance for scholarships that are specific to certain colleges. There are many applications in the folder such as Emory, Jefferson Scholars Foundation at the University of Virginia and Ithaca College.**

**Students will be informed as more scholarships become available in the guidance office.** The Naviance program also contains a variety of financial aid resources. Just click on the colleges tab, then college resources. 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. Please check past issues of “Senior News” for listings of scholarships that were previously announced and are still available. Previous newsletters are available at [www.somersetberkley.org](http://www.somersetberkley.org) in the guidance section. Students and parents are also advised to view the financial aid section for more information on applying for financial aid and financing higher education. Students should also visit the websites of colleges they are considering as many of them have individual scholarship opportunities available to their students. You may also wish to review other local high school websites as they may have become aware of other scholarships not listed here. The guidance office maintains a directory of national scholarship opportunities available for student use. Students should also be talking with their family about scholarship opportunities through employers, civic organizations, financial institutions and any other organization that they may have contact with. In the world of financial aid, no stone should be left unturned.