

SENIOR NEWS

October, 2017

Somerset Berkley Regional High School
Guidance Department

SAT REMINDER !! – The registration deadline for the November 4 test administration (we are a test site) is **October 5**. Late registration for the November test ends October 25 (late fees apply). If you wish to take the December 2 SAT Reasoning Test or SAT Subject Tests, please note that the regular registration deadline is November 2. Register online – www.collegeboard.org.

SAT ADMISSION TICKET (for November or December testing) – Once you have registered, you will be issued an admission ticket. This document is required for you to be allowed to enter for testing. Print it out from www.collegeboard.org.

CORRECTIONS TO SAT ADMISSION TICKET – Corrections can be made to the Admission Ticket (for example: missing information, errors and to change score reports to colleges) online. You can print out a new Web ticket even if you registered by mail. If there is not enough time to mail it, bring the Correction Form to the test center and give it to the supervisor. Remember, students are able to have four free reports sent to the colleges or scholarship programs of their choice. This is part of the test registration fee. Take advantage of this opportunity for four free reports. **After** the test date, there is a charge for each school report.

ACT Reminder - The registration deadline for the December 9 ACT assessment is Friday, November 3. Late registration is November 4-17, additional fee required. Register online at www.actstudent.org.

Rhode Island Regional College Fair: The 41st annual Rhode Island College Fair will be held on Sunday, October 22 from 1 - 3 pm at Rhode Island College in Providence. Additional information is available online at riaao.com. Over 200 schools are scheduled to attend.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM: A senior release form was distributed the week of 9/18. The release form gives guidance counselors permission to send a student's official high school transcript to college admissions officers, 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 this form, with the appropriate signature(s), to guidance 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. If a student or parent has any questions regarding the release form and/or the high school record, they should contact the counselor. **Parents please note** - if your son/daughter is under 18 you must review and sign this release of information form. If you are unable to locate the release form, have your son/daughter come to guidance to obtain a release form to take home for your signature. It is important that this be done immediately.

POST-SECONDARY ADMISSION - Seniors should be in the process of acquiring college and school applications or go online to view school information and applications. It should be noted that colleges and/or vocational schools differ according to application deadlines. Check current school websites, and/or application forms for such deadlines. **Rolling admission** is commonly practiced by many schools, i.e. once a school has received all credentials (application, official high school transcript, SAT, recommendations (if required), an admission decision will be made. Therefore, it is important to have these materials completed early. It is suggested that **completed applications be submitted to the college by the end of December**. You must inform your counselor to ensure that high school transcripts with **quarter 1 grades** will be forwarded to schools before the December holiday vacation. For those schools that have a closing date admission process, students must send their credentials to the school by the deadline date (no later). Popular closing dates are January 1, January 15, February 1 and

February 15 - please check the school's catalog, website or application materials. In this situation, all candidates' applications are evaluated together after the application deadline has passed. Applicants' credentials (application form, official high school transcript, SAT Reasoning Test scores, SAT Subject Test scores [if required], and letters of recommendation [if required]) are compared with decisions going out to all candidates at the same time (usually around April 1 or April 15). This is a competitive and selective process.

SENIOR DUES: Dues are \$75.00 and payable by October 24, 2017. Please make check payable to Somerset Berkley Regional High School. Please write a separate check for the yearbook and dues.

CAP AND GOWN MEASUREMENTS: October 24, 2017 - Cap and gown measurement forms will be filled out in homeroom and measurements will take place in the student dining center.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION - Students interested in reserving a 2018 yearbook should pre-order on October 24, 2017 during cap and gown measurements or online at www.shopjosten.com. The 2018 yearbook is \$70.00. Please make checks payable to Somerset Berkley Regional High School. Students ordering the book online have the option of personalization and other options not available if ordering in school. Baby pictures and candid photos are due on October 24. Parents and guardians have the option of purchasing a Family and Friends ad. The information will be mailed to every parent.

SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIAL AID NIGHT - A financial aid workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 18 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Somerset Berkley Regional High School Performing Arts Center. A financial aid representative from MEFA (Massachusetts Education Finance Authority) will conduct the workshop. The financial aid process will be discussed in detail along with a line by line review of the two financial aid forms (1) 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and (2) 2018-2019 Financial Aid Profile.

2018-2019 FINANCIAL AID PROFILE - Profile Registration Guides are available online. Profile registration has begun. 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. You must complete the Profile online - www.collegeboard.org.

2018-2019 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available October 1. This form must be filed in order to obtain any type of financial aid. Students and their families can now complete this form beginning October 1 for the 18/19 school year.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH:

1. CREATE YOUR NAVIANCE ACCOUNT!

2. Prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test – Use Test Prep, an SAT prep tool available to you as a component of your Naviance account. Go over the booklet Getting Ready for the SAT 2017/2018 which is available to you in guidance.
3. Plan college visits and attend college fairs.
4. Review college applications – check application deadlines and put deadline dates on your calendar/agenda book, use Naviance to help you track your college applications and timelines.
5. Start on drafts of application essays (if required). If you have a choice of topics, choose those that you care about. Your essays should have depth and insight.
6. Keep parents/guardians informed and involved in your college application, career planning or job search process. Parents/guardians can provide valuable support, suggestions and contacts.

Please note: A Road Map for College Planning was held on Wednesday, September 27. Parents/guardians who were unable to attend the workshop may obtain the materials that were distributed that evening in the guidance office.

SCHOLARSHIPS - As you search for mechanisms to finance college, you should visit the financial aid office of each college that you are applying to. Many colleges have a variety of scholarship opportunities available to incoming students but you must check your eligibility and deadlines.

SCHOLARSHIPS.COM – This is a completely free to use scholarship database of local and national scholarships, scholarships that match your academics, talents and interests with results sorted by deadline, dollar amount or relevancy.

AXA ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP - **Deadline December 15.** \$10,000 to \$25,000 in scholarships will be awarded. To qualify, students must demonstrate ambition and drive, determination to set and reach goals, ability to succeed in college and respect for self, family and community. Go to www.axa-achievement.com to learn more about the scholarship and to download an application. Only the first ten thousand applications will be considered so students should apply early.

JFK PROFILE IN COURAGE ESSAY CONTEST - **Due January 4, 2018.** The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation invites US high school student to write an essay on the act of political courage by a US elected official. For contest information, registration, and to submit your essay, visit the Profile in Courage Award Program at www.jfklibrary.org.

MENSA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION – **Application period September 15 to January 15.** Information is available at mensafoundation.org.

NATIONAL CO-OP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – **Due no later than February 15, 2018** (some have earlier deadlines). Nine colleges (Clarkson University, SUNY-Oswego, Drexel, Johnson & Wales, Merrimack College, UMass-Lowell, R.I.T., University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, and Wentworth) participate in the scholarship program. To compete, students must have a GPA of 3.5 on a 4 scale, must complete all the required admissions material for a school and be accepted for the 2018-2019 academic year. Scholarship applications with essay topic are available at www.co-op.edu.

AICUM.ORG - official website of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts. This site allows visitors to:

- View the profiles of Massachusetts colleges and universities
- Gain an understanding of the admissions process
- Access sources of information about financial aid
- Find links to the independent colleges in Massachusetts

THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTOR- The Christian Connector provides a FREE Christian college information service. Log onto- www.ChristianConnector.com to request information.

TODAY'S MILITARY - By providing vital experience, professional training, and the opportunity for growth, the military builds a solid foundation of relevant skills. With this backdrop and the additional benefit of funding for college, young adults who choose military service will find themselves ready to succeed in hundreds of jobs and careers in the civilian world. To see for yourself, please visit todaysmilitary.com. Also, visit the following websites:

www.airforce.com
www.goarmy.com
www.gocoastguard.com
www.marines.com
www.navy.com

For information on the National Guard visit www.1800goguard.com.