



Counseling Center

December 2016

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Greetings! We are well into the school year now, and it seems to be going faster than ever. As it is in many places, this time of year is always busy in the counseling office.

High School

It's hard to believe that the Class of 2017 is almost halfway through their senior year!

In October, the Counseling Office had a very successful HVCC Instant Admission Day, where 34 students from the Class of 2017 were accepted for next year's fall semester at Hudson Valley Community College. In addition to these acceptances, our seniors have been working hard to get their college applications submitted. As of December 1st, over half of the graduating class had submitted applications to both four year and two year colleges.

As we approach the New Year, seniors who plan to apply to four year schools should have already submitted their applications. Once applications are submitted, it is important that students check with admission offices to be sure their applications are complete. As January approaches, students can gear their focus on looking for scholarships and completing their FAFSA application. This information is posted on the Counseling Center Webpage

This year, for the first time, families can complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on October 1, 2016 for the 2017-2018 school year. This application can be found on www.fafsa.ed.gov. Also look for our FAFSA night on January 12th at 6:30 pm for help in completing the application process.

Mrs. Harrison will also be spending time over the next month meeting with all of the 10th and 11th graders who took the redesigned PSAT's this past October. This meeting will give students a better understanding of what their scores mean, learn about some of the free resources offered through College Board, and continue their path of career and college planning as they work towards graduation.

As we look towards the spring, 11th graders who are planning to apply to 4-year colleges next school year should begin registering to take either the SAT or the ACT exams. Please see the registration dates and deadlines below.

Important Dates:

December 12—2nd payment for the students taking the AP Exam.

December 21—registration deadline for the January 21st SAT exam.

January 1 - Reminder to complete the financial aid application for college (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>)

January 12—FAFSA Night (senior parents) 6:30-8PM

January 20 - Final Payment Due for AP Exams

January 24th–27th - January Regents Exams

February 10— registration deadline for the March 11th SAT exam.

February 15 - Junior Parent Information Night @ 6:30

March 3—deadline for the ACT Exam—April 8th

April 7—deadline for the May 6th SAT Exam

May 9—deadline for the June 3rd SAT Exam

May 5 - deadline for the June 10th ACT Exam

Questar III Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs and New Visions Programs

In November, our 10th and 11th grade students had the opportunity to hear presentations on the one and two year Career and Technical Education programs and the New Visions programs (seniors only) offered by Questar III. Interested students will be receiving information in the upcoming weeks on the open house at the Rensselaer Education Center which showcases these programs and their teachers. For any student who is interested and may have missed the presentation or has questions, please see Mrs. Harrison in the Counseling Office. Additional information can be found at <https://www.questar.org/education/career-tech-ed>

Berlin High School Announces the Winners

Daughters of the American Revolution National Society

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a lineage society that is a non-profit organization dedicated to patriotism, historic preservation, and education. Alexander Flowers, son of Cindy and Scott Flowers of Petersburg, New York, has been selected by the Berlin High School faculty and senior class as the DAR Good Citizen. Alex was chosen as a student who demonstrates the qualities of a good DAR citizen which are dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. Alex is eligible, if he wishes, to enter the DAR Good Citizens scholarship contest. Congratulations, Alex.

College Bound Seniors—FAFSA Night

January 12, 2017 , 6:30—8:00 pm

If you would like assistance in completing your FAFSA application, this is a great opportunity. Bring the necessary documents, which are listed below, and you will be able to walk away with your application completed.

List to bring to file FAFSA

- 2016 Federal and State tax return copies for parent(s) and student
- 2016 w-2's for parent(s) and student

Student license #

Data they should have on-hand:

- Father, Mother and student name, social security number and dates of birth
- If anyone in the household received any of these benefits:
 - Supplemental security income
 - Food stamps
 - Free or reduced price school lunch
 - TANF
 - WIC
- Amount of 2016 Child Support PAID (if any)
- Amount of 2016 Child Support RECEIVED (if any)
- Amount of 2016 Combat Pay received (if any)
- Amount of 2016 Tax Exempt Interest Income (if any)
- Amount of 2016 untaxed pensions or IRA distributions or Worker's compensation received
- Amount currently in cash and savings/checking accounts
- Current value of investments, such as stocks or bonds
- Value of property that is not their primary residence, and the current debt (if any) on that property
- Value and debt of any business that is owned by parent (or student)
- For those that expect they will also need to file a Profile, you will need to know the estimated market value of your home and their current debt on

Happy Holidays from the Counseling Center staff!

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