

**UPDATE  
FROM THE  
GUIDANCE OFFICE  
2017**

**April 28**

**MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING IS  
AVAILABLE IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE:**

**NEW** Course Selection forms were distributed to students in grades 8 through 11 this week. Parents should review these forms with their child. A parental signature is required on the form. Students were instructed to access the Course Selection Booklet online at [www.lourdes.k12.pa.us](http://www.lourdes.k12.pa.us). Click on documents (blue tab), then Course Selection Booklet 2017-2018. Forms were due in the main office by Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**ATTENTION: JUNIORS, SOPHOMORES and THEIR PARENTS:**

**College Financial Aid Night will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes on Monday, May 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library.**

**SAY YES TO THE FUTURE**

**YES to the Future helps GRADUATING SENIORS and not currently enrolled in school, to prepare for and succeed in education, training and employment.**

- Assistance to obtain important documents such as birth certificates, Social Security cards, PA IDs and driver's licenses
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- Financial and educational support to pass GED® or HiSET® exams and brush up other academic skills
- Opportunities to learn money management skills and banking basic

- Caring and committed Career Counselors provide participants with intensive case management and access to program services, including:
- Mentoring, leadership skill development and peer networking
- Preparation for post-secondary education or training
- Activities to help them find and keep a job including career exploration, job search strategies, interview preparation, job shadowing, paid work experiences, and on-the-job training

YES program participants engage in a variety of **positive educational and social activities** designed to develop important **life and employability skills**:

- Independent and small-group, technology-based learning
- Adult basic and secondary education classes, distance learning, tutoring
- Job club and peer networking sessions
- School and campus tours
- Employer presentations, interviews and workplace tours
- Military presentations
- PA CareerLink® workshops
- Job fairs and employer recruitment events
- Community service and team-building activities
- Leadership development seminars and projects

For more information call 570-989-1363, send an email to [vestothefuture@csiu.org](mailto:vestothefuture@csiu.org): or visit [www.csiu.org/YES](http://www.csiu.org/YES) to complete an online Interest Form.

## **2018-2019 FAFSA**

The **2018-2019 FAFSA (Free Application Federal Student Aid)** will be available to students and families on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This means students who need to complete the 2018-2019 FAFSA will be able to access and submit the form anytime from October 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

In order to complete the FAFSA online, every student and one parent must have a FSA ID, made up of a username and password. The FSA ID can be created at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov).

### **BEFORE CREATING A FSA ID**

- Users will need to provide their Social Security Number, full name, date of birth, mailing address, email address, telephone number, and language preference.
- Each FSA ID user must have access to their own unique email address.
- If a user has previously accessed the FAFSA with a PIN, they have the option of entering the PIN while registering for the FSA ID. This will expedite the process.
- A dependent student will also need to have one legal parent sign the student's FAFSA, so the parent needs a FSA ID as well. Parents with more than one child attending college can use the same FSA ID to sign all applications.

### **HOW TO CREATE A FSA ID**

- STEP 1** Visit [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov).
- STEP 2** Enter your email, create a username and password, and confirm your age.
- STEP 3** Enter your Social Security Number, date of birth and full name. If you have a Federal PIN from the old system, you will receive a prompt to enter it. A Federal PIN is not required, but it can expedite the application process.
- STEP 4** Confirm your personal information.
- STEP 5** Enter your security questions and answers for future verification purposes. Select two predetermined questions, two custom questions, and a memorable date.
- STEP 6** Confirm your security questions. Read and acknowledge the FSA ID terms.
- STEP 7** Enter the secure code that was sent to the email address submitted in Step 2. This will allow you to use your email address as your username.

### **AFTER CREATING A FSA ID**

Users can immediately sign an original FAFSA with their newly created FSA ID. Once the Social Security Administration verifies their information in 1-3 days, or If they have linked their Federal PIN to their FSA ID, they will be able to start a renewal FAFSA, make changes to an existing FAFSA, and log in to other Department of Education websites.

### **REPORTING INCOME ON THE FAFSA**

The Department of Education has announced that students will file the 2017 – 2018 FAFSA with 2015 year income tax information. This impacts students who are currently juniors, graduating in 2017.

The process will enable students to file their FAFSA earlier, with more accurate information (no need to estimate taxes anymore), and aligns more directly with the admissions process. Students will be able to receive earlier notification of their financial aid eligibility and, hopefully, make better decisions regarding the affordability of their final school choice.

### **NEW - 8 Tools to help you prepare for the ACT**

The best way students can prepare for the ACT test is to take challenging courses in high school and study hard. ACT offers many free and affordable tools to help you prepare.

#### **FREE TOOLS:**

1. Preparing for the ACT test
2. ACT Question of the Day
3. Sample test questions
4. Test Tips
5. Test Descriptions

#### **AFFORDABLE TOOLS:**

6. The Official ACT Prep Guide
7. ACT Online Prep
8. ACT Kaplan Online Prep Live

For more information about these ACT test prep tools, go to [www.act.org/theact/testprep](http://www.act.org/theact/testprep).

For the first time, students will be able to take the **SAT and SAT Subject Tests in August**. Taking the exam in the summer is great news for juniors because it allows them time to meet early application deadlines and focus on classwork as they begin

their senior year. Registration opens in late April for the August 26 SAT. Deadline is July 15.

**ATTENTION: Students and Parents of Grades 9 through 12:**

Many of you have concerns about how to make a college education more affordable. Through a new program called Raise.me, students can guarantee scholarships from 200+ colleges as early as 9th grade, making it easier to plan financially for school. Raise.me has proven to be a great tool to motivate students in high schools throughout the U.S., as the site immediately rewards students with scholarships for their hard work in and outside of high school.

As an example:

- Get an A in a course (\$100 - \$1,000)
- Get a B in a course (\$50 - \$600)
- Participate in a school club or sport (\$25 - \$250)
- And much more!

Our Lady of Lourdes is among the first in the country to take advantage of this opportunity, which was launched with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and U.S. colleges. Here are a couple of easy ways to support your students in using this unique tool:

- 1) Ensure that your student creates an account at [www.raise.me](http://www.raise.me).
- 2) Encourage your student to regularly add good grades, community service, extracurricular activities, and other achievements to his or her raise.me “Portfolio” to earn “Micro-Scholarships” from colleges.
- 3) Visit [www.raise.me/parents](http://www.raise.me/parents) for more information.

We hope using Raise.me will make your student’s path to college both more fun and affordable. If you have questions, I encourage you to contact the Guidance Department at (570)-644-0375, Ext 119, or send an email to [support@raise.me](mailto:support@raise.me).

**The Advance College Experience (ACE) at Bloomsburg University** is designed for college-bound high school juniors and seniors who seek to “jump start” their college career by earning college credits. Bloomsburg University offers a selection of courses intended to supplement high school offerings and to expose students to the academic environment at the college level. Students save 75% of the tuition. Typical offerings will include courses in exercise science, composition, psychology, history, public speaking, political science, language, music, biology, chemistry, mathematics, and geography. For more information call 570-389-4824 or visit [www.bloomu.edu/ace](http://www.bloomu.edu/ace). To register by phone, contact Division of Corporate

and Continuing Education at (570) 389-4420 (Credit card payments only). Registration forms are available in the Guidance Office.

**Geisinger Columbia Montour Hospice** extends an invitation to children and teens ages 7-18 to attend **Camp Courage free** on May 19-21, 2017 or October 6-8, 2017. The camp is held at Camp Victory in Millville, PA. Children or teens who have experienced the death of a significant person(s) and have come to this weekend camp, have fun while learning how to deal with their grief in a safe and supportive environment. Camp weekend will find campers around the camp fire eating hot dogs and s'mores. Other activities include making a memory box, balloon release, anger management, music and/or art therapy sessions. Free time on Saturday afternoon can be spent cuddling pet therapy dogs, paddle boating, rock wall climbing, zip line, archery and fishing. Please call the Guidance Office for more information regarding Camp Courage. Deadlines are April 1 for the May camp and September 1 for the October camp.

**Luzerne County Community College's Young Scholars Program** - Qualified Juniors and Seniors can take college courses at Luzerne County Community College through the Young Scholars Program and take advantage of a reduced rate on tuition. Contact the Shamokin Campus at 648-2544 or the Guidance Office for more information regarding registration and courses.

**NCAA – National Collegiate Athletic Association** – Many college athletic programs are regulated by the NCAA, which has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid. If a student is planning to enroll in college as a freshman and wishes to participate in Division I or II athletics, he or she must be certified by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. The process of certification should begin at the end of the Junior year in high school. NCAA requests that students apply online at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). It is necessary to send ACT or SAT scores to the Clearinghouse directly from the testing agencies. The code for NCAA is 9999.

**Penn State University Secondary Mathematics NOYCE Scholars Program** is offering substantial Penn State (University Park) Scholarships for high school seniors (incoming first-year college students) who want to make a difference as mathematics teachers in high-need schools. Every year since 2006, at least 40 states have identified shortages in the number of available secondary mathematics teachers. Nowhere is the shortage more acute than in our nation's high-need schools. Its scholarship program prepares highly qualified secondary mathematics teachers for positions in high-need rural or urban schools. For more information contact Dr. Gina Foletta at [gmf17@psu.edu](mailto:gmf17@psu.edu).

**NEW - ATTENTION CLASS of 2017:** Submit a creative project about the dangers of drunk and/or distracted driving for your chance to win scholarship money with the **Road to Safety Scholarship Contest** sponsored by **Metzger Wickersham, PC @ arrivealivepa.com**.

First Place: \$1,000

Second Place: \$750

Third Place: \$500

Drive with safety in mind, all the time!

Entries due by May 5, 2017.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

**A list of the following scholarships was given to all seniors this week.**

**American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary #73 Scholarship** – for a senior from Shamokin or Coal Township, whose parent or grandparent has served or is currently serving in the United States Military. Deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Horatio Alger Association Career and Technical Scholarship Program** – for graduating high school seniors with a commitment to pursue and complete postsecondary education at a community college or technical school in Fall 2017. This program provides financial assistance to students throughout the nation who have financial need and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity. Criteria includes Pell-eligibility. Seniors may apply online at **application.horatioalger.org**. First priority deadline is June 15, 2017.

**Laurie Anne Green Scholarship** – for a senior girl pursuing a teaching career. Deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Marie A. Holland Memorial Scholarship** – for any senior pursuing a career in the Health Care field, Home Economics or helping professions. Deadline is April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Knoebels Scholarship** – Knoebels will award ten \$500.00 scholarships for any students who are current employees. Past applicants and recipients may reapply each year. Deadline is June \_\_??. Knoebels Scholarship applications are available in the **Knoebels Resource Office** for any seniors who are current employees.

**Konopka - Baker Scholarship** – for any senior planning to further their education. Deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Father Daniel J. Menniti Scholarship** – for any senior planning to attend Shippensburg University, The Catholic University of America, American University, or DeSales University. Deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Dolores Oravitz Kazar Memorial Scholarship** – for any senior going into the medical field. Deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Scholarships.com** – You Find Money. Colleges find you.

**OPEN HOUSES:**

Saint Francis University, Mountain -Top Campus – Visit Tours  
JULY 21 and AUGUST 4