

***UPDATE
FROM THE
GUIDANCE OFFICE
2017***

May 5

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

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.

*****TEMPLE UNIVERSITY - READING SKILLS AND SPEED READING PROGRAMS – Online this Summer**

Individualized programs include engaging instruction, independent reading in great books, and a skilled and encouraging teacher. Programs start for 4-year-olds and entering kindergartners, up to 12th graders. Programs include:

- Phonics
- Fluency
- Comprehension
- Love of Reading
- Textbook Skills
- Speed Reading

Inquire early! Enrollment is limited. For more information or to register, call 1-800-903-0942.

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: or visit 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 1st. 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.

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.

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.

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.
- 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 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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Empire Beauty School - \$1000 Scholarship available for graduating high school seniors attending Empire Beauty School to pursue their dream in cosmetology.

Enroll and apply by August 1, 2017. Applications are available in the Guidance Office.

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 include Pell-eligibility. Seniors may apply online at **application.horatioalger.org**. First priority deadline is June 15, 2017.

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.

William L. Shutt Memorial Scholarship – The scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to a senior who has been employed by the Pennsylvania State Shotgunning Association (PSSA) for at least one year prior to applying for the scholarship. Deadline is June 1st.

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

OPEN HOUSES:

Empire Beauty School will be hosting an Experience Day at the Shamokin Dam Campus on May 17, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Participate in a hands-on class where you'll learn a new cosmetology skill. Also, tour the campus and have some one-on-one time with current students. RSVP to reserve your seat by calling 570-743-1410 or email mgovern@empire.edu.

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