



**May 4, 2020**

**Bloomfield Hills High School  
Counseling Office  
& College Resource Center  
Newsletter**



**2019- 2020 SCHOOL YEAR COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS**

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H – K (10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> ) IB A-K (2020) Bowers Academy (9 <sup>th</sup> -12)	<b>Laura Hollyer-Madis</b>	<a href="mailto:lhollyer-madis@bloomfield.org">lhollyer-madis@bloomfield.org</a>
L – O (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> ) Hou-Kaf (9 <sup>th</sup> ) IB L-Z (2020)	<b>Shayna Klein</b>	<a href="mailto:sklein@bloomfield.org">sklein@bloomfield.org</a>
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# Counselor Updates

## In Process:

### All Students Grades 9-12

This is week 4 of the BHHS Continuous Learning Plan. Please use an internet-enabled device to navigate to [www.bloomfield.org/learn](http://www.bloomfield.org/learn). This page serves as the hub for all teaching and learning online for all grade levels for the remainder of this school year.

Be sure to click the Counseling Department tab on the BHHS Continuous Learning 2.0 site for weekly optional activities.

### BHHS Counseling Google Classroom for 9th-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

All students in grades 9-12 should receive an invitation to join a Google Classroom from the BHHS Counseling Department. Parents, please encourage your student to join this Google Classroom so they can keep updated on important information and support from their BHHS Counseling Team.

Counselors have included **Optional** informative, fun and engaging activities for all grade levels, including virtual college tours. Every week counselors will provide creative and interactive lessons on Google Classroom to keep students connected to college and career exploration. If your student cannot access the Counseling Google Classroom, please contact the Counseling Secretary, Mrs. Marianne Litz, for support. ([mlitz@bloomfield.org](mailto:mlitz@bloomfield.org))

**As counselors work to meet the needs of all students, please encourage your student to complete the Counselor Check In form sent every Monday via email and posted in the Google Classroom.**

### Students and Parents of the Class of 2020

With so many uncertainties still to be addressed, we wanted to make sure you were aware of the procedure to secure your final high school transcript being sent to the college of your choice. As we enter the last couple of months of school and you receive your results from the colleges that you have applied to, please make sure you update this information in your Naviance online accounts. You will need a result for every application listed in Naviance. Also, indicate your final college choice by selecting the appropriate college located at the bottom of your "Colleges I'm Applying To" page, under the heading of "College I'm Attending"---this will allow your final official high school transcript to be automatically sent to the college you will be attending. This is a required step by the colleges and BHHS.

If you have any colleges listed that you did not apply to on your list, let your counselor know and we can remove the college from your list.

### **Class of 2020 Seniors- Virtual Decision Day**

Please complete the Virtual Decision Day form to announce your plans after high school graduation, i.e. attending a four-year or two-year college, getting a job, taking a gap year, attending a trade school program, enlisting in a branch of the military, travel plans or something else exciting you want to share!

Click [here](#) to access the Virtual Decision Day Form

### **Social Emotional Learning a part of the Continuous Learning 2.0 High School Plan**

Please take time to review these SEL activities to support students and families, especially during these unprecedented times. On the High School Continuous Learning page there is a button labeled Social Emotional Learning. New SEL activities will appear each week.

### **Navigate 2020 Virtual College Fair – May 4-6**

#### **Three Days to Master the College Search**

Three days of live-stream presentations will help students and families understand:

- The impact of COVID-19 on the admission process
- Financial aid and financial award programs
- How to balance the application: test scores, essay, extracurriculars, etc.
- Multicultural, first generation, and accessibility/disability resources on college campuses
- How to find the best college fit/choose a major
- What to expect the first year on campus

...and so much more.

Click [here](#) to register for the 2020 Virtual College Fair.

### **Resources for Families:**

Click [here](#) to see the list of **5 Books Every Parent and Teacher Must Read To Raise Resilient Teens**

### **Upcoming:**

**SAT and PSAT National Testing Related COVID-19 Updates** *(please note School Day SAT details are still being worked out for the fall)* Click [here](#) for the latest information.

**Juniors – College 101 – May 26, 2020**

Class of 2021 students and families, please mark your calendars for Junior College Night 101 presented virtually by our BHHS Counseling Department on May 26, 2020. This informative presentation will be led by the BHHS Counseling Department and we hope ALL juniors and their parents/guardians will view this presentation in preparation for the college application process. College 101 will provide valuable information about what it means if a college is test optional, why apply Early Action/Early Decision, importance of teacher and counselor letters of recommendation, etc.

**Senior Honors Celebration – May 19, 2020, Virtual Program**

The Senior Honors Celebration will be a virtual presentation on May 19, 2020. BHHS Counseling Department along with BHHS Administration will honor seniors who have earned Summa Cum Laude (3.85 and above GPA) and Magna Cum Laude (3.75-3.849 GPA) academic achievement as of the first semester of their senior year.

# **CRC News**

## **Juniors and Your College Search**

Your search for a college that will be a perfect fit for you may look a little different than all of us expected. Many colleges have added or increased their virtual tour options to give you a feel for what their campus has to offer. Be sure and visit the website of any potential school that you are considering to help you make this important decision.

### **Scholarship search websites:**

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.scholarshippoints.com](http://www.scholarshippoints.com)

[www.unigo.com](http://www.unigo.com)

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)

[www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org)

[www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)

[www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com)

[www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)

<https://cfsem.org/Scholarships/>

# Internet Safety

## A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Provided by Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson



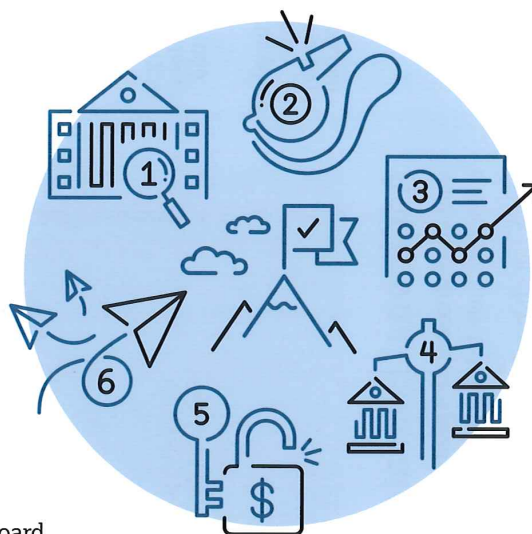
**ProtectMiChild** Are your children safe while online? Michigan families, especially minors, are becoming inundated with advertisements from alcohol, tobacco, pornography, illegal drug and gambling marketers through different internet and cell phone inboxes. Texting their advertisements is the newest marketing effort that many of these companies are using. Thankfully, the Michigan Secretary of State's office offers a free program to stop adult advertisements from reaching your email address and cell number via text. The Michigan Child Protection Registry is a free do-not-contact service for Michigan's families.

As a strong supporter of this Registry, I would like to encourage you to sign your entire family up for this program and inform your friends and colleagues about how they can protect their children and families from unwanted adult advertising. To sign up only takes seconds. Just go to [www.ProtectMiChild.com](http://www.ProtectMiChild.com) and keep your family safe.



## College Board Opportunity Scholarships

# A Clearer Path to College for All Students



The College Board is investing \$5 million per year in the College Board Opportunity Scholarships, with half of the scholarships designated for students whose families earn less than \$60,000 per year. Applying to college is a complicated process, so we've created a program that guides students through it and rewards their efforts. Your students are eligible to earn scholarships by taking the following actions during certain windows in their junior and senior years:

The Scholarships	The Actions	Action Window
<b>1. Build Your College List:</b> <b>\$500</b>	Build a college list with at least six schools on BigFuture™.	Junior Year: <b>December–July</b>
<b>2. Practice for the SAT:</b> <b>\$1,000</b>	Use Official SAT® Practice on Khan Academy®, and practice for 6+ hours to get ready for test day.	Junior Year Through Fall Senior Year: <b>December–October</b>
<b>3. Improve Your Score:</b> <b>\$2,000</b>	Improve your score on the SAT by 100 points or more either from PSAT/NMSQT® to SAT or SAT to SAT, after practicing on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy for 12 hours.	Spring Junior Year Through Winter Senior Year: <b>April–January</b>
<b>4. Strengthen Your College List:</b> <b>\$500</b>	Strengthen your college list on BigFuture with a minimum of one safety, two match, and three reach schools.	Summer and Fall Senior Year: <b>August–October</b>
<b>5. Complete the FAFSA:</b> <b>\$1,000</b>	Fill out the FAFSA form to apply for financial aid.	Fall and Winter Senior Year: <b>October–February</b>
<b>6. Apply to Colleges:</b> <b>\$1,000</b>	Apply to at least two colleges you want to attend.	Fall and Winter Senior Year: <b>October–February</b>
<b>Complete Your Journey:</b> <b>\$40,000</b>	Complete all six scholarship steps within the action windows.	Final Drawing: <b>March</b> of Senior Year

The more steps students take toward college, the more opportunities they have to earn a scholarship. Learn more about scholarship details and student eligibility at [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity).

## Steps to help students prepare. Scholarships to help them pay.

The College Board Opportunity Scholarships guide juniors and seniors through the college planning process and offers them a chance to earn money for college for each action they complete. Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$40,000 are awarded through monthly drawings during certain action windows. Program eligibility begins in December of a student's junior year and runs through February of their senior year. The more steps students take toward college, the more opportunities they have to earn.

### Junior Year

### Senior Year

	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
JUNIORS — GET STARTED	100 winners every month														
	150 winners every month														
					25 winners	25 winners	25 winners	25 winners	25 winners	25 winners	25 winners	25 winners		25 winners	
									100 winners every month						
											200 winners	200 winners	200 winners	100 winners	100 winners
															500 winners
															25 winners

Scholarship action windows and drawings are based on the college planning calendar.

KEY ACTION

**Build Your College List:**  
\$500



**Practice for the SAT:**  
\$1,000



**Improve Your Score:**  
\$2,000



**Strengthen Your College List:**  
\$500



**Complete the FAFSA:**  
\$1,000



**Apply to Colleges:**  
\$1,000



**Complete Your Journey:**  
\$40,000



## Additional Educator Resources to Support Students

Visit [cb.org/counselorpledge](https://collegeboard.org/counselorpledge) and **Take the Pledge**—join a national movement to support students on their college journeys, and encourage them to take advantage of the clear steps and benefits of the College Board Opportunity Scholarships.

Check out [cb.org/opportunityscholarshipsresources](https://collegeboard.org/opportunityscholarshipsresources) for Implementation Tools—downloadable resources to support your entire school community and drive student engagement by guiding your students through these important college planning steps.



## The College Board National Recognition Programs

Starting in fall 2019, if you take the PSAT/NMSQT and you're African American, Hispanic American or Latinx, Indigenous, attend school in a rural area, or are from a small town, you may be invited to apply for academic recognition as part of the College Board National Recognition Programs\*.

### Benefits

The College Board National Recognition Programs are academic honors that can be included on college applications. They're not scholarships, but colleges use them to identify academically exceptional students.

We are working with four of our College Board [strategic partners](#) to distribute the honors. These partners are:

- African American Recognition—[Jackie Robinson Foundation](#)
- Hispanic Recognition—[Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#)
- Indigenous Recognition—[Indigenous Education, Inc.](#)
- Rural and Small Town Recognition—[Jack Kent Cooke Foundation](#)

[Learn more about our partners and the scholarships they offer.](#)

### Who is Invited to Apply

The College Board reaches out to students who:

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October of their junior year.
- Identify as African American, Hispanic or Latinx, or Indigenous.
- Attend school in a rural area or are from a small town. Location is based on information from the National Center for Education Statistics.
- Achieve the minimum requested PSAT/NMSQT scores (qualifying level may vary by state each year).
- Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher by the middle of their junior year.

### Good to Know

- You need to identify as African American, Hispanic American or Latinx, or Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian on the PSAT/NMSQT answer sheet where it asks for race and ethnicity.
- Official high school transcripts will confirm student's eligibility for the recognition programs.
- The African American Recognition Program considers students who identify as Black or African American (including African and Afro-Caribbean origin) and are from the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, or attend school abroad.
- The Hispanic Recognition Program considers students who identify as Hispanic or Latinx and are from the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, and/or attend school abroad.
- For the Indigenous Recognition Program, students who identify as Alaska Native, Native American, or Native Hawaiian must provide their federal or state tribal affiliation. See recognition program verification for more details.
- For the Rural and Small Town Recognition Program, students will be determined based on information from the National Center for Education Statistics and will receive an invitation to apply.
- Only junior-year PSAT/NMSQT scores count. SAT and PSAT 10 scores cannot be used.
- [Opting in to Student Search](#) allows prospective colleges and scholarships to find you.

### Self-Nomination Instructions

If you took the PSAT/NMSQT but didn't let us know that you identified as African American, Hispanic American or Latinx, or Indigenous, or if you moved and now live in a rural area or small town, you can still be considered. Email [the College Board National Recognition Programs](#) for self-nomination instructions.

# Choice of Michigan college can make a (million-dollar) difference

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

## What's the ROI on community college?

Community colleges give the most bang for the buck for the first 10 years after enrollment, but are surpassed by four-year universities over a lifetime. Here's the average return on investment at Michigan's community colleges, according to a Georgetown University study.

After 10 years	After 20 years	After 30 years	After 40 years
College		Total return	
St Clair County Community College		\$157,000	
Monroe County Community College		\$156,000	
Schoolcraft College		\$156,000	
Lansing Community College		\$155,000	
Kalamazoo Valley Community College		\$153,000	
Oakland Community College		\$151,000	
Macomb Community College		\$150,000	
Washtenaw Community College		\$150,000	
Glen Oaks Community College		\$149,000	
Alpena Community College		\$148,000	
Henry Ford College		\$148,000	
Kellogg Community College		\$147,000	
Muskegon Community College		\$143,000	
Jackson College		\$142,000	
Grand Rapids Community College		\$141,000	
West Shore Community College		\$140,000	
Gogebic Community College		\$138,000	
Mid Michigan College		\$138,000	
Bay de Noc Community College		\$137,000	
North Central Michigan College		\$137,000	
Northwestern Michigan College		\$132,000	
Kirtland Community College		\$128,000	
Montcalm Community College		\$123,000	
Lake Michigan College		\$121,000	
Southwestern Michigan College		\$119,000	
Bay Mills Community College		\$116,000	
Wayne County Community College District		\$116,000	
Mott Community College		\$115,000	

Source: Georgetown University [analysis](#) of federal education data

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## What's the ROI on private universities?

Engineering-focused Kettering University in Flint is the Michigan college – public or private – with the biggest return on investment. Check out how much bang for your buck you get from the state's private colleges over 10, 20, 30 and 40 years.

After 10 years	After 20 years	After 30 years	After 40 years
College or university		Total return	
Kettering University		\$153,000	
Cleary University		\$117,000	
University of Detroit Mercy		\$107,000	
Madonna University		\$98,000	
Albion College		\$95,000	
Lawrence Technological University		\$87,000	
Northwood University		\$79,000	
Siena Heights University		\$73,000	
Spring Arbor University		\$72,000	
Kalamazoo College		\$69,000	
Andrews University		\$68,000	
Aquinas College		\$67,000	
Alma College		\$62,000	
Rochester College		\$59,000	
Marygrove College		\$56,000	
Calvin College		\$55,000	
Olivet College		\$53,000	
Cornerstone University		\$51,000	
Davenport University		\$51,000	
Hope College		\$51,000	
Kuyper College		\$49,000	
Art Institute of Michigan		\$47,000	
Great Lakes Christian College		\$37,000	
Adrian College		\$28,000	
Finlandia University		\$17,000	
College for Creative Studies		-6,000	

Source: Georgetown University [analysis](#) of federal education data

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## **5 Scholarship Tips For High School Seniors**

Jan 8, 2020 by Matthew Schwartz Reprinted from Road2College, click [here](#) for complete article.

When our children are growing up, we read fairy tales to engage them in a story that can teach them about the real world.

That's great when they are young, but by the time they are in high school and applying to college, we need to be honest with ourselves and them about reality.

Applying to private scholarships and winning enough to pay for college is one of those fairy stories you shouldn't pass on to your kids.

### **What are Some Facts About Scholarships?**

Become familiar with our tips on scholarships for high school seniors.

According to [prepscholar.com](#), " **Fewer than 20,000 students per year will earn a private full-ride scholarship award.**" (This refers to full-time college students enrolled at four-year colleges.)

The money to cover the free ride comes from a combination of money from colleges themselves, federal and state grants, and private scholarships. To be even more realistic, there are less than 250 private scholarships that even provide enough money to cover all college costs.

So, the likelihood of winning a full ride scholarship or even piecing enough scholarships together to cover your college costs is pretty slim. Before your student starts looking for private scholarships, understand the following five realities and share them with your student too...

### **Is it Worth Applying to Private Scholarships?**

#### **1) The largest scholarship a high school senior will receive will come from the college they attend.**

According to the latest data from the College Board's Trends in Higher Education, 25% of all free aid money (money that does not need to be paid back) was given by colleges to students.

Scholarship money from colleges is second in dollar amount to what the government gives out in loan money.

Only 6% of free aid money came from private and employer grants.<sup>2</sup>

If your student is going to be efficient with their time, it's more worthwhile to find colleges that are going to offer the most money in either financial aid or merit scholarships, as opposed to searching and applying to private scholarships.

#### **2) Private scholarships reduce financial aid students receive from colleges.**

If your student wins a private scholarship, they must report that information to the financial aid office.

Many colleges practice something called "[Scholarship Displacement](#)", that is, they use the scholarship money to reduce the amount of need-based aid they offer.

Some colleges choose to reduce the college's grant or others may reduce loans included in the financial aid package.

Reducing the loan amount is better for the student, but in either case, winning a private scholarship doesn't give you more money than what you would have received from the college and government anyway.

Frustrating – right?!!

### **3) Private scholarships last for one year, merit scholarships are for four years.**

Private scholarships are usually for just one year.

If your student is depending on private scholarships, they'll have to apply to scholarships every year to continue to find scholarship money for each year of college.

On the other hand, merit scholarships are usually offered for all four years of college, assuming students continue to meet the requirements (like GPA minimums and no academic or legal violations).

Which would your student rather do – research and apply each year for new private scholarships or do the upfront research to find a college that will offer need aid or merit scholarships for all four years?

### **4) Don't count on private scholarships to get your child through college debt-free.**

It's possible to earn scholarship money to help with college costs, but know that the average student will only win \$1,000-5,000.

Here's advice from Kevin Ladd, VP at Scholarships.com: "I say if you're really good you might win one out of every six scholarships you apply for. If you're average you might get one out of ten.

If your circumstance is unusual you might get a higher ratio, but typically if you want to win ten scholarships to pay for 90% of your need, you're going to have to apply to five to ten times that many to win them."

Let's do the math – If you want to earn \$10,000 from private scholarships, you'll probably have to apply to 100 scholarships in the hope of earning 10 scholarships, for \$1000 each.

How much time do you think that will take?

### **5) Is that a private scholarship or a sweepstakes your student is entering?**

Over the years, more and more scholarships look like sweepstakes, rather than scholarships awarded based on defined criteria.

If no specific information is required to apply for a scholarship, especially "no essay" scholarships, then what criteria is being used to pick winners?

These scholarships are really just lotteries used by companies to collect student information. When you see the words "no essay," think advertising and lead generation.

So, if your student plans on entering these types of scholarships, make sure to at least create a new email address to use, so they don't get overwhelmed with marketing emails.

Even if you believe and agree with these five issues about pursuing private scholarships, it doesn't mean students shouldn't give it a try to find and apply to scholarships.

There are some very good local and niche private scholarships that will help fill some of the tuition gap.

And if your student is motivated, and has the time, go for it! Just be realistic about the effort needed and the potential outcome.

And remember, if you really want to make a dent finding money for college, the best time spent will be used towards targeting schools that are more likely to offer financial aid or merit scholarships.

Check out our essential guide for researching colleges and developing a list of affordable schools.

Save time, energy, and money using our College Data Spreadsheet. With data on over 1500 four year colleges in one place you can filter, sort, and compare schools to find those that are most likely to offer your student either merit scholarships or need-based aid.