

MARCH 2020

THE COLLEGE CORNER

BIGLERVILLE COLLEGE ADVISING NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Upcoming Tests

-March SAT, March 14th
- SAT School Day, March 25th

Future Tests

April ACT, April 4th
May SAT, May 2nd
June SAT, June 6th
June ACT, June 13th

College Events

-Shippensburg Open House, March 21st
-Ursinus Open House, March 28th
-York Accepted Students Day, March 28th
-Mont Alto Open House, March 28th

WHY APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS IS IMPORTANT

As you start to receive your financial aid awards from the colleges you have been accepted to, it will become much more clear how much money you and your family are expected to contribute towards your education. This can be covered by loans or paid up-front, but another great option is to apply for scholarships. Scholarships are FREE MONEY meaning that you will not have to pay back the amount of money that you receive

It is also important to note that scholarships can add up very quickly. Do not brush over a scholarship purely because it is not worth a lot of money. Smaller scholarships of a few hundred dollars add up very rapidly, and in the end, may amount to more money than one or two scholarships that are worth more.

Check in with Miss K if you are not sure where to start to find scholarships. You can also visit BHS's scholarship page to learn more about scholarships and to see what scholarships BHS offers and to get access to other scholarship databases.

To visit the BHS scholarship page, use the following link:
<https://www.upperadams.org/Page/2099>.



MAKING SENSE OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER

What is my award letter saying?

The Award:

Financial aid award letters typically will list the awards towards the top of the letter, and are broken down showing how much aid is given per semester, followed by total aid. **However, not all award letters will have the same format.** The financial aid package listed in this section will include any grants or scholarships offered to you by the college, in addition to loans and any work study opportunities you may expect to have at that college. Remember, if you have ANY questions or concerns about your financial aid package, call the Financial Aid office at your college immediately. The sooner you bring up an issue with the financial aid office, the sooner it can be resolved.

How Much Do I Pay?

To figure out your total costs, subtract the amount of money you will receive in grants and scholarships (do not include loans) from the total cost of attendance. The number that you arrive at will be how much money you will contribute to your education. The website Fin Aid offers an award letter comparison tool that will help you to see how the out-of-pocket costs will differ from each school you are considering. **Miss K is also available to go over your financial aid letters with you and your parents if you don't understand what the award letter is telling you.** You can also visit BHS's financial aid page to learn more about financial aid and award letters:
<https://www.upperadams.org/Page/2109>.

The Extras:

Extra costs such as textbooks, transportation, and other items will sometimes be listed under the total cost for college. However, the number presented here is only an estimate, and it is very easy to find ways to lower this number. By using alternative ways to buy textbooks such as buying online, renting textbooks, or even borrowing a textbook from the library, the total cost for these classroom supplies can be significantly reduced.



SENIOR AND JUNIOR CHECKLISTS

Be prepared for whatever lies ahead!

SENIORS:

- Submit FAFSA and PHEAA applications
- Complete any remaining college applications (be aware of deadlines)
- Keep Miss K informed about anything regarding your future plans
- Keep visiting schools, especially if you are having a hard time choosing between a few
- Search and apply for scholarships
- Don't be afraid to ask questions- call admissions or financial aid with any questions you may have
- Turn in pink sheets for ALL schools you have applied to

JUNIORS:

- Start visiting colleges- it will help you get an idea of what type of school you're looking for
- Make a spreadsheet of schools you are interested in, what their application deadlines are, average financial aid package, and other important information.
- Register and take the SAT at least once during the Spring/Summer before senior year
- Choose classes for senior year that are going to help make you a competitive college applicant

Juniors and the SAT:

Taking the SAT in the spring will allow you to know what areas you may need to improve on and give you a good feel for what the SAT itself is like. That way, when you take the SAT again in the fall of your senior year (most likely in October), you will be well prepared and ready to take the SAT head on! Knowing how to take the test can make a huge difference in your scores the second time around.

There are many great ways that you can study and prepare for the SAT. The website [Khan Academy](#) provides personalized, free, and comprehensive study and practice materials that are very easy to use. There are also many apps that you can get for your smartphone such as the [Daily Practice SAT app](#).