

Hi Seniors!

I wanted to remind you about some important information regarding the financial aid application process. I know this is a lot of information, but it is important to read through if you're looking for financial aid for college next year. Check out the information about virtual FAFSA Day! If you need help applying for FAFSA, this is a great event to attend!

Students should review financial aid information on each of their colleges individual websites. That way, they know exactly what they need to submit and by when. It is important to follow college deadlines for financial aid in order to maximize financial aid opportunities.

- All students looking to attend college should apply for financial aid through FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Here is a link to the FAFSA website:
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>
- Some colleges require the CSS profile. A list of those colleges can be found on the following website:
<https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>
- Some colleges require their own internal forms.

FAFSA and CSS Profile are already available to complete online.

MEFA has several excellent resources relating to financial aid at mefa.org, including recorded webinars on college financing. They are also holding **virtual FAFSA Day** where financial aid experts will go through a short presentation followed by a live Q&A session to help students and their families apply for financial aid. This is a FREE event and is being offered on two dates: December 14 at 12:00PM and January 10, 2021 at 2:00PM. If you have questions in regards to filling out the FAFSA, this is a great event for you to attend! You do need to RSVP and can do so using the following link:

For January 20: <https://www.mefa.org/events/fafsa-day-ma-event4>

If you have more questions about FAFSA or CSS Profile after attending a MEFA event/watching a recorded webinar, we have wonderful partnerships with the financial aid representatives from our local colleges including MCLA, Berkshire Community College, Williams College and Vassar College. Parents and students can reach out to a financial aid representative from any one of these colleges with any questions even if they are not applying to one of the respective schools. We are so thankful for them in their continued support for students in our community:

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If you haven't done so already, it is important that you create an FSA ID that you will use to access and sign the FAFSA. A student and parent need their own FSA ID. It can take several

days for your FSA ID to be confirmed, so plan to create your FSA ID several days in advance of when you plan to begin the FAFSA. To create an FSA ID visit:

<https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

Please note it is important that students not use their school issued email accounts when creating their FSA ID, on the FAFSA, and on other financial aid related forms since they are only able to receive emails from people in CBRSD.

Students, please email your guidance counselor with questions!