

# NAVIGATING YOUR SENIOR YEAR

AND BEYOND

Athens High School  
Senior Class Presentation 2022-2023



# OBJECTIVES

- Become aware of opportunities
- Learn the steps and processes to take advantage of those opportunities
- Better understand your next step



# 5 CHOICES POST HIGH SCHOOL

## PAGE 11

1

### ***Post -Secondary Education***

- 2-year and 4-year Colleges & Universities
- Technical and Professional Schools & Colleges

### ***Military***

- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Marine Corp
- Coast Guard
- Reserves

2



**3**

## ***Workforce***

- Full-time jobs
- Two or more part-time jobs

**4**

## ***Apprenticeships & Internships***

- Carefully monitored work experience with intentional learning goals

## ***Self Employment & Entrepreneurship***

- Start a business
- Buy a business

**5**

# HOW TO APPLY TO SCHOOL



# BEFORE YOU APPLY

PAGE 6-13, 25-26

1. Make a list of what is most important to you (size, location, degree, cost, etc.)
2. Do your research- anything you want to know is available online
3. *Narrow your choices down*  
Reach, Realistic & Safety  
Schools (about 3-5 schools)

## THEN...

- ***Visit your top choices***- either physically (if available) or virtually
- College Preview Days in Fall (register online) OR College Tours
- 2 permissible absences allowed Senior year by March 31 (forms in Attendance Office)



# TIME TO APPLY

PAGE 16-17

## APPLY ONLINE

1. Go to the school's website to begin application
2. Complete ALL of application
3. Pay application fee (some waived for free/reduced lunch & during College App Week- Oct 18-22)
4. Send Transcript via PARCHMENT
5. Send ACT or SAT scores

- COVID-19 CHANGES- Schools may not require test scores or "official" documents.
- Some schools have additional requirements, such as recommendations, essays, etc.
- The earlier you apply the better- Most schools open applications in August or September (later for junior colleges).
- Pay attention to deadlines! No exceptions



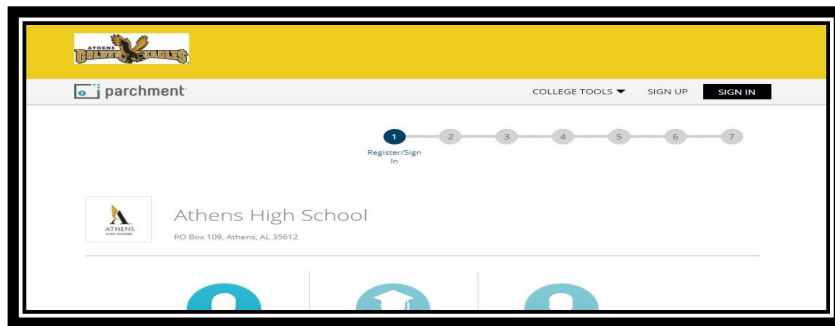
# HOW DO I ORDER A TRANSCRIPT??

- Schools traditionally require an official transcript in order to be considered for admission.
- What's the difference?
  - Official- ordered through Parchment and sent directly to the school of choice
  - Unofficial- can be uploaded or sent by you. Unofficial transcripts can be sent to your email through Parchment.com.

## ORDERING AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT VIA PARCHMENT

You were sent a link to your school email or you can simply go to the AHS website and click the big white oval that says "Transcript Request" on the right hand side about half way down the page.

First 5 are free





# QUESTIONS PAGE 19-20

## *Should I Keep Testing?*

Most schools have merit-based scholarships based on your ACT/SAT & your GPA (those that do not require a score for admission, may or may not require one for scholarships)

Some schools will bump your scholarship up as you score higher on the ACT/SAT- BUT you must have applied, been accepted, and filled out the scholarship application by the deadline

**IN CONCLUSION-** Know the school's policy & make a decision based upon that

## *Now What?*

Wait to hear back- BE PATIENT! You should hear back as early as a couple of weeks after they've received all of your materials or as late as April 15<sup>th</sup>

Once admitted, you'll usually have until May 1st to make a nonrefundable deposit to hold your slot. They should send information (often via email) with information about what to do next- such as housing, scholarships, etc.

Notify a college immediately if you wish to withdraw your application



# SO THAT'S IT??

- You will have to sign up to send a FINAL official transcript at the end of the year-verifying that you graduated
- Continue to check your account for any information, deadlines or updates
- Schools reserve the right to retract an admittance or scholarship



# **SCHOLARSHIPS & PAYING FOR SCHOOL**



# THREE WAYS TO PAY

PAGE 33-35

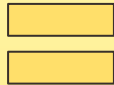
FAMILY  
CONTRIBUTIONS



SCHOLARSHIPS &  
GRANTS



PARENT & STUDENT  
LOANS



**PAYING FOR SCHOOL**



## **FAMILY CONTRIBUTION**

- Talk to your stakeholders about their expectations

Fill out the FAFSA calculator to find out your EFC (expected family contribution)

Do the math, cost of school - EFC = what you'll need

## **SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**

- FREE MONEY
- Scholarships- Merit Based, Athletic, Performance, Community Service, Needs-Based
- Grants- Needs- Based

## **STUDENT & PARENT LOANS**

- Federal & Private Loans
- An investment- know what your responsibilities are
- Fill out the FAFSA online (required beginning with the Class of 2022)



# WHAT IS THE FAFSA

- Free Application For Federal Student Aid
- Start to apply online October 1
- Use parents 2021 taxes
- May qualify for one or a combination of loans, grants and/or work study
- Required by colleges for many scholarship recipients
- Required for all of the Class of 2023 to complete

## 5 REASONS

# YOU SHOULD FILL OUT THE FAFSA

Not really sure whether you or your child should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or whether it affects you?

**You should — and it probably does.**

1

### IT'S FREE.

The FAFSA doesn't cost anything to complete.

2

### IT'S EASY.

The application has been majorly simplified over the past few years — and there are helpful pointers throughout.

3

### IT'S FAST.

It takes most students just 23 minutes to complete the FAFSA: less time than it would take to watch your favorite show.

4

### YOU PROBABLY QUALIFY.

More people qualify for federal student aid than you think — chances are, you're leaving money on the table by not applying.

5

### IT MAY BE REQUIRED.

Many states, schools, and private scholarships require you to submit the FAFSA before they'll consider you for any financial aid.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE FACTS — SHARE THEM AND THEN HEAD TO [FAFSA.GOV](https://fafsa.gov) TO GET IT DONE.

# WHAT IS THE FSA ID



## WHAT IS AN FSA ID AND WHY DO I NEED ONE?

An FSA ID is a username and password you use to access your personal information on Federal Student Aid websites and to sign important documents.

- Since all graduating seniors will be required to complete the FAFSA, you will first create an FSA ID.
- You will be creating the FSA ID during Connect on Wednesday, September 28th.
- If you would like to complete on your own before that date, you can find instructions on the Senior Newsletter.
- Parents/Guardians must create their own separate FSA ID.
- AHS will be hosting several FAFSA completion events. Stay tuned...



# WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

PAGE 36-39

Athletic,  
Performance,  
Academic &  
Community Based

1. Colleges- merit, major, athletic, performance, leadership (typically fall deadlines)
2. Local- church, parents' employers, student employer, clubs, guidance department (more in winter/spring)
3. Online- google, scholarships.com, fastweb.com, [www.achievealabama.org](http://www.achievealabama.org)

**NEVER, EVER, ever, EVER, EvEr PAY  
FOR A SCHOLARSHIP**





# RECOMMENDATIONS

## PAGE 32

- Know the criteria (who, how many, due date, etc.)
- Choose someone with whom you've had a positive relationship
- Provide them with a resume, the "specifics" and when you need it completed
- Let them know if it is to be returned to you or mailed in. If it is to be mailed, provide an addressed, stamped envelope.
- Give them plenty of time to write you a thoughtful recommendation. One month is recommended.
- STUDENT BRAG SHEET & PARENT BRAG SHEET available on SNL & Guidance Page

## WHO Can Help Me?

### page 3

- ★ Mrs. Laura Lou Smith, Ms. April Hamlin - College Info, Military Contacts, Letters of Recommendation, Scholarship Info
- ★ Mr. Cliff Smith- NCAA Eligibility
- ★ Ms. Ramona Malone- Senior Sponsor
- ★ Ms. Leigh Jackson- Scholarship Applications
- ★ Mrs. Missy Greenhaw- General College & Career Info (on campus Wednesdays)
- ★ Teachers, Admin, Counselors, Coaches- Letters of Recommendation

# OTHER OPTIONS



# MORE OPTIONS AFTER SCHOOL

## MILITARY

- TALK WITH OUR MILITARY REPS. HERE FOR COLLEGE & CAREER
- TAKE THE ASVAB (MILITARY ENTRANCE EXAM) AT AHS- SEE MRS. SMITH TO SIGN UP.
- CHECK INTO ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS TO PAY FOR SCHOOL FIRST.

- WORKFORCE- MORE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EVER!
- NEW INDUSTRY= NEW OPPORTUNITIES.
- MANY COMPANIES WILL PROVIDE ON THE JOB TRAINING. MANY INCENTIVES TO DO WELL.
- CHECK EMAIL/NEWSLETTER FREQUENTLY FOR MORE INFO

**BE IN THE KNOW**



# SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Important dates,  
deadlines,  
scholarships &  
opportunities

Sent to your  
school email &  
on school's  
website

## Athens High School

### SENIOR NEWSLETTER

#### Welcome Back to School!

Hello and welcome back! I hope that you had a relaxing summer vacation. My name is Laura Lou Smith and I am thrilled to begin serving as the counselor for 11th & 12th grade students. As an alumni of Athens High School, I was so excited to return "home". I have served as a school counselor for the last ten years in Birmingham, AL. My husband, Derrek, and I are so happy to begin raising our two young children here in Athens.

Most of you have been anxiously awaiting your senior year! It is *finally* here and it is your



It is **YOUR** responsibility



to keep up with information,  
know deadlines, to apply for  
scholarships & schools, etc.

IF YOU DON'T DESIGN YOUR OWN  
LIFE PLAN, CHANCES ARE YOU'LL  
FALL INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S.  
AND GUESS WHAT THEY HAVE  
PLANNED FOR YOU? **NOT MUCH.**

