



2020

*free*

**FREE COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**

As a show of support for prospective students and their families during this time of financial uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several colleges have decided to waive their application fees, making it FREE to apply. This now applies to Clark University, Fitchburg State, MCPHS, Plymouth State (use fee waiver code APPLY2021), Salem State, Smith, Stonehill (use fee waiver code 1948), Worcester State, and WPI to name just a few. Please check with your individual schools for additional information.



**COLLEGE VISITS**

Virtual College Visits with Tahanto students are winding down for the season. Students register on Naviance and receive the Zoom link from the school.

<b>Russell College</b>	<b>Sage</b>	Mon November 23, 11:00 AM 2020	<a href="#">view</a>
<b>University of Hartford</b>	<b>of</b>	Mon November 23, 1:00 PM 2020	<a href="#">view</a>

Many colleges and universities continue to offer virtual tours, virtual open houses, and virtual chat sessions. See individual school websites for details.



## #STAYLOCAL

Fitchburg state is hosting several virtual information sessions to bring together all local high school students, families, and guidance counselors to learn about the benefits of and why they should #staylocal. [Fitchburg State program](#)



## VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIR

NEACAC has set up a virtual college fair for the fall featuring over 200 participating post-secondary schools. There is a live event scheduled for Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00pm in which admissions reps from each school will be online and available for chat sessions. Virtual booths are now accessible 24 hours a day 7 days a week and available for viewing until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. [Sign up here](#) for free, then follow Step 1 on the landing page.



## FINANCIAL AID SUPPORT

The College Board has created a financial aid chatbot - Wyatt, who is designed to answer your FAFSA based questions. This free resource is available [HERE](#). Remember that the [official FAFSA](#) opened on October 1. The earlier you apply, the more money there may be available to you. Some private schools may also require the [CSS Profile](#) for you to receive financial aid from them. [MEFA](#) online and via phone (800) 449-MEFA (6332) is your one stop shop for webinars, resources, and free help for all things financial aid.

Nationally recognized experts offer insights on essential topics through free programming. Students and families will be able to participate in live Q & A sessions. All [past episodes](#) are recorded and can be viewed at a later date. Downloadable toolkits accompany each episode. Upcoming episode:

[Navigating the New Normal of Optional Testing](#) Wednesday, November 18, 2020;  
7:00pm-8:00pm [Register Here](#)



**FUTURE TECH CAREER IN AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**

Imagine America, in partnership with Universal Technical Institute, will host a virtual *FUTURE TECH EVENT: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6 p.m. CST. GO* behind the scenes at Porsche in Grapevine, TX! Hear from their trained, professional technicians who keep these premier vehicles running. [Register Here](#)



**KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR DEPRESSION**

[Child Mind](#) reminds us that as we head towards winter, still dealing with the pandemic, it's more important than ever to keep an eye out for signs of depression, especially in teenagers. With so many things important to teenagers disrupted — school, seeing friends, sports, and other activities that shape identity — many kids are struggling, even those without a history of depression or anxiety. They provide these [tips and resources](#).



## EASY TO BE KIND

What is contagious, free, and easy to share? Think positively - it's KINDNESS! [Take two minutes here](#) to learn how every one of us can improve our world. All it may take is a smile 😊.

## VOLUNTEER



## VOLUNTEER VIRTUALLY

Just because in person activities have been cancelled or postponed, does not mean that there aren't plenty of ways for students to give back. Even during COVID, there are opportunities for teens to volunteer, while maintaining physical distance. See the resources below for ideas of how to help others from the safety of your own home.

[VolunTEEN Nation](#)

[Volunteer Family](#)

[All For Good](#)

[Places to Volunteer Online](#)

[Volunteer Match](#)

[Virtual Volunteer Opportunities You Can Do at Home During COVID-19](#)

[Peers and Students Taking Action](#)

[Serve.gov](#)

Whether virtually or in person, via phone, email, Zoom, or Google Meet, I am available to students and families. Don't hesitate to reach out at any time.

Amidst the uniqueness of this year, may you find things for which you can be **thankful** this season. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Be well. Take care.

*Ilene Rodman, Ed.M., High School Counselor*

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