



ORRHS Guidance Newsletter

Current Guidance Happenings

Important Term 2/Semester 1 Dates:

On Wednesday, **January 17**, Term 2 grades close. Report Cards will be distributed during Bulldog Block on Monday, **January 29**.

INCOMPLETE GRADES:

The deadline to make-up Incomplete Grades for Term 2 is Wednesday, January 31. Handbook language is as follows:

- Students have two weeks from the day grades close to make up any Incomplete Grades issued by teachers, including 4th term and the summer.
- All work not completed within the specified period will be given no credit and averaged with the completed work to determine a grade.
- In the case of extenuating circumstances, any extension of this policy must be arranged with the Principal before the end of the two-week time period.

Attention Senior Families - Important & Time Sensitive FAFSA Information

Students and families **can and should** create their FSA ID now. Your FSA ID will be your digital signature and used to open your FAFSA account. Use [this link](#) and follow the steps to create your account. You will need your social security number, your email address, and a cell phone number.

Check out these documents to learn more about the FAFSA: [FSA ID and College Board Accounts](#), [What do you need to complete a FAFSA?](#)

THIS WEEK - FAFSA Night for Senior Families, January 9 at 6 pm -RSVP NOW

The ORRHS Guidance Department will be hosting a FAFSA night on **January 9th at 6 pm** in the library. Beth Connelly-Silvia, Director of the Educational Opportunity Center, a program of Seven Hills, will work with families to complete their FAFSA. Families must create their FSA ID in advance of this event. Please register in advance here: [FAFSA Night RSVP](#).

Free Massachusetts State College & University Application Day: January 12



In partnership with Reach Higher Massachusetts, and for the first time, the nine MA state universities and colleges are waiving their application fees for **one day only - Friday, January 12, 2024**.

This initiative continues the equity and access to higher education effort by encouraging students to apply to the state universities at **no cost**. Students can apply using the colleges' application on their website or via the students' Common Application account. The waiver code is REACHFREE .

Schools include Bridgewater, Fitchburg, Framingham, MassArt, Mass Maritime, Mass College of Liberal Arts, Salem, Westfield, and Worcester.

Upcoming **ON THE SPOT ACCEPTANCE** event for Seniors, January 18

A representative from **Bristol Community College** will be here on Thursday, January 18, for an “On-the-Spot College Acceptance Day”. Senior students are offered **same day admittance and the application fee is waived**. To take advantage of this one-time opportunity, **you must contact your guidance counselor to sign up by Thursday, January 11**. On Friday, January 12, during Bulldog Block, students who have registered for this opportunity will meet in the Guidance conference room to pre-register online. Please bring your social security number and your chromebook.

BSU FAFSA Assistance Nights, January 25th & March 7th



Can't make it to our FAFSA assistance night on January 9th? Take advantage of these opportunities offered at the **BSU Welcome Center** on **January 25th** or on **March 7th**. Bring your laptop with you and arrive anytime between 4-7pm. Be sure to have your FSA ID in advance of these events.

Waitlist or Deferred, Now What?

You've sent out all of your applications and are waiting patiently for answers. You have your top choice and can see yourself on campus. You open your mail and see that you have been deferred or placed on the waitlist. Now what?

Deferred:

If you are “deferred” it is typically, when applying early action. This is done when an application is close, but the admissions office may want to compare with the larger regular decision pool. If this happens to you, and the school is a strong interest of yours, be sure to follow all instructions. Each school may have a different process, but the situation is the same; confirm your interest following their instructions, keep focused on all grades, and submit any additional material supporting your application. When the admissions process is complete after the regular admissions process, applicants are notified as before whether admitted or denied. This will be the final answer.

Waitlist:

Applicants can be “waitlisted” when all decisions have been released. The school will admit their incoming class and look to see how many of those turn into actual students. This can be somewhat of a numbers game. Knowing that not every admitted student will attend; for example they will admit 2000 students building an actual class of 1500 anticipating 500 do not submit deposits. Schools refer to this process as “melt.” If, let's say 700 students decide to go elsewhere (instead of the 500 anticipated), admissions would utilize the waitlist to rebound back to 1500 from 1300. Typically waitlists are not prioritized or ranked. If you are put on the waitlist and it is a school you are interested in, again, follow their instructions. However, you will not need or be able to submit additional material. The decision has been made, the process for admitted students has to play out. At this point, unfortunately do not plan on the waitlist working in your favor. Be sure you move forward with your own college plan, and if the waitlist school comes back to you, then consider. Also, be aware that any financial aid or scholarships will be limited. **If you are deferred or waitlisted, let your guidance counselor know. We can sit and talk though the different scenarios and make a plan that works for you.**

Financial Aid Information for Seniors

Over 200 private colleges require the CSS Profile. The CSS Profile is available now and can be found at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>. Colleges have deadlines for financial aid applications, including the CSS Profile. Please check your schools to see if they require the CSS Profile and the timeline for submission.

South Coast Community Foundation - New Scholarship Information

The SouthCoast Community Foundation has over 100 scholarships totaling over \$700,000 available for students on the South Coast and South Shore! Applications are being accepted now through March 1st. Here is a [List of scholarships available](#). Simply click [here](#) to learn more and create an account to apply to over 100 scholarships with one application. Visit southcoastcf.org/scholarships to apply by March 1st. You will need: Personal essays on (1) leadership or community engagement and (2) a challenging first-hand experience; Most recent transcript; Letter of recommendation (strongly encouraged, but not required)

You can attend an info session via Zoom to learn more about how to apply, what scholarships you could be eligible for, and how the SouthCoast Community Foundation evaluates applications.

- January Info Session – Wed. Jan 31st, 6:30 – 7:30 pm <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83169806851>
- February Info Session – Tues. Feb. 13th, 5:30 – 6:30 pm <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87029779576>

Reminder: Updated scholarship information can be found on our ORRHS Guidance Website. Visit this link for quick access to current scholarship information (found on the right hand side of the page): [ORRHS Guidance](#)

Attention 9th and 10th graders, Project Contemporary Competitiveness



The poster is titled "PCC INFO NIGHTS" and "PCC ASP" (Project Contemporary Competitiveness). It features several circular photos of students and staff. The text includes: "EVENT AT STONEHILL COLLEGE ADMISSION WELCOME CENTER", "PCC INFO NIGHTS JAN. 10TH & 29TH @ 7PM", "PCC ASP", "ALL ARE WELCOME - NO RSVP REQUIRED!", "JAN. 10TH & 29TH @ 7PM", "Come join us to learn about our great program! Listen to a presentation, ask questions and see a part of the campus! Pick the day that works for you, we will see you there!", "ADMISSION WELCOME CENTER AUDITORIUM - STONEHILL COLLEGE", "Parking is next to the building. Please Enter from RT. 123 Stonehill's main entrance.", "WEBSITE: pccasp.org EMAIL: pcc@stonehill.edu

Applications are now available for Project Contemporary Competitiveness (PCC). PCC is a 4 week summer overnight camp for students currently in grades 7-10.

PCC is a wonderful pre-college experience and takes place on the beautiful campus of Stonehill College located in Easton, MA. If you are interested in applying or have questions, please see your guidance counselor.

<https://pccasp.org/>

Attention Prospective College Student Athletes, Grades 9-11

On Thursday, January 25th, during Bulldog Block, Dr. Janicki will be holding an info session for all prospective college student-athletes grades 9-11 in the guidance conference room. Please sign up with your mentor if you are interested in attending.

Attention Juniors - Scholarship Opportunities for Class of 2025

Horatio Alger Scholarships: While most other scholarships focus exclusively on academic achievement or leadership potential, Horatio Alger Scholarships are also intended for promising students who have critical financial need, demonstrate integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity, and are determined to succeed. To learn more, visit <https://horatioalger.org/scholarships/>.

The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra Music Scholarship: This scholarship is open to students from Plymouth County who are Juniors during the 2023-2024 school year, and who plan to attend a four-year music college. The award of up to \$2500 is intended to strengthen the student's application to the music college of his or her choice. Students may use the scholarship to purchase a better instrument, attend music camp, or purchase private instrumental, vocal, or composition lessons that would enhance their skills. Plymouth Philharmonic. Applicants will be judged on merit, commitment, and financial need. [The Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra Music Scholarship](#), due to guidance by **January 18, 2024**.

Attention Juniors, Spring SAT information

SATs will be digital this spring. Juniors, it is recommended that you test in the Spring if you choose to test. To learn more, visit: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital>. The deadline for registering for the **March 9th** test is **February 23rd**, the deadline for registering for the **May 4th** test is **April 19th** and the deadline for registering for the **June 1st** test is **May 16th**.

Important Junior Information

Junior families please read this important Junior letter [here](#). We recently sent home copies of this letter to Junior families as well. Please reach out to your counselor if you have any questions!

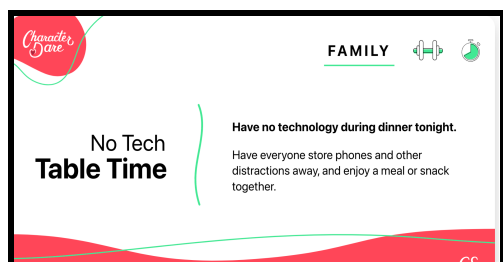
Please note these important upcoming events:

- Mid January guidance counselors will begin small group presentations on the college process
- **January 25** - College Athletics information for grades 9-11 during Bulldog Block
- **January 29** at 6:30pm - Virtual College Athletics information for parents: [Register Here](#)
- **February 8** at 6pm (ORRHS cafeteria): College Admissions Seminar for parents from MEFA
- **May 20** - NEACAC College Fair hosted at ORRHS (5:30-7:30PM)
- Fall 2024 (Date TBD): Financial Aid Seminar for parents

Internship Opportunity - Media Lab


Are you a junior or a senior who has an interest in working in media labs with [a 3-D printer, a circuit laser cutter, and a few other things](#)? The Mattapoissett Library is looking to provide an internship opportunity for two students for 10 hours a week after school and on weekends. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mrs. Millette.

New Feature: The Character Dare



The Family CharacterDare offers families the opportunity to engage in challenges designed to increase connection and conversation at home. This week, try **no tech table time!**

Career of the Week

CAREER OF THE WEEK		AI SPECIALIST
		 https://www.bls.gov/ooh/
WHAT DO THEY DO?	HOW TO BECOME ONE	JOB OUTLOOK & SALARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating, developing, & implementing AI systems & technologies• Collect, analyze, and interpret data using statistical and data analysis tools• Develop and implement machine learning algorithms and models using Python, Java, C++, or other programming languages.• Work closely with data scientists, engineers, and product managers to identify business problems and develop solutions.	<p>Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics or a related field</p>	<p>Projected job growth 23% between 2021-2031</p> <p>Median salary \$136,620</p>

SEL TIP OF THE WEEK



Be Intentional: Setting goals can help you to have intention for the new year. Take a moment to reflect on your strengths, interests, and areas where you'd like to grow.

Set specific and realistic goals that align with your values and aspirations, whether they're academic, personal, or social. Remember to break down larger goals into smaller, manageable steps to make them less overwhelming and more achievable.

Be sure to share your goals with friends, teachers, or family members to create a support system that encourages you along the way. When setbacks present themselves, see them as opportunities to learn and grow. Celebrate every small achievement. As always, be kind to yourself and enjoy the journey of self-discovery and growth throughout the coming year.