

OCTOBER SENIOR NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- ✓ Keep sending in those college applications! Do not procrastinate!
- ✓ Go online and submit your applications.
- ✓ Your transcript will need to be sent to each college you apply to. Inform Mrs. DeVisser (vdevisser@plymouthchristian.us) where you need your transcript sent.
- ✓ Some applications require recommendations from a teacher, principal, or counselor.
- ✓ Apply to multiple colleges and make your final decision later.

TESTING

- ✓ If you want to take/retake the ACT, the next test date is December 12. Registration deadline is November 6.
- ✓ If you want to retake the SAT, the next test date is December 5. Registration deadline is November 5.

FINANCIAL AID

- ✓ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). All students intending to go to college should submit the application beginning October 1. Michigan has an application deadline of March 1. Apply as soon as possible at fafsa.ed.gov. The application is now available!
- ✓ CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE is another financial aid resource. Visit the website at collegeboard.org/college-search, click on "Pay for College" and then the CSS/Profile link. There is a fee for this service.
- ✓ Start applying for financial aid when you start applying to colleges. Ask each college exactly which forms you will need. Be sure to meet all deadlines. Late applications are considered only if there is money left over.
- ✓ For most if not all colleges, the financial aid process starts with the FAFSA. Some colleges ask for additional forms.
- ✓ If money is tight, still concentrate on your schoolwork, volunteer activity, or ACT/SAT retests rather than working additional hours. The better GPA and test scores you have makes you a more desirable student and more likely to be eligible for scholarships.
- ✓ The best way to find private scholarships is to research them on the web. Also, ask college representative that come to PCH about financial aid at their college.
- ✓ When you register for the ACT or SAT, fill in the bubble that indicated you want to be placed on the mailing list for information about colleges and scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✓ FASTWEB.COM ~ This website is highly recommended by various college representatives for finding scholarships, grants, and loans to fund your college education.
- ✓ American Legion Scholarship ~ michiganlegion.org ~ Deadlines vary depending on the scholarship
- ✓ Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation ~ coca-colascholarsfoundation.org ~ Deadline: October 31
- ✓ Daughters of the American Revolution ~ www.dar.org/national-society/scholarships ~ Deadline: February 15
- ✓ Elks National Foundation ~ enf.elks.org/MVS ~ Deadline: November 15
- ✓ Equitable Excellence Scholarship ~ equitable.com ~ Deadline: December 15
- ✓ GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship program ~ www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships ~ Deadline: January 3

- ✓ Grand Rapids Promise Zone Scholarship ~ available to students who live in Grand Rapids, have attended Plymouth since 10th grade, and who graduate from Plymouth. This scholarship is only available at GRCC. Students must complete the FAFSA before applying for the GR Promise Zone ~ grpromisezone.com
- ✓ Hugh & Eve Meeter Calvinism Award ~ calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/fellowships-scholarships/high-school-seniors/ ~ Deadline: February 1
- ✓ Lands' End Starboard Scholarship ~ www.landsend.com/starboard-scholarship/ ~ Deadline: December 15
- ✓ Raise.me ~ Getting scholarships from colleges for your achievements in high school
- ✓ SAE Engineering Scholarships ~ sae.org ~ Deadline: March 15
- ✓ Western Michigan University Medallion Scholarship Competition ~ wmich.edu ~ Deadline: apply to WMU by November 1
- ✓ Prospective Teachers: For students who are baptized or professing members of First Netherlands Reformed Congregation (Beckwith), specific funds are allocated to assist students who are going into the field of education. See Mrs. Bazen for details.
- ✓ Check with individual colleges for specific scholarships they hand out.

COLLEGE INFORMATION

- ✓ VISIT COLLEGES – Examine the place you are going! This is by far the best way to see what each college offers. Don't forget to fill out a prearranged absence prior to you visit.
- ✓ Calvin College is offering in-person visits on weekdays in October. They are also hosting live Open Houses on Tuesdays and Fridays through October. You must make a reservation for either event at least five days in advance. To register online, go to calvin.edu/visit.
- ✓ Grand Valley State University
 - Laker Experience Days will be held virtually on Tuesday, Saturday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m. Representatives from academic departments and support services will be available to answer your questions. To make an online reservation visit gvsu.edu/visit.
 - Application Fees are **waived** for any applications received through October 31, 2020
 - The application deadline date for Grand Valley is December 31, 2020. This is still the same as in the past, but now Grand Valley has extended their scholarship deadline to July 31. This means you can still submit a revised transcript after 1st or 2nd semester if your cumulative GPA increased enough to make you eligible for a higher scholarship. Or, if you take or retake the SAT or ACT and score higher than a previous test, you could become eligible for a larger scholarship.
- ✓ GRCC – NO application fee
- ✓ The Common Application – The Common Application simplifies the college admission process by saving time and eliminating duplication of effort. Once completed online or in print, copies may be sent to any of over 600 participating colleges and universities that accept The Common Application. Go to www.commonapp.org.

Questions? Send me an email at vdevisser@plymouthchristian.us

Links for additional information:

https://www.fastweb.com/nfs/fastweb/static/PDFs/bulletins/Scholarship%20Scams_2014.pdf

<https://www.fastweb.com/nfs/fastweb/static/PDFs/bulletins/Scholarship-Guide-2016.pdf>

<https://www.fastweb.com/nfs/fastweb/static/PDFs/bulletins/Key%20Scholarship%20Application%20Information.pdf>

<https://www.fastweb.com/nfs/fastweb/static/PDFs/bulletins/Financial-Aid-Tips-QRG-2016.pdf>