

Senior Newsletter – January 2019

As the end of the first semester draws near, the reality is that half your senior year is behind you and the second semester has been known to fly by! You still have much to accomplish over the next five months so don't allow senioritis to creep in, continue working hard, and keep your focus on what's to come after you bid farewell to your high school days. Be sure to have your first semester transcripts sent to your colleges, and don't forget that your final transcripts will be sent as well. That being said, schools have been known to rescind acceptances when students have allowed their grades to take a dramatic turn for the worse! Even if college isn't in your future, make sure that you are on track for graduation. See Mr. D'Amico if you have any questions regarding your graduation status. As always, my door is open, so stop in if you need help with anything at all! Happy New Year – the best is yet to come!

Mrs. Segretario

Scholarships

Continue to search for and complete scholarship applications! Remember to give teachers and others you ask a brag sheet and a minimum of three weeks to complete a letter of recommendation.

DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!

As the semester progresses, you will find yourself becoming busier and busier. Use these dull, gray winter days to get things done. You'll be happy you did!

See the board outside the main office for important due dates and other information.

Senior Days at the University of Akron: A to Zip

Grab a complimentary UA t-shirt and learn all about becoming an Akron Zip! Senior Days are Monday, February 18th and Friday, March 8th. For these and other opportunities to visit (including Saturday information sessions) please visit:

<https://www.uakron.edu/admissions/undergraduate/visiting-campus/visitation-days.dot>

DESTINATION KENT STATE

If you've been admitted to Kent State University AND have paid the \$150 enrollment fee, your next step is Destination Kent State. DKS is a three-step program that includes advising and registration, Kick Off Kent State and the First-Year Experience. This important step in becoming a Golden Flash occurs on Wednesday, January 9th and Thursday, January 10th. Visit <https://www.kent.edu/destination> to log into your FlashLine account for registration.

For more information: <https://www.kent.edu/destination/dks-spring-guide>

ACT – Dates and Deadlines

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE FEE REQUIRED
02/09/19	01/11/19	01/18/19
04/13/19	03/08/19	03/25/19
06/08/19	05/03/19	05/20/19

YSU “Penguin Preview Day”

Penguin Preview Day - Friday, February 15th from 9am to 1pm - is your chance to experience the Youngstown State University campus for a college visit that's unlike any other! Visit YSU and explore buildings and classes, talk to professors and students, and learn about majors and offerings. Registration deadline is February 12th

For more information and to register go to:

<https://ysu.edu/admissions/plan-a-visit/penguin-preview-day>

University of Mount Union

Fall 2019 New Student Preview information and registration will be available in early spring and registration will begin in early May. Students must participate in one overnight experience. Dates for this summer are: June 28/29, June 20/July 1, July 12/13 and July 14/15.

Learn more by visiting <https://www.mountunion.edu/preview>

THE DREADED SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AND ESSAYS

With the new year comes a realization that the deadlines for scholarships are fast-approaching, so don't put these off any longer! Embrace the opportunity to reflect on your past accomplishments and your future goals. It's up to you to make your application stand out in the crowd and here's a few tips to help with that!

- 1. Know the Specific Criteria.** It's easy to write one or two essays and send them off with each application, but knowing your audience is super important. Are they interested in community service? Is classroom performance on the top of their list? Is overcoming adversity what their looking for? Dig deep to find out what will make them take note of your application!
- 2. Plan Ahead.** Not procrastinating means more time to craft an excellent piece of writing. Begin by creating an outline and placing a few main points with some supporting information under each. Choose your words wisely to really capture who you are. Have a few people proof-read and help you edit your essay. All this takes time – so what are you waiting for?
- 3. Make it Personal.** You have to convince the scholarship provider that you are exactly who they want to invest in! That means that you have to show them passion, and give them a vision of what makes you uniquely – YOU! Including specific information and examples of your interests and perspectives will make for a winning essay every time! Refer to your brag sheet and don't be afraid to speak frankly about your accomplishments!
- 4. Keep it neat and organized.** This shows the scholarship committee that you care. If there is a handwritten portion, use your best penmanship. If other documents are required, keep things labeled and carefully follow instructions. Finally, make sure you submit your application on time.

Senior Slideshow... It's time to start digging through those old photos! Each senior should to submit the information and photos to Gabby Hill for the senior slideshow. Please fill out the attached document and give it to Gabby or Seg ASAP!

& Yearbook... Don't forget that yearbook needs a senior picture as well! Email a high resolution photo to Mrs. Segretario no later than Friday, April 12. The school Lifetouch picture will be used for all students who have not provided the yearbook staff with a photo.

Student Loans

Student loans are often a necessary evil of earning a college education, but try to think of them as investments in your future! When you borrow money, there's two important things to remember: you must repay it and you'll have to pay interest which is the charge for borrowing money. Loans with lower interest cost less in the long run, but it's always cheaper not to borrow money in the first place, so only borrow what you absolutely need.

There are three main sources of student loans: the federal government, state agencies and private organizations. To get the best loans, first fill out the FAFSA which qualifies you for federal loans which often have the best terms. Next, contact your college's financial aid department to see what's available through your college. Finally, check with the U.S. Department of Education for information about state loans.

There are several types of student loans. Need-based loans are always the best choice for eligible students. Federal Perkins Loans are low-interest loans awarded to students with the highest need, and for which your school contributes a share. The other need-based loan is Federal Direct Subsidized Loan. This loan is interest-free while you're in college. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans begin accruing interest immediately, but the interest may be added to the amount of the loan and doesn't have to be repaid until after you graduate. It is a good idea, however, to make interest payments if possible so that the total amount owed is decreased. Federal Direct PLUS Loans are for parents. The total cost of college (minus any financial aid) may be borrowed under these loans. Interest rates from private loans vary. These loans are neither need-based, nor subsidized; and students often require a cosigner to borrow money from these organizations.

Often students are offered more money than is actually needed for college. You are never required to take the entire amount, and no matter how reasonable the terms of the loan may be, don't be tempted to take more than you actually need to pay for college. These loans, and the interest attached, add up quickly. Prior to disbursement of borrowed money, students are often required to complete an online course on borrowing money for college, total cost and terms of repayment. These interactive videos will provide a great deal of information for students and parents.

Senior Slideshow Form

**Return this form in by 1/31/19 to Seg or Gabby Hill.

**Please email gabriellehill@student.sebring.k12.oh.us your senior photo AND baby pictures by 2/28/19.

Please print your name EXACTLY as you would like it to appear on your slide in the Senior Slideshow?

What are your plans for after graduation?

What is your favorite memory from high school?
