

Counselor's Corner

Poteet High School

November, 2011 Volume 1, Issue 3



ARE YOU READY TO MAKE THIS YEAR MATTER?!?

Planning for college can be such an exciting time in your child's life, although parents seem to get a lump in their throat thinking that their child is growing up so quickly. Our November newsletter is all about preparing for life after high school. Grab a tissue and a highlighter, you are going to want to flag some of the information in this newsletter!

Does the thought of paying for college make your palms sweat and your heart race? We have included a step by step guide to applying for financial assistance. Mark your calendar for the district's Financial Aid Night– January 10, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Poteet High School Auditorium. This presentation will

help answer many of your “how in the world are we going to pay for college” questions!

Seniors, we have included a college planning timeline. This is a great tool for you to use as you begin applying for college! Print this form and refer to it often.

We are excited to report that PHS administered the PSAT to over 630 students this past October. The PSAT results will be distributed after we return from winter break.

So grab some hot chocolate and your favorite Snuggie and enjoy your read!



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Interested in COLLEGE??

Go to
www.applytexas.org
for application and
admission
information about all
TEXAS Universities



MISD Financial Aid Night at Poteet High School

January 10, 2011





PHS School Code
#444-713

SAT and ACT Testing

Upcoming Test Dates ~ Register Now!

SAT

December 3rd — Register by November 8th
January 28th—Register by December 30th
Go to <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home> for more information and registration.

ACT

December 10th - Register by November 4th
February 11th - Register by January 13th
Go to www.actstudent.org for more information and registration.

AP Student Prep Session Schedule—each session 9am-2:30pm



Pizza and door prizes at each session!!



	<u>English</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Science</u>
	Poteet HS	Horn HS	NMHS
#1	Jan. 7th	Dec. 10th	Jan 28th
#2	April 28th	Feb. 18th	March 31st
#3		April 14th	May 5th

Scholarship Information

ONLINE RESOURCES

Don't forget to apply for Mesquite Local Scholarships! To fill out an application go to:

<http://www.mesquiteisd.org/students/scholarships/index.asp>

1. Fast Web
2. College Board's FUND FINDER
3. Scholarships.com
4. Peterson's Award Database

* Turn in application to Mrs. Morris.

FEATURED SCHOLARSHIPS

KFC Colonels Scholars - accepting applications online Dec. 1, 2011—February 8, 2012. Go to www.kfcscholars.org to apply.

Colgate - Palmolive & the Hispanic Scholarship Fund announce the MAKETHE U Scholarship Pro-



NOVEMBER 3RD
COFFEE WITH THE
COUNSELORS
PHS LIBRARY

"COLLEGE COLLEGE COLLEGE OH MY!"

This is an opportunity for students to spend some time with their counselors

For Senior Students: Financial Aid 101

How to Apply for Scholarships

- ⇒ Submit ACT/SAT scores to each college
- ⇒ Apply for Admission by December
- ⇒ Submit fall high school transcript by January
- ⇒ Complete university's scholarship application prior to the deadline
- ⇒ Look at the university's website for specific scholarships that they are offering to new students

How to Apply for Grants, Workstudy, and Loans

- ⇒ Apply for Admission
- ⇒ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to college's deadline
- ⇒ Complete any institutional aid forms

FASFA

- ⇒ Go to www.fasfa.ed.gov to complete the online application
- ⇒ Apply for a pin to sign the FASFA on the web and federal student loan promissory notes
- ⇒ **RECOMMENDED:** use IRS data retrieval when completing forms online will expedite AID for families who use it and it decreases the likelihood of being selected for verification
- ⇒ FASFA cannot be completed until 2011 tax returns are completed
- ⇒ **NEVER** pay someone to assist you in completing the FASFA application

Don't PLAY games with your future....



College Planning Timeline for Seniors

August - September

- Continue to take challenging courses
- If needed, sign up to re-take ACT or SAT
- Apply for Texas College admissions at www.applytexas.org
- Turn in all application materials (ACT/SAT scores, transcripts, essay, and recommendation letters)
- Sign up to receive college or university email newsletters

November - December

- Follow your admission application status online.
- Make sure to get vaccinated for Meningitis before making a room selection.
- Once admitted, reserve your room with university housing.

January

- Complete FAFSA online. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Complete scholarship applications.

February

- Make sure your FAFSA has been submitted to the university
- Once admitted, reserve your spot at the universities Orientation.
- If parking on campus, register your vehicle online



GET A HEAD START ON YOUR COLLEGE CAREER AT EASTFIELD COLLEGE WITH DUAL CREDIT

Are you interested in earning High School Credit and College Credit?

Are you a junior or senior who is at least 16 years old?

Do you have the time and desire to commit to courses outside of your normal school day?

If you answered yes to these questions, please visit with your counselor to see if you qualify for our Dual Credit Program.

Learn more about Eastfield's Dual Credit Program:

MISD Dual Credit through Eastfield

Registration Information

[Admission application now available online.*](https://www1.dcccd.edu/stuapp/newuser_hs.cfm) at: https://www1.dcccd.edu/stuapp/newuser_hs.cfm

Registration Begins

Current Dual Credit Students:

November 16th - Spring

New Dual Credit Students:

November 22nd - Spring

Important Dates

Spring semester begins January 17th

Please note: Students are required to bring completed packet to the Eastfield dual credit office for processing on or before deadline. Please include copy of online application.

As a reminder, a complete enrollment application packet includes:

1. a completed DCCCD Admissions Application or online application confirmation page
2. an official high school transcript with exit-level TAKS, ACT or SAT scores, if applicable
3. a completed High School Enrollment Form with the college course name(s) entered/circled on the form and all required signatures
4. a completed Consent to Emergency Treatment Form
5. Student Information Profile Form completed in pencil

MORE RESOURCES FOR AID, COLLEGE ADMISSIONS, AND COLLEGE LOANS!

Web Resources

Sources of Aid

Scholarship Search
www.fastweb.com

College Savings Plan Network
www.collegesavingsplan.org

AmeriCorps
www.americorps.gov

City Year
www.cityyear.org

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE
profileonline.collegeboard.com

Direct Loans
www.direct.ed.gov

Student Loans
www.studentloans.gov

College Admissions

College Search
www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

Educational Opportunity
www.opportunity.gov

College
www.college.gov

NACAC College Fairs
www.nacacnet.org/eventstraining/collegefairs/pages/default.aspx

Common Application
www.commonapp.org

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
www.fafsa.ed.gov

FAFSA PIN Registration
www.pin.ed.gov

FAFSA 4Caster
www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

Job Corps
www.jobcorps.gov

Resources by State
www.finaid.org/state

Student Tax Info
www.irs.gov/individuals/students

Choosing a Major/Career

MonsterCollege
www.monstercollege.com

Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.stats.bls.gov

Occupational Outlook Handbook
www.bls.gov/oco

Higher Ed News

Chronicle of Higher Education
www.chronicle.com

Higher Education Watch
www.higheredwatch.org

Inside Higher Ed
www.insidehighered.com

Financial Aid Information

FinAid
www.finaid.org

Fastweb for Educators
www.fastweb.com/educators

Fastweb's College Gold
www.collegegold.com

EduPASS: International Students
www.edupass.org

College Goal Sunday
www.collegegoalsundayusa.org

Federal Student Aid for Counselors
www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov

Federal Student Aid for Students
www.studentaid.ed.gov

IFAP (Information for Financial Aid Professionals)
www.ifap.ed.gov

Mapping Your Future
www.mappingyourfuture.org

NASFAA (National Association of Financial Aid Administrators)
www.nasfaa.org

NACAC (National Association for College Admissions Counseling)
www.nacacnet.org

FTC Project Scholarship Scam
www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

OPE (Office of Postsecondary Education)
www.ed.gov/ope

Guide to Federal Student Aid
www.studentaid.ed.gov/guide

Financial Aid Calculators
www.finaid.org/calculators

Research

ERIC (Education Resources Information Center)
www.eric.ed.gov

College Insight
www.college-insight.org

National Center for Education Statistics
www.nces.ed.gov

Security on Campus
www.securityoncampus.org

Selective Service System
www.sss.gov

Social Security Administration
www.ssa.gov

Student Gateway to U.S. Government
www.students.gov

TRIO Programs
www.coenet.us

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov

Loan Information

Always borrow federal first. Federal student loans are cheaper, more available and have better repayment terms than private student loans.

Federal Perkins Loan

Awarded based on exceptional need. Interest is subsidized and fixed at 5%. No fees. Favorable benefits may be lost upon consolidation.

REPAYMENT begins 9 months after graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment status.

Federal Stafford Loan

Subsidized

Interest accrues starting 6 months after graduation. Fixed interest rate is 3.4% if loan originated on/after July 1, 2011 for undergraduate students. 1% fees.

Unsubsidized

Interest accrues during school. Fixed interest rate is 6.8% if loan originated on/after July 1, 2006. 1% fees.

On loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2009, annual limits have increased by \$2,000 for independent and dependent undergrads.

REPAYMENT begins 6 months after graduation or after dropping below half-time enrollment status.

Federal Parent PLUS Loan

If loan originated on/after July 1, 2006: Direct PLUS fixed interest rate is 7.9% with 4% fees.

REPAYMENT begins 60 days after full disbursement, or 6 months after student graduates or drops below half-time. Interest continues to accrue during deferment.

Federal Consolidation Loan

Combine loans to one lender. Fixed interest rate is the weighted average of the loans rounded up to the nearest 1/8 of a % and capped at 8.25%.

Private/Alternative Loan

Eligibility, interest rate and fees based on better of borrower and cosigner credit scores. More expensive than Federal student loans.

For more information on private/alternative loans, visit: www.finaid.org/privateloans



**Have a Question
or Comment?**

Email: memberservices@fastweb.com