NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF
2012

A guide to

YOUR FUTURE

"It is better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret."

~ Jackie Joyner Kersee

YOUR FUTURE….. A PLANNING GUIDE

This spring friends and relatives will watch with pride as you walk across the graduation platform to receive your diploma. One phase of life gives way to another –"life after high school." Graduating seniors are faced with many choices and must make many decisions.

This guide is designed to help students and parents evaluate and organize options. We hope you will take time to read this booklet carefully in order to simplify the transition from high school to whatever post secondary choice you may be making at this time.

Historically, most Newton High School graduates choose to continue their education in some form, be it college, vocational or military. These options will be specifically addressed in this guide. Seniors who plan to continue their education will need to understand and act on much of the information contained in the booklet. Since changes may occur throughout the school year, this guide may not be completely accurate. Please check continually for information with your counselor, the Director of Admissions and financial aid department at the school of your choice.

Students should be continually aware of:

1. Scholarship announcements and deadlines.
2. Application and admission deadlines.
3. Visits to NHS by college and military representatives.
4. Keeping in contact with your school counselor.
5. Preparing a summary (resume) of all high school and community activities.
6. Maintaining an appropriate and challenging academic schedule.
7. READING the SENIOR NEWS monthly bulletin which contains information about scholarships, financial aide, admissions, apprenticeships, college representative visits to NHS, college open houses and senior days, and relevant information pertaining to seniors.

This guide is given to you with the intention of providing information which will be helpful to your planning process. It should call to your attention some timely tasks in the admission process and point you to sources of more detailed information. Our hope is you will find this material helpful as you take steps toward planning for your future.

MAKING THE DECISION
WHAT DO I WANT OUT OF LIFE?

You are about to make a critical life decision, what do I do after high school? You have many options, going to college, joining the workforce, entering the military; this decision will take time and effort. Take some time to reflect on your interests and aspirations. Making an appointment with your counselor to take an interest inventory may be the first step you need to take in evaluating your options and matching your choices with programs fitting your goals.

Should you choose college or technical training, be realistic about the cost. Scholarships and grants are available, but obtaining them in a highly competitive atmosphere may be difficult. Seniors interested in a degree from a four-year college may begin that journey at a less expensive two-year community college. If financing is a major obstacle, some students turn to the military where generous funding options await those who have completed a few years of service. Explore the choices and base your decision on what works for you!

DECISIONS DETERMINE DESTINY -- plan ahead and make informed decisions!!

Chuck Corley	Jana Crittenden	Chris Headrick
Class of 2012	Class of 2013	Class of 2014

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?

The guidance office at Newton High School, the students and their parents all bear certain responsibilities in the decision making process. The responsibility for college decisions, applications and enrollment rests with the students and parents. The role of the counselor is to provide information and to provide guidance and support on decisions relating to college and career and scholarship applications.

STUDENT & PARENT

1. Read all communications from the counseling office. THE SENIOR NEWS
2. Communicate to the counselor the student's interests, goals and concerns.
3. Contact colleges for information and applications.
4. Attend any informative meetings on college planning and financial aid.
5. Complete admission and scholarship applications and return them before deadline dates.
6. Check with colleges concerning SAT and ACT requirements and register for these tests prior to the deadline. Test results must be sent to colleges directly from the testing service office.
7. Parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aide as soon as possible after January 1 of the senior year. Parents will need a completed 2011 tax return to complete the FAFSA.
8. In May see Mrs. Shirley in the Guidance Office and request your final transcript be sent to the college you will attend in the fall.
9. Contact teachers for letters of recommendations. This should be done at least two weeks prior to the time it is needed.
10. Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if planning to participate in college athletics. Code ACT scores to be sent to the Clearinghouse, 9999.

COUNSELOR

1. Maintain a well stocked collection of college and career materials, including an updated supply of college entrance exam registration forms. Some helpful resources include the following:
   The Petersons Guide to 2 and 4 Year Colleges online at www.petersons.com
   Kansascareerpipeline.org this computer program offers students access to interest and values inventories, college and career searches and scholarships.
   The Occupational Outlook Handbook at www.bls.gov/OCO/
2. Update THE SENIOR NEWS regularly and post all notices of college visits, scholarships and registration information in the senior locker area.
3. Consider the student's goals, talents, interests and college preferences to help compile, with student input, a preliminary list of colleges and career areas which may be a good match.
4. Provide continuing advice to students and parents concerning the college and financial aid application process.
5. Mail transcripts and provide recommendations as requested by the student throughout the school year.
6. Upon student request mail the final NHS transcript following graduation to the college the student plans to attend.

SENIOR YEAR PLANNING CALENDAR

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

____Review your career goals and create a plan to reach them**.**
____Utilize the kansascareerpipeline website for career, college, and scholarship information.
____Narrow your field of school choices to 4 or 5 and request admissions information.
____Register for the appropriate entrance exams, ACT / SAT. Be aware of deadlines.
____Make college visits.
____Download applications from your top schools or apply online.
____Find out which financial aid and scholarship applications your college choices require and when the forms are due.
____Download scholarship applications from your top schools or apply online.
____Create or update your high school resume. A sample is in the back of this booklet.
____Go to www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com to review scholarships available to you.

OCTOBER

____Take or retake the ACT or SAT.
____Read through college websites and catalogues and highlight important information: tests, deadlines and entry requirements.
____Meet with admissions representatives visiting NHS.
____Talk to teachers about writing letters of recommendation.
____Prepare outlines for application essays.
____Visit your top school choices, interview students, faculty and staff.

NOVEMBER

____Attend special programs such as college and career fairs and financial aid nights.
____Prepare your college applications. Check with schools to find out when materials must be submitted or mailed.
____Ask teachers to write recommendations, provide them with an updated high school resume'. Allow them two or three weeks to write the recommendation. Don't wait until the last minute!
____Continue to visit with college representatives at NHS, make campus visits and read THE SENIOR NEWS.

DECEMBER

____Request a PIN for applying for federal aid online for you and your parent by going to www.pin.ed.gov
____Print the FAFSA WORKSHEET available at www.fafsa.ed.gov and begin working on it DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA BEFORE JANUARY 1.

JANUARY

____File financial aid form. The FAFSA available on line at www.fafsa.ed.gov
____Complete any remaining applications KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT.
____Attend the financial aid night at NHS, date to be announced.

FEBRUARY

____Submit your FAFSA if you have not done so.
____Rank your finalized list of schools.

MARCH APRIL AND MAY

____Applications for all local Newton scholarships become available in MARCH. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS APRIL 1.
____If you submitted a FAFSA, you should receive information about how to access your Student Aid Report (SAR) via email within 5-7 days or a paper version within 3-4 weeks.
____Consider all admissions and financial aid packages you receive. Make the final decision and notify all appropriate parties.
_____Finalize housing applications if you plan to reside in campus housing.
_____Request to have your final transcript sent to the school of your choice (Mrs. Shirley).

COLLEGE TESTING CALENDAR

Four year colleges and community colleges will require entering students take an entrance exam. Exam scores are typically used as criteria for admission, for placement in appropriate classes and for scholarship awards. Two testing companies each offer five different dates throughout the year. Students need to have their test scores sent to those schools they are seriously considering. It is advisable to have test scores available when your send your application for admission, but not absolutely necessary. You can send your scores as they become available. However, your admission will not be completed until your scores are on file at the school of your choice.

Registration packets for both the ACT and SAT exams are available in the Guidance Office. Be sure to also pick up a sample test booklet, or students may register online at www.actstudent.org for the ACT or www.collegeboard.com for the SAT. Students must also pay a registration fee directly to the testing company. **NHS does not process exam registrations.**

If you are uncertain as to which exam your prospective schools require, check with the Admissions Office or ask your counselor. Kansas colleges and most colleges in the mid-west prefer the ACT exam, whereas east and west coast schools prefer the SAT.

NHS provides some materials for students to practice for the exam. Computerized practice tests are available online at act.org and Petersons.com These sites may be accessed in the computer lab in room 5-110. Printed materials are also available in the NHS media center and the public library. There are often ACT prep classes offered on Saturdays at Wichita State University for a fee. This information will be posted in the Guidance Office and in the SENIOR NEWS.

The ACT is given at NHS in June only. For other dates, students choose a convenient test site from a listing in the registration bulletin.

ACT TEST DATES

TEST DATE	REGULAR DEADLINE POSTMARK DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION POSTMARK DEADLINE
September 10, 2011	August 12, 2011	August 13-26, 2011
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	Sept. 17-30, 2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5 – 18, 2011
February11, 2012	January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10-23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5– 18, 2012

ACT is offering an optional writing section of the ACT. Check with the schools you are interested in to see if you should take the writing section.

REGISTER ONLINE at www.actstudent.org

SAT DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline
October 1, 2011	September 9, 2011
November 5, 2011	October 7, 2011
December 3, 2011	November 8, 2011
January 28, 2012	December 30, 2011
March 10, 2012	February 10, 2012
May 5, 2012	April 6, 2012
June 2, 2012	May 8, 2012

The SAT has an essay test as part of the test. This will offer a writing sample for colleges. Some schools may want you to take the SAT subject tests in addition to the Reasoning Test. The same dates apply to both with the exception of the March test which is Reasoning Tests only.

Basic SAT Cost $45.00 REGISTER ONLINE www.collegeboard.com

Newton High School Code 172-175

SCHOOL TO WORK

While the majority of NHS graduates elect to pursue additional schooling or training after graduation, we recognize some of our students will enter directly into the workforce. We still encourage these students to take college entrance exams, ACT or SAT during their senior year so if they later decide to attend a college or technical school, they have completed this step.

Students opting to join the workforce directly from high school should begin seeking employment opportunities during the spring of their senior year. The guidance office is available to help students develop resumes', cover letters, and interviewing skills.

Additional resources which may be helpful to aid students in this search include the following:

Local Options

Harvey County Workforce Development can provide information on all area manufactures and career opportunities within them. Contact Tucky Allen at allent@hutchcc.edu or 316-283-7000

McPherson County Industry Directory Your counselor has a recent copy of this directory which provides information about various industries located in McPherson county and their contacts.

Internet Resources

1. **American's Career Info Net** - Career One Stop- www.acinet.org This site provides information, training and job searches in industry arranged by education level in the fastest growing career areas.

2. **The Occupational Outlook Handbook** www.bls.gov/OCO This publication provides information regarding the training and education needed, earnings, expected job prospects, what workers do on the job, and working conditions. In addition, the *Handbook* gives you job search tips, and links to information about the job market in each state.

3. **ONET ONLINE** http:/www.onetcenter.org/ In addition to finding occupations, you can use the tools and technology link to find in demand occupations and learn about related skills important to employers. Also use the skills search to compile a list of your skills to find a matching ONET occupation.

4. **State Government Agencies** Each state has an agency that oversees its employment service and job training programs. In addition to job postings, these agencies are a good starting point to find out more about federal job training programs, unemployment insurance, veteran's programs and other services for which you might qualify. The website for the Kansas agency is www.kansasworks.com/ada/

5. **General Job Banks** - The following websites are general employment banks where you and employers can post your information and make a match.

www.careerbuilder.com	www.bestjobsusa.com	www.careerbuzz.com
www.careershop.com	www.careersite.com	www.flipdog.com
www.monster.com	www.nationjob.com	

6. **Resume's and Cover Letters** You will need to develop a resume. This is a brief summary of your work experience, skill set, and references. Your resume should also include your career goals. With more and more employers moving to online applications, you will want to develop an electronic resume. There are 3 main types of electronic resumes: Microsoft word, ASCII (plain-text) and HTML (webpage). Check the site you are using to see what type is preferred and go from there. Getting your resume online and in front of employers is a must. You may choose to post your resume in a job bank or a job board such as Monster. You will also want to be ready to email it to employers who request it. Create a professional looking / sounding email account, cute or risqué account names may turn employers away. Some web resources for resumes and cover letters are:

www.pongoresume.com jobstar.org/tools/resume/index.php www.rileyguide.com/eresume.html

http://www.eresumes.com

7. **Interviewing Skills** First impressions are lasting, so, be prepared for your big interview! Interviews are not just about you promoting yourself to the employers, but also an opportunity for you to learn more about them. So, do some research and learn about the company so you can ask good questions and give informed responses. Dress appropriately for the interview – know your audience and what is expected, suit or more casual business wear? For tips and advice for the interview process, check out these web resources:

www.job-interview.net http://www.quintcareers.com/intvres.html

http://career-advice.monster.com/interview-tips/home.aspx

MILITARY OPTIONS

A small number of NHS graduates choose to continue their post secondary training through military options. The military provides training in many jobs that are also available in the civilian workforce. Throughout the school year recruiters from the various branches of the armed services visit Newton High School much like our college representatives. Students have the option of meeting with the recruiters if they are interested in the military option. The recruiters are also in attendance at the **College and Career Planning Conference which will be November 9, 2011 at NHS from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.** The following websites will provide interested students with information needed to pursue military service. Doing your research always pays off!

www.military.com/Recruiting/Home

www.todaysmilitary.com/careers

www.myfuture.com

www.asvabprogram.com

AIRFORCE
800 432 USAF
www.usairforce.com/
www.af.mil/careers.asp

ARMY
800 USA ARMY
www.army.mil
www.goarmy.com

COAST GUARD
877 NOW USCG
www.uscg.mil
www.gocoastguard.com

MARINES
800 MARINES
www.marines.com
www.usmc.mil

NAVY
800 USA NAVY
www.navy.mil
www.navyjobs.com

NAVY RESERVE
800 USA USNR
www.navalreserve.com

AIR FORCE RESERVE
800 GO GUARD
www.afreserve.com

AIR NATIONAL GUARD
800 TO GO ANG
www.ang.af.mil

ARMY RESERVE
800 USA ARMY ext 182
www.goarmy.com/reserve/nps

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
800 GO GUARD
www.1800goguard.com

MILITARY ACADEMIES

Military academies are four-year, tuition free institutions designed to prepare and motivate cadets for careers as officers in their respective branches of the U. S. military services. There are a wide range of academic degrees and careers through this military option. Upon graduation from the academy, students become commissioned officers and are required to serve in the armed forces for a specified number of years. Application should be made as soon as possible because admission is highly selective. Students must be nominated by a U.S. congressman and are appointed based upon the strength of their application.

United States Air Force Academy
HQ USAF/RRS
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5025
(719) 472-2510

United States Coast Guard Academy
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06323-4195
(203) 444-8501

United States Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, New Your 11024
1-800-732-6267
(516) 773-5391

United States Naval Academy
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018
1-800-638-9156 (after 5:00 pm)
(410) 267-4361

United States Military Academy
606 Thayer Road
West Point, New York 10993-1797
(914) 938- 4041

Reserve Officers Training Corps

Another way for a college student to become a military officer is through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. ROTC is offered by the Army, Navy, and Air Force, while students taking the Marine Corps option participate in Naval ROTC. A number of colleges host a unit on their campuses. ROTC scholarships provide qualifying students with another means to obtain a college education. Students are commissioned as officers upon graduation. Information is available in the guidance office from your counselor.

The Montgomery GI Bill Program

This is a federally legislated program which entitles enlistees to funding of up to $32,400 for college or vocational schools. See your counselor or military recruiter for more details.

The Army College Fund, The Navy College Fund, and The Marine Corps College Fund

These three programs can be used in addition to the Montgomery GI Bill to provide eligible students with up to $50,000 toward tuition and fees. 100% tuition assistance is available to anyone with the above mentioned benefits. See your counselor or recruiter for more details.

ARMY Recruiting Station (620) 942-1298
1500 E. 11th ST. Suite 41 Hutchinson Mall
Hutchinson, KS 67502

NAVY Recruiting Station (620) 662-7861
1722 North Plum
Hutchinson, KS 67502

AIR FORCE Recruiting Office (316) 942-1298
614 N. West
Wichita, KS 67203

MARINE CORPS Recruiter (316) 682-3173
4100 East Harry,
Wichita KS 67218

KANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (316) 241-2818
607 W. 1st Street
McPherson, KS 67460

CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Choosing a school involves figuring out what you are looking for in a school and also developing a range of schools which are interested in you as a student. The schools you finally apply to will probably be schools which fulfill both criteria. Your counselor can help you sort through factors that will influence your decision. There will probably be several schools that match your needs and abilities. Don't limit yourself to only one. The www.kansascareerpipeline.org and Petersons.com are two excellent college search web sites.

Factors which may influence your choice of school – some things to consider:

1. Type of institution
    a. Public or private
    b. Two-year or four-year
    c. Co-ed or single sex
    d. Religious affiliation

2. Major area of study
    a. Quality of academic program
    b. Availability of desired degree

3. Cost of tuition and fees
    a. Availability of financial aid
    b. Scholarships

4. Location
    a. Size of the community
    b. Distance from home
    c. Urban or rural setting

5. Student Body Composition
    a. Total enrollment (population of school)
    b. Demographic make up (traditional, non traditional students, international base)

6. Extra-curricular Activities
    a. Varsity or Intramural sports
    b. Organizations and clubs
    c. Music, art, and drama opportunities
    d. Campus life opportunities

7. Admissions criteria
    a. Average ACT or SAT scores of incoming freshmen
    b. Competitive or non-competitive

8. Housing Facilities
    a. Residence Halls
    b. Apartments
    c. Meal plans
    d. Roommate selection

9. Special Programs
    a. Study abroad
    b. Work study
    c. Internships
    d. Campus Safety

Types of Schools

Private Schools Most private colleges are small colleges which provide an intimate college atmosphere. Private colleges in Kansas offer a student-teacher ratio of less than 15-1 and no graduate students teach classes. While tuition is usually higher at private colleges, more financial aid is available to maintain affordability. Admission to private colleges is competitive.

Public Colleges and Universities Public colleges and universities are financially supported by state tax dollars. Therefore, tuition levels of the state universities in Kansas are still low compared to the costs of attending private schools or out-of-state institutions. Public universities are usually larger than private colleges. There are more options and choices for majors as state schools have a commitment to a broad constituency.

Specialized Colleges These institutions offer a directed study toward a particular career, such as engineering, art, music or military. They are specialized and put less emphasis on a broad liberal arts education. Students who attend these schools are already committed to specialized careers to which degrees from these schools lead.

Career and Technical Schools Technical or Vocational schools operate from tuition fees and state dollars. They are governed by local boards of directors or as part of another community college or public school. These schools direct their training to job specific careers instead of the liberal arts. The focus is on skills training which prepares students to face the employment challenges today and tomorrow.

Community Colleges There are more than 1200 two-year colleges in the United States, of which 80% or more are public. The benefits of a community college are in its versatility. These schools generally offer three kinds of education. The first leads to a two-year associate degree not transferable to a four-year institution. These specialized degrees are available in many fields. The second type of associate degree equates to freshman-sophomore study at a four-year university. After earning this associates degree, a student can then transfer to a four-year institution and receive a bachelor's degree after two (or three) additional years of study. The third type of program offered by community colleges trains student in a particular career field so they are able to seek immediate employment after graduation. Certificates are awarded in such fields as carpentry, childcare, or welding.

Liberal Arts Colleges The majority of Liberal Arts colleges are private and enroll fewer than 5000 students offering a cultural education through four years of study in the arts, humanities and social science. Students begin to concentrate in their junior year on what they have selected as their major field of study; for example, Literature, Psychology or Political Science.

Universities These private and public institutions are generally large and enrollments of 5,000 or more are not uncommon. A university usually contains a liberal arts college, separate undergraduate programs such as engineering, business or computer science and a variety of graduate programs that grants Master's or Doctorate of Philosophy degrees. Universities usually include graduate professional schools in such fields as law, business and medicine.

After carefully gathering and studying information from a variety of schools, you will have a list of schools which correlate to your likes and academic interests. You then need to make arrangement to visit the campus to determine how well each school suits you. Visiting colleges will give you a better idea about the student body, facilities, faculty, housing options, and general "feel" of the campus. Try to visit on a day when regular classes are in session to get a more realistic impression of the school. You must weigh those factors which are most important to you in as much detail as possible. Really try to find schools which are best suited for you. Do not initially rule out a school because you think it is too expensive. You may qualify for more financial aid at a school with a higher price tag.

It is HIGHLY recommended that parents be involved in your visitation and the entire college search process. However, the choice is ultimately yours. The following pages offer suggestions for successful visits.

MAKING A CAMPUS VISIT

STEPS TO A CAMPUS VISIT Plan ahead. Students can arrange individual campus tours or attend a college sponsored senior day. Either way, the first step is to contact the admissions office at the school you are interested in and reserve a day to visit. Identify for the admissions representative specific programs you are interested in. You may want to sit in on a class, visit with students in your major of interest. Take a list of questions with you and write down your thoughts and feelings after your visit. You have 2 days to use for campus visits. If you don't want to miss class, consider going on a day NHS is not in session for teacher in-service.

1. Make arrangements with the college admissions office. See your counselor for contact information.
2. Get your assignments ahead of time and make—up all tests and homework in advance.
3. Get a college visitation form from Ms. Salas to take with you on your visit.
4. See Mrs. Shirley for a transcript to take along.
5. Have a parent call Ms. Salas to excuse your absence.
6. Have someone from the school sign the absence form, return it to Ms. Salas when you return to school and your parent excuse will change to a school activity.

THINGS TO DO ON YOUR CAMPUS VISIT

1. **Tour the Campus**- Get an overview of the campus and a student's perspective of the school. Tour guides are usually undergraduate students with information you won't find in brochures or websites. Of particular importance may be the library facilities, research labs, sports facilities, performing arts centers, etc.
2. **Attend Classes** The admissions office can provide a list of appropriate classes for you to attend. Let them know what you are considering as a major. Ask to meet with a member of that department. You can get a taste of what the academic atmosphere is like.
3. **Check out the Housing Facilities** Whether you live on-campus of off-campus, you absolutely must see what living arrangements are available. Dorms and dining halls should be at the top of your list of facilities to see. When all other factors are equal, living arrangements may be the critical decisive factor in choosing between similar schools. Dorms can vary tremendously, even on the same campus. Ask about meal plans, what options are there?
4. **CAMPUS LIFE** For insight into campus life, read a campus newspaper and the bulletin boards for announcements of events. Attend a play, ball game, lecture or concert if it is convenient. Take advantage of what's going on while you're there. Keep alert for the mood and cultural mix on campus.
5. **Financial Aid** Visit the financial aid office to explore the available sources of funding from the school. Check into scholarships, work-study, grants, loans or any other forms of financial assistance the school can offer. Get any applications and ask about deadlines.
6. **Be Observant of Safety Issues** For many students, and parents, security and safety are considerations when evaluating a school. Find out how well the campus is patrolled. By law colleges are required to record the number of serious incidences on the campus and make the figures available to the public.
7. **Ask About Student Services** Schools differ greatly in the number of services offered to students. Ask about counseling centers for personal and career issues. Check out the placement offices to see how helpful they are in aiding students in finding jobs upon graduation. What employers come to campus regularly to interview graduates? What assistance is available in getting a summer job, internships or finding part time employment while in school?
8. **Drive Around Town** Each school you visit will be part of a larger community. Evaluate the advantages of the town: consider the size of the community, employment prospects, public transportation, recreational activities, shopping facilities, fast food restaurants, and bookstores.
9. **Synthesize Your Impressions** Take time to carefully evaluate your feelings about the school and write down some immediate thoughts and impressions from your visit.

See Questions For Your Campus Visit in the back of this booklet. Tear it out and take it along.

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES VISIT NHS

Throughout the year, and especially in the Fall, many admissions representatives visit NHS. Who is visiting and when they will be here will be posted in the senior locker area as well as in the SENIOR NEWS and in the announcements. Typically representatives visit during seminar. Use your agenda to sign out to see representatives and then promptly return to class.

On **November 9, 2011,** NHS will host a college and career planning conference from **9am – 11:00am.** This is an excellent opportunity for students to visit with a wide variety of school representative and military recruiters. We encourage any parents who are able to attend to do so.

GETTING ADMITTED

Several admissions options are open to you, depending upon which colleges you choose to submit applications. According to colleges, factors playing an important part in admissions decisions are: ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE in high school, TEST SCORES, HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM (course difficulty) RECOMMENDATIONS, and PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS (special skills, abilities, leadership, service).

Admission Options

Several admissions options are open to you depending upon which colleges you choose to submit applications and your own readiness to apply. It is your responsibility to be aware of deadlines. Dates listed here are approximate.

Regular: Deadlines vary from school to school. Students submit their application by the deadline and are informed of the decision in April.

Rolling: Once the students application file to the school is complete, the school will make a decision. Schools using this method will send out acceptance letters until they have received enough enrollment deposits to fill their class.

Early Decision: Students apply in the fall and usually hear back in December. If a student is accepted, they are officially obligated to enroll at the school next Fall and must not apply to other schools. Consider the negative aspects before choosing the early decision option.

Early Action: Similar to early decision, but the student is not obligated to attend the college and may apply to other schools under regular admissions. Students do not have to respond to the early action offer until the standard reply date of May 1.

Deferred: Students apply under regular admissions, but the students can start the college a year after graduation. Good for students doing a service year.

Wait List: Applicants have not been denied admission, but must wait for an opening.

Mid Year or Summer Entrance: Students may apply for admission during any semester.

Admission Options

At the majority of colleges, qualified applicants are admitted on a first come, first served basis until enough applications have been selected to fill a class. Most colleges fall into one of these categories:

Open: Virtually all interested students who have high school diplomas or the equivalent are admitted.

Selective: Admission is granted to all or most all students who meet their explicit requirements. Requirements may vary widely from school to school.

Competitive: These schools have explicit requirements, and have more applicants than they can accommodate. Therefore admission is not guaranteed even though you satisfy the entrance requirements.

Entrance Difficulty Levels

Noncompetitive: Virtually all applicants are accepted.

Minimally Difficult: Acceptance rate about 95**%**Most students are not from the top 50% of their high school class and scored below 19 on the ACT or below 1010 on the SAT.

Moderately Difficult: Acceptance rate about 85%. Of those accepted, about 75% from the to 10% of their high school class and scored 18+ or higher on the ACT or above 1010 on the SAT.

Very Difficult: Acceptance rate about 60%. Of those accepted, 50% are from the top 10% of their high school class and scored 26 or higher on the ACT or above 1230 on the SAT.

Most Difficult: Acceptance rate about 30%. Of those admitted, 75% are from the top 10% of their high school class and scored 29 or higher on the ACT or above 1310 on the SAT.

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Students need to begin the formal application process during the fall of the senior year. When preparing your application, keep in mind it is your opportunity to present yourself. Don't underestimate the importance of neatness, correct spelling, proper grammar, and attention to details. It is a reflection of who you are and what you have accomplished. Prepare a college folder for each school and keep a record of anything regarding admissions, financial aid or other pertinent information. Keep copies of everything you submit.

You will need to submit biographical information with your application. It is important to be honest and accurate. Applications will ask for information which will include some or all of the following:

1. Academic record (GPA, Class Rank, Semester Completed)
2. Transcript
3. Standardized test scores (ACT or SAT)
4. Essay
5. Letters of Recommendation
6. Interview
7. Portfolio or audition
8. High school resume

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

_____Apply only to those schools you are actually considering attending. Application fees can range from $5 to well over $50.
_____Download or make a copy of the application to use as a worksheet, then do the original.
_____Prepare a separate folder for each school with key dates and information noted on the outside. Make sure you have all the forms required. Keep a copy of everything you send to each school.
_____Neatness is important, watch for spelling and grammar errors. Avoid handwritten applications except when asked for.
_____Do follow the rules, read the application directions completely before beginning and follow them exactly.
_____Pay attention to deadlines!!
_____Ask for recommendations far in advance (at least 2 weeks) to give the writers plenty of time to prepare. Offer them a copy of your high school resume. Provide an addressed, stamped envelope if necessary. Send a THANK YOU!
_____Arrange for your transcript and test scores to be sent to each college by Mrs. Shirley.
_____Submit supplementary materials if required such as writing samples, or art work.
_____Document any special circumstances such as learning disability, special talent, illness or unique family situation.
_____Ask your counselor for help if as needed.
_____Make copies of all submitted forms.
_____Verify all forms have been signed. Double check that you have not left out anything.

ESSAYS

Essays include such topics as personal experience, reaction to a book, work of art or historical figure, interest in a particular field of study or your insights into a specific issue or event. Whatever the topic, strive to project your "voice" through your writing. An essay is your paper interview, write, and rewrite until the essay truly reflects you and what sets you apart from other applicants.

Do not repeat information presented in other parts of the application
Use specific examples from you own experience, avoid generalizations. Depth not breadth.
Be honest and be yourself.
Write a draft and put it aside for at leas a day, read it again and see if it represents the desired image.
Have someone you respect read it and comment honestly on it.
Proofread it checking grammar and spelling. Have someone else proof it also.

QUALIFIED ADMISSIONS
AND
NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

Qualified Admissions and Scholarship Curriculum

Kansas Board of Regents institutions include:

Emporia State University
Fort Hays Stat University
Kansas State University
Pittsburg State University
University of Kansas
Wichita State University

The Board of Regents has established the following criteria to qualify for admission into one of these schools:

Graduate from an accredited Kansas high school
AND meet one of the following:
Achieve an ACT composite score of 21 or higher or
Rank in the top 1/3 of your graduating class or
Complete the Qualified Admissions curriculum with at least a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

As a Kansas high school graduate, you may be eligible to be considered for one of three state sponsored scholarship programs: State Scholarship Program, Minority Scholarship Program and Kansas Teachers Scholarship. To be considered for one of these scholarships you must complete the Board of Regents Scholarship Curriculum.

The Board of Regents Recommended Curriculum and Scholarship Curriculum are found on the next page in this document.

THE NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

In order to be eligible for practice, participation in intercollegiate competition, and institutionally awarded financial aid during the first academic year in residence, as student athlete must satisfy the requirements of the NCAA. A central clearinghouse must certify an athlete's eligibility for Division I and II. If you intend to participate in Division I or II athletics as a college freshman, you must register and be certified as eligible the NCAA Clearinghouse. This pertains only to meeting the NCAA requirements for participation and has no bearing on your admission to any college.

The booklet "Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete" is the best resource and can be obtained online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. This booklet contains valuable information pertaining to curriculum requirements and recruiting restrictions. Registration with the clearinghouse should be done during your junior year or the beginning of your senior year. The cost to register is about $50.

To be certified as eligible, you must submit your high school transcript and your ACT or SAT scores directly to the Clearinghouse. To send your scores code in 9999 on your ACT or SAT registration form as one of the institutions to receive your scores.

See the quick reference sheet for NCAA – Freshman eligibility standards on the following pages.

Please register with the Clearinghouse if you plan on participating in college athletics as soon as possible if you have not already registered. If you register late, you may face delays preventing you from practicing and competing!

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial aid is a plan to help you delay and absorb college expenses which exceed your immediate ability to pay and many times includes both gift monies, such as grants and scholarships and self help monies such as loans and work. Most colleges will require you to fill out the Free Application for Federal Students Aid, the FAFSA. DO NOT PAY anyone to help you complete this form.

An important thing to know about financial aid is the guidelines change nearly every year. Your school counselor, college admissions representative, or college financial aid officer should be able to explain new policies and procedures to you and your parents. BE sure to get updated information. Newton High School will provide an opportunity for parents and students to visit with a college financial aid officer. A **Financial Aid night will be held in January at Newton High School, date and time to be determined.**

All financial aid begins with the FAFSA application. Before the FAFSA can be completed, parents and students must complete their 2011 income tax as these figures are required on the form. The FAFSA form becomes available for completion beginning January 1 online at www.fafsa.ed.gov A limited number of paper copies may be obtained through the NHS guidance office. It is recommended students and parents request a pin number in November at www.pin.ed.gov and download the FAFSA worksheet prior to working on the final document.

Financial aid notification is usually made in the spring. You will be offered aid only from colleges from which you have been granted admission. A final college decision can be delayed until you have received all financial aid offers or until May 1. At that time you should accept the aid package from the college of your choice and decline the other you will not be accepting.

THE NEED ANALYISIS PROCESS

Parents and students will be asked to provide personal financial information to obtain financial aid. Understand most or all of the data is sought from you to meet the requirements of the federal government and to insure the financial aid programs are administered fairly for all students. Determining who will receive aid is not simple. Family income alone will not predict your eligibility. A number of other factors are considered such as family size, indebtedness, or educational expenses for other family members. The information you submit is carefully analyzed and an estimate is made of the amount you and your family are expected to contribute (EFC = expected family contribution). At your request, this information can be released to colleges you choose. The financial aid officer will review the form and may request additional information. Financial aid can them be packaged to make up the difference between the actual cost of your education and what you should pay. Ask about specific deadlines at your school.

1. Apply for a pin number, student and parent, at www.pin.ed.gov
2. Complete 2011 tax returns.
3. File the financial aid application (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov you may wish to download the FAFSA worksheet to make sure you have the correct information. If you have questions about completing the application call the FEDERAL STUDENT AID INFORMATION CENTER 800-433-3243
4. Within 3 – 6 weeks the Department of Education will send you a Student Aid Report (SAR), which includes your EFC, expected family contribution. Sign and submit the SAR to your college(s).
5. The financial aide office will use your SAR to construct your financial aid package and you will receive an award letter. The award letter indicates: total cost of attendance, type and amount of financial aid (grants, scholarships, loans, work study) and your family contribution.
6. You must respond to the award letter to notify your college that you accept all, part, or none of the financial aide package.

A few points to remember:

- **Pay close attention to deadline dates for aid applications.**
- **Apply for aid even if you are not sure you qualify.**
- **Reapply for aid each year you are in college.**
- **You must apply for admission to schools before financial aid can be determined, since application deadlines vary, you may want to develop a calendar of important dates.**
- **Apply for scholarships and grants, besides aid offered directly by a college and the FAFSA results, inquire about state scholarship, grant and loan programs. Ask about institutional, community, foundation and corporation programs as well.**
- **Keep track of progress. Monitor all the information you receive regarding fees, payment schedules etc. Include this information in your college planning.**

LOANS

A low interest loan is a way of assuming financial responsibility for your own education. Such loans allow you to pay for college later. The college financial aid officer can advise you on sources of loans. The U.S. Department of Education has implemented a direct student loan program at some colleges. It also offers a national service for loan repayment for some students. Details about direct student loans, including terms and fees are available form your college financial aid officer. Other possible loan sources are:

Perkins Loans: This is a low-interest (5%) loan available from your college. The amount of Perkins money you can borrow depends on : need, availability of Perkins funds at your college, and the amount of other aid you receive. You begin repayment nine months after you graduate, leave school or drop to half-time status.

Stafford Student Loans: This is a low interest loan made to the student by an approved lender to help you pay for your education after high school. The interest rate is variable but has a ceiling set by the government. If your college's financial aid office indicates a Stafford Loan may fill your remaining financial need, then you may apply for one of these loans. Be aware that you will have to repay the loan amount when you finish your educational program or when you cease to be a student in good standing or attending school at least half-time. You will also have to pay:

Interest on the unpaid principal balance of the loan
A guarantee or insurance fee
An origination fee

There are now two types of Stafford Loans, subsidized and unsubsidized. The subsidized is based on need and the government pays the interest while you are in school. The unsubsidized is not need-based, so it is available to students regardless of financial need. Students must pay the interest while they are in school.

Federal Parent Loan for Students (PLUS): Parents of dependent undergraduates with a good credit history may receive PLUS loans. PLUS loan eligibility is not based on financial need. These loans are made regardless of income level and are offered by banks, savings & loans, credit unions, etc. The interest rate is variable but has a cap set by the government. PLUS repayment starts 30-60 days after disbursement. Parents may use a PLUS loan to borrow the entire cost of attendance minus any other financial aid.

GRANTS

You may be entitled to institutional, state or federal funds based on your economic status. Grants, unlike loans DO NOT have to be repaid. Grants go directly to the college and reduce the amount of self-help necessary. Initiate the application process by filing the FAFSA after January 1 of your senior year.

Federal Pell Grants: A Pell Grant is an award to help undergraduates pay for their education after high school. A Pell Grant usually provides a foundation of financial aid to which aid from other federal and non-federal sources may be added. To determine eligibility, a standard formula is applied using the information you supply on the FAFSA.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants: The FSEOG is for undergraduates with exceptional financial need. These students usually receive Pell Grants because of extreme financial need. Depending on certain restrictions, a student can get up to $4,000 annually.

Kansas Tuition Grant: This is a need-based grant available to students who choose Kansas independent or "private" institutions. It ranges from $400 - $2500 per academic year. Students may apply by completing and submitting the FAFSA. The school will notify the student of eligibility and the award will be listed on the financial aid ward letter sent from the school to the student.

Kansas Supplemental Grant: This need-based grant is designed to assist students who attend Kansas Regents "public" institutions. Students apply by filing the FAFSA form. The school will notify the student of eligibility.

WORK STUDY

Your earnings may be used to defray college costs. Many full-time students find that a part time work load does not interfere with their studies. However, the decision to work and the number of hours spent on the job should be discussed thoroughly with your parents and college advisor.

Federal Work Study Program: This program provides jobs for undergraduate and graduate student who need financial aid. FWS gives students a chance to earn money to help pay your educational expenses. The program encourages community service work. Your pay will be at least the current minimum wage, but may be higher, depending upon the type of work and skills required.

Campus Work Study Programs: These programs are similar to the federal program, but are subsidized by the college or university.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are cash awards which do not have to be repaid. They differ from grants because they may be earned on the basis of academic achievement, talent or merit. Scholarships are available to students with a special talent or skill. Most schools offer scholarships for athletics, art, drama, music, drill team, etc. This may be in addition to academic scholarship money. Some schools will allow you to accumulate several different scholarships and "stack" awards. Other schools will ask you to choose only one award.

There may be stipulations which must be met each year to retain the scholarship. The dollar amount is sometimes dependent on financial need, but not necessarily so. Scholarship competitions are sponsored by colleges, churches, clubs, business and high schools. Talk to your counselor about local community scholarships. Ask your parents about scholarships offered through their place of employment or organizations to which they belong. Communicate with the college you will attend to find out about departmental scholarships and university-wide scholarship possibilities.

Your ACT scores, your GPA and difficulty rating of your high school classes, combined with your participation in school and community activities are important criteria used by scholarship committees to determine which students will receive awards. It is important students take the ACT or SAT in the Fall of their senior year (preferably before) in order to have scores available for scholarship applications. The biggest source of scholarship money will be from the college you plan to attend. Apply for admission early to be eligible for scholarship consideration as soon as possible.

If you wish to obtain college financial assistance, it is essential you begin to research your possibilities early. Scholarships are NOT normally handed out without your effort. The counselor's responsibility will be to inform you of the opportunities, procedures and deadlines on all scholarships that come to their attention. You will be notified through the SENIOR NEWS or special announcements. Your responsibility will be to read the SENIOR NEWS, keep yourself informed and meet the necessary requirements and deadlines. **Counselors do not have scholarships to award; they can only provide you with the pertinent information and procedures to obtain them for yourself.** If you are seriously interested in obtaining financial aid, you will need to spend some time and effort in learning of as many opportunities as possible. **DO NOT PAY FOR SCHOLARHIP SEARCHES!!!** Help yourself stay organized by using the scholarship checklist located on the following page.

Books listing many state and national scholarships are available in the NHS Media Center, Guidance office, bookstores and public library. Check out these sources for additional financial aid opportunities. There are also various websites listing scholarship information listed below.

Programs of Special Educational Benefits are available for eligible students. These include GI Bill, VA Assistance, Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Security etc. Contact the appropriate office for further information.

The most important source of financial aid is the college you plan to attend. The financial aid officer can tell you about student aid available from the federal government, your state government and the school itself. Simply contact the director of financial Aid at the college. There is a sample letter provided in the back of this booklet.

WEB RESOURCES

This list is by no means complete you can do additional searches but never pay for someone to search for you.

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.nasfaa.org
www.salliemae.com
www.finaid.org
www.fastweb.com
www.collegeboard.org/funfinder/html/ssrchtop.html
www.scholarships.com

SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

General Information:

Name of scholarship or award _____

Potential dollar contribution _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____Contact person(s) _____

Deadline date _____

Special Requirements:

_____ Interview _____ Essay(s)

_____ SAT Score _____ ACT Score

_____GPA

Other Requirements: _____

_____

General Information:

Name of scholarship or award _____

Potential dollar contribution _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____Contact person(s) _____

Deadline date _____

Special Requirements:

_____ Interview _____ Essay(s)

_____ SAT Score _____ ACT Score

_____GPA

Other Requirements: _____

_____

THE STATE OF KANSAS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This program provides a number of scholarship opportunities for Kansas residents. Information and in some cases, applications for the following Kansas Scholarships are available from your counselor or online at www.kansasregents.org/financial_aid/awards.html

Kansas State Scholarship: This is a need-based award designed to assist students designated during their high school senior year as State Scholars. Designation is based on ACT scores, completion of the Regents Recommended Curriculum and GPA. Students must submit the FAFSA and the state application. The award may range from $50 - $1000.

Kansas Minority Scholarship: This is a need-based award to assist ethnic minority students attending Kansas two or four year institutions. Selection is based on academic performance, ethnic category and financial need. Students must submit the FAFSA and state financial aid applications. Students may receive up to $1500 annually. Priority is to first year students.

Vocational Education Scholarship: This is a merit-only award to assist students enrolling in approved vocational programs at community or technical colleges. Applicants must take the vocational exam which is offered at various sites through out the state on the first Saturday in November and March. Approximately 250 scholarships of $500 are awarded to the highest eligible scorers.

Kansas Teacher Scholarship: This is a service-based award to encourage high academic achievers to enter teaching, teach in Kansas, and teach in "hard-to-fill" disciplines. Recipients must teach in Kansas one year for each year of funding or repay the funds at 15% interest. Students with a high academic profile who plan to attend a Kansas college and teach in Kansas should apply. The annual scholarship award is $5,000.

Paul T. Douglas Teacher Scholarship: This is also a service-based award designed to attract high academic achievers to the teaching profession. The recipient must agree to teach two years for each year of funding or repay the funds at the federally established rate. This is a federal program and does not require attendance at a Kansas college or teaching in Kansas. Students must be in the top 10% of their graduating class. The award is $5,000 per academic year.

Kansas Nursing Scholarship: This service-based award is designed to encourage students to enroll in nursing curriculums and then practice nursing in Kansas. Applicants must submit four documents. This program is jointly sponsored with health care agencies. Applicants must secure sponsorships. After passing the licensing exam, the student must be employed by the sponsor for one year for each year of funding or repay the funds at 15% interest.

Midwest Student Exchange Program: This is an interstate initiative designed to increase educational opportunities among member states. The Midwestern Higher Education commission includes the following states: Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska. Residents of these states may enroll at designated institutions at reduced tuition rates. Criteria for selection is determined by each institution. Actual savings vary from institution to institution.

STATE FUNDED, CAMPUS ADMINISTERED UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Kansas Reserve Officer Training Corps: This program provides for annual tuition waiver for eligible full-time students at Regents' institutions not to exceed eight semesters. Applications are available from ROTC administrators at the school the student plans to attend.

Kansas Career Work Study: This program was created to provide work opportunities through part-time jobs closely related to a student's career aspirations. Funding is provided to Regents' institutions and Washburn University. The awards, ranging from $700 - $2,500 may be based on need. Applications are available in the financial aid office of participating institutions**.**

Youth Education Services: This program was created to provide part-time work opportunities for full-time students at Regents' institutions who want to assist "at-risk" children in specific Kansas school districts. These awards, approximately $1,000, are provided to students to serve as classroom assistants, tutors, or mentors for disadvantaged children. Visit the financial aid office for more information.

NEWTON AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

Each spring applications will become available for a number of local scholarships sponsored by area organizations and trusts. Most applications require transcripts, recommendations, and in some cases an interview. Soon after the application deadline, April 1, a committee of organization members or faculty and administration meet to review the applications and award the scholarships.

Facilitated by U.S.D. 373:

ALMA AND LEONARD NELSON SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for graduating seniors who will study music or nursing.

TERESA BLATCHLEY CONKEY SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for graduating young women who plan to study education, or library science.

NYGAARD FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for a graduating senior who plans to attend a college or in Kansas and plans to major in education or a health related career

CLARK AND BETTY WHITING SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for a graduating student with financial need.

FINE ARTS BOOSTER CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for students who have been active in high school fine art, demonstrate financial need and plan to major in a fine art.

FRANK AND BETTY TORLINE SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for any graduating senior.

FRANCO SJOGREN SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for any graduating senior planning to attend Kansas State University.

CURTIS FISCHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for a graduating senior who has participated for at least two years on a varsity sports team.

REGINA STARR ESAU SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for a student who will be pursuing a degree at a Kansas school in elementary education or related field and has a 3.0 GPA or higher.

PIZZA HUT SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for any graduating senior in a vocational class.

CLAUDE AND IDA RHOADES SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for students who will be studying construction science or architecture or engineering.

VIRGINA COLEMAN MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Designated for students who will be studying music.

Local scholarships --continued

This list may vary from year to year. The exact listing will be available at a later date, usually in the spring of the senior year.

Facilitated by individuals or organizations:

KATHERINE HANNA MEMORIAL TRUST
Designated for any graduating senior demonstrating financial need.

BRAIN ARELLANO SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for any graduating senior from Newton High School who has a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and participated in a varsity sport for at least 2 years.

TIM SOTH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for a graduating senior who has participated in Fine Arts or Journalism and plans to attend a two or four year post secondary school.

ETHAN LICHTI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for any graduating senior from Newton High School.

NEWTON BABE RUTH BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for a senior who has participated in Babe Ruth baseball program for at least 3 years.

NEWTON NEA SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for any graduating senior whose parent is a member of the Newton NEA.

NEWTON CHAPTER OF P.E.O. SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for a graduating senior woman with a GPA of at least 3.00 and who has participated in school and community activities.

WHITEWING SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for a Newton minority student who will be a full-time student in a post-secondary institution.

NEWTON TREBLE CLEF SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for graduating seniors planning to study music.

SHELTER INSURANCE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for a graduating senior who will be a full-time student in a post-secondary school.

NEWTON ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP
Designated for a graduating senior who has demonstrated service and character while in high school.

JASON HIGH SCHOLARSHIP
Designed for graduating seniors who have completed the Newton Leadership Program.

ERICKA STUCKY SCHOLARSHIP
Designed for graduating seniors who are planning to study fine arts.

BONNIE SELANDERS SCHOLARSHIP
Designed for the graduating senior pursing post secondary training in humanities, language or English.

COMPUTER RESOURCES AND SITES

ACT and SAT

www.act.org
www.actstudent.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.number2.com/ this is a free test prep site for ACT and SAT
www.kaplan.com/ test prep

Choosing a School:

www.gocollege.com/
www.petersons.com/
www.kaplan.com/
www.collegenet.com
www.kansascareerpipeline.org Students will need a access code from their counselor.
www.anycollege.com

Interest Inventories and Career Research:

www.kansascareerpipeline.org Students will need a access code from their counselor.
www.nycareerzone.org/
www.bls.gov/OCO
http://www.onetcenter.org/

Financial Aid and Scholarship Searches

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.kaplan.com/
www.finaid.org
www.salliemae.com
www.fastweb.com
www.scholarships.com
https://studentaid2.ed.gov/getmoney/pay_for_college/cost_35.html for money saving tips

This list is by no means complete and addresses and sites are changing daily. However, we have found these sites to be stable and reputable. You can do an online search independently. If you find a good site, please share it with your counselor and we will add it to the list.

SAMPLE LETTERS

You will need to make contact with schools of interest to you in order to gather information, the most efficient way is via email. It is beneficial to have an email account for colleges only, and remember, keep your email address professional sounding.

The following paragraphs are examples you may wish to use for inquiries regarding information requests, campus visits and financial aid.

Mr. OR Ms._____ (you will often find the name and email of the admissions person on the website)

I am a student at Newton High School and will graduate in May 2012. I plan to enroll in the Fall / Spring term of 201_.

(A) I am interested in visiting your campus, taking a tour and meeting with an admissions Counselor. I am considering _____ as my major. I would also like to meet with someone from this department if possible. Can you also arrange a visit with a representative from the financial aid office? The following dates and times are convenient for me to visit are:(List two or three options). Please advise me of which date is best for my visit.

(B) My parents and I would like to investigate college costs and possible sources of financial aid. Please send us information about costs, how and when to apply for financial aid and the necessary forms.

THANK YOU!

Name (first and last)