

High School Counseling Newsletter

Grades 10-12

December 2015



Developmental Research School
at the University of Florida

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"Where in the world is Mrs. Larimer?"



Happy Holidays

SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!



How to Pay for College

Dollars for Scholars Financial Aid Night was November 16th. In case you missed it, here are the highlights and resources!

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
 - **What?** The FAFSA is the application for federal student aid including grants and loans. The FAFSA is FREE!
 - **When?**
 - The 2015-2016 application is currently open and available for students who plan to attend college in Summer 2016.
 - The 2016-2017 application will open on January 1, 2016. This application is for students who will be entering college Fall 2016.
 - **Tip!**- Complete the 15-16 FAFSA to get a head start on the 16-17 FAFSA. Most of your information will roll over so the application is easier to complete.
 - **Who?** – All seniors are encouraged to apply; Parents will need to assist with the income tax information
 - Money is disbursed on a first come first serve basis so apply EARLY!
 - For videos and brochures, visit
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/resources#videos-and-images>

- **Florida Financial Aid (including Bright Futures)**
 - **What?** Florida's application for state funded student aid including grants and scholarships (Bright Futures).
 - **When?** Application opens up December 1st. Deadline to apply is August 31, 2016.
 - **Who?** ALL seniors are encouraged to apply no matter what your plans are after graduation.
 - Classroom Guidance Lesson in February will include opportunity for seniors to apply in class.
 - To learn about the available grants and scholarships, visit
<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/home/uamain.htm>
 - **Bright Futures Scholarship Handbooks**
<http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/bfmain.htm>
 - **TIP!** You have until graduation to meet Bright Futures requirements! Check your status at
https://www.floridashines.org/CCRE/hs_accessbf.jsp

- **Scholarships**

- **What?** Scholarships are free money! You do not need to pay back scholarships you win.
 - There are many opportunities to apply for private scholarships.
 - There is no limit to how much scholarship money you can receive.
 - Scholarships can be **need based** (need through family income) or **merit based** (academic success).
- **Who?** Most scholarships are for seniors and college students, but there are many available to all different grade levels. High school students are encouraged to start looking and applying as early as 9th grade.
- **Where?** Create profiles on the following websites and let the scholarships come to you!
Fastweb: www.fastweb.com
Cappex: <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships/>
MeritAid: www.meritaid.com
Student Scholarships: www.studentscholarships.org
Scholarship News: www.free-4u.com
College Board: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
Scholarships.com: www.scholarships.com
School Soup: www.schoolsoup.com
- **TIP!** – Start a scholarship file and save scholarships that you may qualify for even if it's for senior year. That way when you become a senior, you have a list of scholarships to apply for and you already know what you need!

Academic Resources

First Quarter Report Cards were sent home November 10th. This is a great opportunity to review your child's progress towards semester grades.

- **What grades count?** – Semester grades are the grades that count towards GPA and college transcripts.
 - Semester grades = 40% Quarter 1 grades + 40% Quarter 2 grades + 20% semester exams
- **Quick Tip:** Sign up on Skyward to receive weekly email updates of your child's grades. Make checking Skyward grades a weekly habit with your student. If you don't have Skyward access, check with Ms. Flinchum in Attendance at extension 234.
- **Help Sessions:** Check teacher help sessions and encourage your child to attend weekly help sessions for courses that need extra support and attention. Students can get extra instruction or just a place to get homework done. The master help session calendar for grades 10-12 is posted on the school counseling website.

College Planning

Plan out your year with college application timelines!

- <http://www.actstudent.org/college/checklist/>
- <https://www.petersons.com/college-search/planning-list-students-parents.aspx>

College Application Labs are every Monday and Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 in the library. Come get help completing applications and reviewing your essays.

PSAT scores should be back in December. Classroom lessons will be planned for grades 10 and 11 to distribute score reports and to review next steps.

SAT & ACT dates are available in the school planners, online, and in I-106.

- **The SAT is changing March 2016-** For more details on the Redesigned SAT, visit testinginformation.pkyonge.ufl.edu
- **TIP!** Register early so you don't forget. If you have free/reduced lunch, you are eligible for a fee waiver.
- **Upcoming SAT Dates & Deadlines**

○ January 23 rd (current/old SAT)	Deadline December 28
○ March 5 th (new SAT)	Deadline February 5
○ May 7 th (new SAT)	Deadline April 8
○ June 4 th (new SAT)	Deadline May 5
- **Upcoming ACT Dates & Deadlines**

○ February 6 th	Deadline January 8
○ April 9 th	Deadline March 4
○ June 11 th	Deadline May 6

Upcoming Student Opportunities


Girls State Program: Girls State Applications are available for junior girls. The representative selected for this program will learn about the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being an American citizen. Students interested in government or politics are encouraged to apply. The program will be held June 30th through July 8th in Tallahassee. Applications are available in I-106 (Attendance) and are **due January 5th** to Ms. Larimer.

UF Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership and Sustainability Summer Program: The UF Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership & Sustainability summer program gives college bound high school students the opportunity to live, work, eat, and play on the campus of the University of Florida for four weeks each summer while learning about entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship, being inspired to solve social problems, and practicing sustainability. We empower students to become leaders and changemakers. For more information and to apply, visit <http://ufyoungentrepreneurs.org/>

Duke University Summer Program: Get ahead this summer and earn college credit with academically-motivated students from around the world in **Duke University's Summer College for High School Students**. If you are a current 10th or 11th grade student, you are eligible to apply as early as December 1, 2015. This 4-week credit-bearing program offered by Duke University attracts students who represent the next generation of leaders from around the world. For more information please contact **summercollege@duke.edu** or email Dr. Nicki Charles at **nicki.charles@duke.edu**.

Staying Informed

When you know more, you do more! Here are some ways to stay informed about school related information and opportunities:

- Make sure your email address is up to date in Skyward so you receive updates via Skyward Message Center.
- Visit the **P.K. website** regularly for school-wide announcements and daily announcements (on the left column you'll see Daily Announcements)
www.pkyonge.ufl.edu
- Add the **School Counseling Events Calendar** to your Google Calendar so you'll never miss an event!
 - www.counselingevents.pkyonge.ufl.edu → Click the bottom right link that says  It will link you to your Google calendar and will ask if you want to add the Counseling Events calendar. Select "add".
- Check the **High School Counseling homepage** regularly for announcements and scholarship opportunities.
- Follow our Twitter account **@KeepCalmPKY**

Where in the world is Mrs. Larimer?

Here are some highlights from the past month:

- **College Tour to UCF and USF**- We had a great first college tour. In the works is a March to College Tour including north and south Florida schools!
- **College Application Week**- included onsite admissions from Bethune-Cookman University, visits from Santa Fe College, and onsite application labs in the library
- **11th grade Quarter 2 Check In** – students learned how to calculate their GPA, types of GPAs, and how to register for the SAT/ACT
- **Dollars for Scholars Financial Aid Night**- Presentation from Pete Hernandez from Florida's Office of Financial Aid and Rose Christy from Santa Fe College.
- **College Application Labs**- Every Monday and Wednesday in the library from 3:15 to 4:15.
- **Needs Assessments**- We are collecting data to determine the needs of our students as we plan our program for next year. Anonymous surveys were given to students during their social studies courses.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your child's life. I appreciate my job every day. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding your child's educational or personal well-being at school.

Don't forget to stay informed by using the resources available at the P.K. Yonge website:
www.pkyonge.ufl.edu

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