# Mary D. Bradford High School Guidance Newsletter

**Special Edition for Seniors Going to College** 



# September/October/November

# Calendar of Events for Seniors



Now is the time to turn in college applications

Step 1 Decide where to apply

Step 2 Apply on-line or by paper by Nov. 1

Step 3 Start search for scholarships
Step 4 Decide where to attend by spring

FIRST DECISION is where to apply, then APPLY. AFTER you have been accepted at several colleges weigh all the factors – financial, location, major, etc then decide where you will attend.



Many seniors believe that the first step to planning for college is to search for scholarships. ~~Wrong!~~FIRST you need to be admitted to a college! Many scholarships ask for the names of colleges where you have been accepted....so the first step is to get those applications in to the colleges!

- Seniors can access scholarship information on-line at http://bradford.kusd.edu – (Scholarships – Available Scholarships). The individual scholarship will be activated as the year progresses and information is received.
- Check with your chosen college
- Check place of employment, newspaper
- fastweb.com
- uwhelp.Wisconsin.edu

# Senior Recognition Night

Students can be recognized for their awards/accomplishments in this ceremony. Listen to the announcements for details starting early spring.



On October 15<sup>th</sup>, during your lunch hour, Mrs. Mars will be available to discuss tips to help you be a competitive scholarship candidate and show you the latest resources available when searching for scholarships. Sign up in room 218 by October 12.

#### Planning list for college

It's already here...now is the season to take care of college applications. This can be a very stressful time for seniors, but you don't have to do EVERYTHING at once. I encourage you to use the checklist below to help keep you organized:

 Take or retake the ACT test (actstudent.org; code:501-005) or SAT (collegeboard.com) if scores were low.
 Complete resume or list of activities Asked teachers for recommendations Determine which colleges to apply to based on needs such as interest, distance apply a cost at
 distance, sports, cost etc RE- check college requirements: Classes/GPA/ACT/rank/ letters of recommendation. How do you measure up? Are letters of
recommendation needed or required? Rank/697
 Completed application Give completed applications to my counselor
 Begin search for scholarships Attend scholarship/financial aid meeting in December
 Fill out FAFSA form starting Jan 1 (fafsa.ed.gov)  DECIDE on which college to attend.
 Proide on willon college to attend.

### ~~College Application Process~~

High School ACT CODE: 501-005

**APPLICATIONS** may be completed on-line or students may submit the traditional paper copies. Admission counselors would prefer on-line applications.

#### If applying by paper:

Student completes the application and submits the following to their counselor:

- ✓ The completed application
- ✓ A check or money order made payable to the college of which they are applying
- ✓ And a Transcript Request Form (Available in counselors office and Life and Learning Office)

#### If applying On-Line:

Student completes the application on-line and submits the following to their counselor:

- ✓ Counselor's Form (print off at end on-line application)
- ✓ A check or money order IF you didn't pay on-line
- ✓ A transcript request form.
- apply.wisconsin.edu (4yr Wis public)
- www.witechcolleges.org (2yr –Wis public)
- collegeboard.com (Wisconsin private)
- For out of state schools visit WISCareers or search school name on-line

Additional information that MAY be submitted as well:

- → RECOMMENDATIONS (sometimes required otherwise submit when rank and/or ACT score is lower than typical college admission)
- → A PERSONAL STATEMENT/ESSAY

#### **Common Questions:**

When will the application go out? It takes reasonably TWO WEEKS. Knowing this, plan accordingly.

#### How do I request a transcript for scholarships?

Fill out the transcript request form; forms are available in my office or on Bradford website- link to Counseling-Fastfinds. Turn it into room 151 and write "pick up" on the form. List number of copies you would like.

I turned in my application/transcript request form to my counselor, but I received a letter from the college stating that they still need my transcripts/ACT scores. Colleges receive thousands of applications. They may not process incoming mail for a minimum of two to three weeks. Also, if you apply on-line, many campuses instantly send out a verification letter and indicate what they have not yet received. Give it time. If it's been over 6 weeks call the admission office.



Don't know how you are going to pay for college? What is the FAFSA? Don't know where to start? We have information for you----

Bradford High School Counseling Website
This website has information on colleges/
career searching, upcoming events and
much more!

Log on to:

http://bradford.kusd.edu - and link to Counseling icon

<u>Financial Aid Meeting</u> – In December at Bradford. Listen to announcements. Can't apply for FAFSA until Jan 1.

www.collegegoalsunday.org (free program to help fill out FAFSA)

## .....And Finally

Counselors are eager to assist you in this process. Make an appointment today. Mrs. Mars is in room 218 or can be reached at <a href="mars@kusd.edu">mars@kusd.edu</a> and/or sign up on the appointment sheet located outside her door

# Did you know?.....

- College Admissions Are
   Tentative. Students are
   expected to maintain the
   academic record that was
   submitted at the time of
   admission. Do not alter your
   senior schedule without
   checking with your chosen
   college.
- Fee waivers for the ACT and COLLEGE ADMISSION are often available for student with financial needs or if you visit the campus –let me know when applying
- "MORE IS BETTER" according to UW-Admission Counselors. There is a difference between admission and survival within the program