



## Fountain Hills High School

## COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER Winter 2017

The Fountain Hills High School Counseling Department will strive to implement the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) National Model. We focus on the 3 domains: Academic, Career, and Social/Emotional Development.

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The counseling department will strive to keep you posted on pertinent information for you and your students throughout the school year. In this newsletter, we will provide info to all but will mark if it pertains to one grade level. We will also group areas of information:

- Testing
- College Information
- Upcoming Events/Lessons

Grade 9-12: We tested almost 200 students for the PSAT on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. You will be notified when the results arrive in January. You will then be able to log onto the [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) site and utilizing the Khan Academy free test prep, hone your skills for the spring SAT.

College Board offers a wealth of information and personalized tools to help students with the college admissions process. Selected students, based on their performance on the PSAT will receive mailings on: A personalized college starter list, college applications, financial aid and scholarships, college application fee waivers, one-on-one virtual advising, and access to more opportunities.

Register for the SAT and ACT must be completed on the [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) and the [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) sites. Registration for these tests should be completed at least two months

before the test date to reserve the testing site you prefer. Dates: ACT- **2/11/17, 4/8/17** and SAT- **1/21/17, 3/11/17**. Our school code is 030-124

Test prep: Princeton Review [www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com), Kaplan [kaptest.com/psatcram](http://kaptest.com/psatcram), [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), and Khan Academy all offering test prep. Khan Academy has partnered with College Board and offers free test prep. Get ready for these tests. Your scores on these tests and your GPA in your college prep courses are the top two factors college admissions reps consider.

Arizona's participation in the **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)** provides the opportunity for students to attend a public college, at the undergraduate level outside of Arizona, at a reduced level of tuition (150% of the host institution's resident tuition.) The WICHE member states are: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Interested applicants should check the WICHE website at: <http://www.wiche.edu/wue> to search participating institutions by program of study.

**Student Athletes:** If you are planning to play college sports at the Division I or II level, you must register with the **National Clearinghouse (NCAA)** during your sophomore year (10<sup>th</sup> grade). Check on their site to confirm you are taking the courses you need to not only graduate from Fountain Hills and get into the college, but are eligible through their organization. For example, the do not accept on-line courses. Choose classes wisely.

**ASU updates:** Students can still apply to ASU. Students and parents should create their FSA (Federal Student Aid) login and file their Free Application for Federal Student Aid as soon as possible. With the FAFSA available early this year and families being able to use their previous year's tax information, the whole admission process is easier and can be completed earlier. Here's how the changes help families: When families file the 2017-2018 FAFSA, they will use their 2015 tax returns, which are already done. It cuts down on the number of families selected for verification. Families hear from colleges and universities sooner about their complete financial aid package.

**Jan. 1 ASU's FAFSA** priority filing deadline

**Jan. 1 Obama Scholars Program** priority filing date

**Jan. 8 Early Action II-** Barrett, The Honors College

**NAU updates:** Regarding STAR, Honors, and CCC2NAU: STAR: Applications opened on October 1, 2016 with a Priority Deadline of February 1, 2017. To apply, the students must follow the steps below:

**HONORS:** There is no deadline to apply to Honors, but we strongly encourage submitting application materials prior to March 1. If you would like to live in Ernest Calderon Learning Community (this date allows us to review and process your application for Honors in enough time in advance of Calderon room placement); May 1 is their priority date to ensure enrollment in our first year Honors seminar. In order to be in the running for Honors Scholarships, students will need to complete the honors application by November 14.

CCC2NAU: Due to high demand, residential hall space will not be available for CCC2NAU students for the 2017-2018 academic year. There will be alternative housing options available.

Grades 11-12: Nearly one million students from 191 countries rely on CollegeWeekLive to help navigate college admissions. You can attend live online events, hear from expert presentations, gain advice from admissions reps and current students at 500+ colleges, and more, by registering for free at [www.collegeweeklive.com](http://www.collegeweeklive.com)

### Scholarship Opportunities

- Go to college **debt-free**. Resources can be found at <http://affordablecollegesonline.org/graduating-debt-free>.
- **Law Scholarships:**
  - **Tuite Law DUI Accident Scholarship.** This scholarship is now available to any full time college student or high school senior nationwide.

**Deadline:** May 31, 2017      **Award Amount:** \$750

**Application:** <http://tuitelaw.com/rockford-illinois-dui-accident-lawyer/#scholarship-application>

- **Robinson & Henry Family Law Scholarship:** This scholarship is for high school seniors who plan on attending a 4-year college/university or a 2-year accredited community college Fall of 2017. Open to applicants whose parents have gone through a divorce and plan on pursuing a career in Family Law.

**Deadline:** May 31, 2017      **Award Amount:** \$1000 **Application:**

<https://www.robinsonandhenry.com/denver-divorce-lawyer#scholarship>

- **SCW DREAMers Scholarship.** This scholarship is now available to any high school senior in the United States that desires to apply. More information on DREAMers can be found on our scholarship application below:

**Deadline:** May 31, 2017      **Award Amount:** \$2,500

**Application:** <http://workinjuryaz.com/phoenix-workers-compensation-lawyers/>

- **K. Hunter Goff Bankruptcy/Consumer Rights Scholarship.** This scholarship is for a high school senior who has at least a 3.0 GPA and interested in pursuing a law-related degree.

**Deadline:** July 31, 2017      **Award Amount:** \$500

**Application:** <http://khgpa.com/#scholarship-application>

- **Christensen and Hymas lawfirm** is offering a \$1,000.00 scholarship for any individual who has been accepted to or plans to attend a university or college in the United States, has a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, and a transcript to verify this GPA. Application deadline for application submission is August 1, 2017. Apply at <https://christensenhymas.com/about-us/community-involvement/general-scholarship/>
- **ASU has partnered with Raise.me** to offer a new scholarship program for students in grades 9-11. Through Raise.me, your students can now earn performance-based micro-scholarships from ASU for each of their academic and extracurricular achievements. Raise.me can help your students get a head start on their college search and develop into stronger applicants.
- **Ronald McDonald House Charities** seeks to invest in students who are exemplary role models in their communities and have the initiative to fulfill their educational goals. Apply for scholarships today at [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org). **Application deadline January 18, 2017.**
- **The American Legion of Arizona** is offering their 80<sup>th</sup> annual high school oratorical scholarship program contest. For details about this scholarship program, please visit [www.azlegion.org/programs](http://www.azlegion.org/programs) and email questions to [legionoratoricalcontest@msn.com](mailto:legionoratoricalcontest@msn.com). View the national contest brochure/rules at [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical).
- **AXA Achievement Scholarship** (was sent out in an email earlier in the semester to all seniors and senior parents) is a scholarship for seniors who are active in their community, who have led a project that benefits others, and who have overcome personal challenges. Deadline for applications is December 15, 2016. Visit [www.axa.com/achievers](http://www.axa.com/achievers) to learn more and apply online.
- **Desert Schools Federal Credit Union** is offering scholarships based upon financial need and community service. Scholarships are for graduating seniors planning to attend an accredited two- or four-year college/university. To be eligible, students must complete 50 hours of community service between January 1, 2016 and Dec 31, 2016, have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above, be a member, child of, or relative of a current member of Desert Schools Federal Credit Union, and demonstrate financial need by filling out their FAFSA and providing their Estimated Family Contribution (EFC).
- **The GFWC-Desert Jade Woman's Club** annually offers several scholarships to graduating high school seniors of **Chinese descent**. This year, they are offering 6 scholarships in the amount of \$650.00 each. **Please see Miss Phillips in the FHHS counseling office for the scholarship application.** Deadline is March 18, 2017.
- **The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Phoenix Lodge** is offering 5 scholarships to graduating high school seniors of **Chinese descent**. Each scholarship is worth \$600.00 each. Scholarships are based upon academic achievement, involvement in school and community activities, recommendation from a school counselor or teacher and a personal

statement of educational plans or life experience. **Please see Miss Phillips in the FHHS counseling office for the scholarship application.** Applications are due no later than March 25, 2017.

- **Daughters of the American Revolution** are offering several scholarships for the 2017-2018 school-year. Scholarships range from academic to community service based, from college major selection to ethnic background. One scholarship is designed specifically for American Indian descent. **Please see Miss Phillips in the FHHS counseling office for the scholarship applications.**
- Institutional scholarships are in the scholarship portals on college and university websites. Most colleges and universities offer the best scholarship opportunities when you apply early. Don't wait! Apply now.
- More local Community Scholarships will be coming early Spring

#### **Registration for 2017-2018 School Year**

11<sup>th</sup> grade registration: February 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

10<sup>th</sup> grade registration: February 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

9<sup>th</sup> grade registration: February 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

- 12<sup>th</sup> grade: Post High School Budget Worksheet
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade: Resume Builder Lesson
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade: Career Exploration Continued, and Naviance College Interest List
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade: ECAP Lesson Continued

**Grade 12:** Seniors use parchment to request transcripts. Log into your parchment.com account School Code: 030-124. Students click "sign-up. I don't have a registration code."

**Grade 12:** Seniors, **need letters of recommendation** for university admissions? If you are using the **Common Application**, you will need them. The counselor letter of recommendation is part of the **Secondary School Report**. Please complete the student (and parent) Brag Sheets online: FHHS Website, Counseling Department, Career Development. Then, make an appointment with Miss Phillips for an interview, and give her 1-2 weeks after the interview to write your letter of recommendation. **Don't forget to say thank you for this favor!**

**Grades 9-12/parents:** We encourage you to review grades on-line and attendance weekly, with your student. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your child's teacher immediately.

**Grades 9-10: Student support groups** for study skills will be taking place during semester 1. The counseling department will expand the support group options during semester 2.

**The National Honors Society** offers after school tutoring on Wednesdays during lunch and on Thursdays after school in room B104, the Homework Hub room.

**Power Hour:** Tutoring is also available from all teachers. The teachers are the best source of tutoring assistance. Another teacher of the same subject can help as well.

**Naviance:** Naviance's web-based software as a service platform provides students with a variety of features, including college research and matching tools, course planning, career assessment, and personality tests, and surveys to help students connect what they are doing in school to what they would like to do once they complete their education. Naviance provides additional functionality to school counselors to track the progress of individual students, communicate and collaborate with students and families, or create reports on their entire student population. Additionally, Naviance's integration with "The Common Application" facilitates the submission of college applications, as well as online submission of transcripts, school forms and recommendations through Naviance eDocs.

Parents/Guardians will also have a log in. We will be having a parent information night early 2<sup>nd</sup> semester (TBD).

**SAT Boot Camp:** We will be hosting our first SAT Boot Camp through Tried & True Tutoring

Date: Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup>

Times: 9:00am- 1:00pm

Location: Fountain Hills HS Classroom (TBD)

Price: \$199 for Fountain Hills HS Students (Books and Materials Included)

To Enroll Online:

1. Go to [store.triedandtruetutoring.com](http://store.triedandtruetutoring.com)
2. Select SAT/ACT Boot Camps from our Feature Collections
3. Select Fountain Hills HS Spring SAT Boot Camp

**Pre-ACT:** This coming March, the FHHS Counseling Department will offer the Pre-ACT to all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The test is designed for student who are taking 10<sup>th</sup> grade level curriculum, but we are opening the test to 11<sup>th</sup> graders, as well, who wish to better prepare for the April, 2017 ACT.

The Pre-ACT test can be used to predict student performance on the ACT, and the student reports offer a visual depiction of students' educational and career journey based on academic and career interests. The cost for the Pre-ACT is \$15, and the counseling department will be providing more details after school resumes in January.

The Counseling Department