

# Guidance Gazette



## ACT TEST FOR ALL JUNIORS

On Wednesday, April 19, all juniors will take the ACT test at North High. This is an official test and the score will be added to the students' transcripts. This score can be sent to colleges for admission purposes. There is no charge to the students for this test. Please encourage your student to do their best, to get rest the night before and eat a good breakfast.

During the testing time, our other classmen will be participating in special programs. The seniors will attend the academic signing assembly and the senior field trip to the Zoo. The sophomores will attend a career fair and the freshmen will participate in a Wellness Day.

Please mark Wednesday, April 19 as an important day for all students.

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## SPRING TESTING

### **End of Course (EOC) Exams**

May 1-5 English II and Biology

May 8-12 Algebra I, Algebra II and Government

### **AP Exams**

To register, bring your exam registration form plus a check or money order for \$93 (payable to FZN) to Ms. McGill, our AP Coordinator. The College Board provides a fee reduction per exam for students with acute financial need. Fee Reduction students pay \$53 per exam.

If you pay for an AP exam then decide not to take it, you may ask your Coordinator for a refund, but only if you did not begin the exam. Once you begin the exam—that is, once you write on the booklet or answer sheet—you cannot receive a refund.

**Deadline to pay for AP test: Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

#### Test dates:

May 1, 8am	Chemistry
May 2, 8am	Computer Science
May 2, 12pm	Physics
May 3, 8am	English Literature
May 9, 8am	Calculus AB
May 9, 8am	Calculus BC
May 5, 8am	U. S. History
May 8, 8am	Biology
May 4, 8am	US Government
May 10, 8am	English Language
May 11, 8am	World History
May 11, 12pm	Statistics

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

**Finding a College for You:**  
[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
[www.youniversitytv.com](http://www.youniversitytv.com)

**Financial Aid and Scholarships:**  
[www.StudentAid.gov](http://www.StudentAid.gov)  
[www.StLouisGraduates.org](http://www.StLouisGraduates.org)  
[www.StudentScholarships.org](http://www.StudentScholarships.org)  
[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)  
[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)  
[www.studentaid2.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid2.ed.gov)

**Federal Government:**  
[ww.fafsa.gov](http://ww.fafsa.gov)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

**State of Missouri:**  
[www.dhe.mo.gov](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)

**ACT:**  
[ACTstudent.org](http://ACTstudent.org)

**Free ACT/SAT Prep websites:**  
[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)  
[www.LearningExpressLibrary.com](http://www.LearningExpressLibrary.com)

**Career Exploration:**  
[www.missouriconnections.org](http://www.missouriconnections.org)  
[www.careerinfonet.org](http://www.careerinfonet.org)

## SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for something fun and educational to do this summer?

Check out the list of summer camp opportunities on the Guidance webpage:



**[nhs.fz.k12.mo.us](http://nhs.fz.k12.mo.us) ⇨ Guidance ⇨ Summer Opportunities**

Many local and regional colleges host summer enrichment camps for high school students. Some of these are day camps and some are residential camps. The list posted on our website gives a brief description, cost and dates of the various camps. See Mrs. Loesche in Guidance for more information on specific camps.



**ACT Registration Information**

Register at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) (FZN High School Code: 262483)

You can create your own web account on ACT web site and make changes in your registration.

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE (Late fee required)
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017	March 4-17, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017	May 6-19, 2017

**Test Dates for 2016-2017**

**ACT FEES**

Basic Test Fee (no writing).....\$42.50

Basic Test Fee (with writing).....\$58.50

LATE REGISTRATION FEE.....\$27.50

(The total cost for late registration is \$70.00 - no writing)

**FZN's Test Center Code is 164420**

**FIVE THINGS COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICERS LOOK FOR**

To get the attention of college admissions officers, your students need to distinguish themselves from other candidates. To increase your student's chances of getting in, their application materials should show:

- 1. A fit between their intentions and the school's program.** They'll need to demonstrate some qualities that show that they know themselves, understand the school and its mission, and have a plan in mind to succeed in school and use their training in their planned career or field.
- 2. A sense of their personality.** Schools want to hear a voice in the application essay. They want to know what your student values and what drives his or her interests. Avoid making laundry lists of achievements or bragging. It tends to create the synthetic sense of someone trying to play up qualities and make an impression.
- 3. The ability to succeed academically or in their planned career.** Their grades, test scores, and letters of recommendation will convey whether they're prepared for a higher education.
- 4. A constructive us of their time outside school.** Your student should show that they pursue their interests when not doing schoolwork. This could mean volunteer or community-related work, a hobby, or clubs and associations joined in school.
- 5. The passion to achieve their goals.** Their essay should show an understanding of how their higher education feeds into their life's goals. It should also show what those goals mean to them.

**ACT PREP CLASSES**

**St. Charles Community College** will offer ACT preparatory courses during Spring/Summer semesters 2017. These courses will prepare students for the June 10, and September 9, 2017 tests. SCC has partnered with Cambridge Educational Services, who use the latest versions of the actual ACT tests to create this course. Students will study actual test questions as they develop skills and strategies for taking the ACT.

- 7 sessions, 4/25 - 6/6 on Tuesday evenings (6-9pm)
- 7 sessions, 7/17 - 8/28 on Monday evenings (6-9pm)

Cost is \$149 and the book must be purchased separately at the SCC bookstore.

For more information or to register, go to:  
[www.stchas.edu/learnforlife](http://www.stchas.edu/learnforlife) or  
 call 636-922-8233

\*Get \$5 off the ACT Cambridge Review class with discount code: PEACHJAR

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**Webster University** offers one-day ACT Prep seminars focused on reinforcing writing skills, study techniques and test-taking preparedness. One more seminar is offered this semester:

March 11, 2017

*All sessions 8am-2:30pm*

- ◆ All written materials will be provided
- ◆ \$50.00 registration fee
- ◆ Bring a calculator and notebook
- ◆ Lunch will be provided

Register @ [webster.edu/testprep](http://webster.edu/testprep)

**You must register separately for the ACT test @ [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)**

**FZN School Code: 262483**

## COLLEGE FAIRS

### Fort Zumwalt West

Thursday, March 2  
6:30 - 8:00 pm  
FZW Gymnasium

### MOACAC Spring College Fair

Sunday, April 23  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Maryville University  
Simon Athletic Center

To register, go to:  
[www.gotocollegefairs.com](http://www.gotocollegefairs.com)

You will get a barcode you can take to any of the automated fairs. Put an end to filling out info cards at every table. Instead, spend your time talking with the schools and finding out what YOU want to know.

## COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Colleges encourage students to apply on-line. Some may waive the application fee if you apply online. After you have applied online, please stop by the Guidance Office to tell Mrs. Loesche where to send your transcript.

Colleges require your official high school transcript to be sent from your high school. A college cannot process your application without it.

## NET PRICE CALCULATOR

All undergraduate institutions that award federal title IV financial aid are required to offer a **net price calculator** that provides students an estimated cost to attend their college.

When viewing college websites, go to **Admissions** and look for the **net price calculator**.

## COLLEGE EXPLORATION

### College & Military Visits

Colleges, universities and military representatives visited FZN this Fall and many will return for another visit during second semester. Seniors AND Juniors are welcome to attend the college visits during second semester. The schedule will be posted in the Guidance Office and on the FZ District website. Check with the Guidance Office for the most current updates. You must sign up in the Guidance Office to attend a college visit.

**Are you trying to decide which college is right for you?** Ask yourself these questions:

- Why do you want to go to college?
- How far away from home do you want to be?
- What size of school are you looking for?

- Do you want to be in a small town or big city?
- Do you have the grades/test scores to be admitted?
- What major are you interested in?
- Can you afford it?
- Do you want to play athletics?
- What activities are you interested in?

Answer these questions for **YOURSELF**, NOT based on what your friends are doing!



*Check the DEADLINES on all applications!*

## FEDERAL STUDENT AID & FAFSA

Federal Student Aid has launched some exciting new tools to help students through the financial aid process:

StudentAid.gov is a new website that provides straightforward and easy-to-understand information about planning and paying for college. The site combines content and interactive tools from several Education Department websites. As a mobile-optimized website, StudentAid.gov is fully accessible on tablets and smartphones. This website features videos and infographics to help answer frequently asked questions about financial aid.

The full collection of videos can be found at [www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid](http://www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid), and the full collection of infographics is at [www.visual.ly/users/FederalStudentAid](http://www.visual.ly/users/FederalStudentAid).

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You must complete and submit the FAFSA to apply for federal student aid for college or career school and for most state and institutional aid. The quickest way to apply is online using the FAFSA on the Web @ [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

Financial aid offices use information from the FAFSA to determine if you are eligible to receive federal student aid from grants, loans and work-study programs. States and schools also use the information from the FAFSA to determine if you qualify for additional aid. So be sure to fill out a FAFSA even if you think you won't qualify for federal aid.

The FAFSA no longer uses a **PIN**. You will now be required to use a **FSA ID** to sign the FAFSA. To create a FSA ID, go to: [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

The main reason for this change is to increase security. Your FSA ID is used to sign legally binding documents electronically. It has the same legal status as a written signature. Don't give your FSA ID to anyone. Sharing your FSA ID could put you at risk of identity theft. The FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log into the FAFSA. A PIN is not required to create a FSA ID. However, if you already have a PIN, you can link your information to your new FSA ID. This will save time when registering for your FSA ID.

## SPRING IS A GREAT TIME FOR A COLLEGE VISIT!

### ***How do I plan and schedule a college visit?***

Spring is a great time to visit colleges. If you plan to visit colleges during Spring Break, make sure to check if the college you plan to visit is on break the same week as FZN. You will get a better idea of your “fit” if you visit a college when classes are in session and students are on campus. Timing of your visit is crucial if you’re to get an accurate impression of the school. For example, if you plan your trip around a homecoming weekend or holiday, you probably won’t witness the typical campus atmosphere.



Most colleges offer a variety of opportunities to visit campus. Some offer Open House events where students are invited to visit campus on a specific date. At a college open house, you are more likely to be able to meet representatives from the school’s organizations such as clubs, sororities, fraternities, student government, etc. College websites will post open house dates on their websites under *ADMISSIONS*. Additionally, there is a list of regional college open house events posted on the FZN Counseling website under *COLLEGE OPEN HOUSES*.

Colleges also offer individual personalized campus visits where students can get a campus tour, meet with an Admissions Representative and meet with professors and students from a particular department. Most colleges and universities have an online form on their website to complete for scheduling a campus visit. Other options include contacting the admissions office by phone or e-mail.

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*If you cannot find time to travel to visit a college, check their website to see if they offer a VIRTUAL tour. [www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com) allows you to virtually tour thousands of colleges from your computer.*

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### ***What questions should I ask on a college visit? What information should I collect?***

The purpose of visiting a college is to find out more information about the school. However, to find out the information you want, you may need to ask some questions. If you are stumped on which questions to prepare for the college admissions staff, here is a list to get you started:

- ◆ Verify admission requirements. Do they require or recommend the ACT Writing Test?
- ◆ Discuss your chances for success in certain programs.
- ◆ Find out how to apply.
- ◆ Request a view book and other literature
- ◆ Determine college costs
- ◆ Ask about financial aid opportunities including scholarships, as well as deadlines and forms required.
- ◆ Meet with faculty in the department of your intended major.
- ◆ Find out average class size and retention/graduation rates.
- ◆ Are any classes taught by grad students?
- ◆ Ask about academic requirements/offerings.
- ◆ Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style and academic atmosphere
- ◆ Ask about the job placement record for graduates in the field you might study.
- ◆ Identify career planning services for undergraduates.
- ◆ Tour the campus and check out the residence halls, dining options and library resources.
- ◆ Talk to students about the general academic environment and amount/kind of studying necessary for success.
- ◆ Find out what student activities are available (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) and about campus life and social activities.
- ◆ Investigate transportation options (i.e. where will I go to buy shampoo and how will I get there?)

## CHANGES IMPACTING THE 2017-18 FAFSA

Two major changes to the FAFSA will take effect for the 2017-18 school year.

1. The FAFSA will be available earlier (October 1 of the previous year, instead of January 1 of the upcoming school year).
2. The FAFSA will collect income information from an earlier tax year.

Here is a table with a summary of the changes:

When a Student is Attending College (School Year)	When a Student Can Submit a FAFSA	Which Year's Income Information is Required
July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016	January 1, 2015-June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016-June 30, 2017	2015
<b>July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018</b>	<b>October 1, 2016-June 30, 2018</b>	<b>2015</b>
July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017-June 30, 2019	2016

1. **The FAFSA will be available earlier.** Currently, students cannot complete a FAFSA for the upcoming school year until January 1. For example, for the 2016-17 school year, an applicant cannot complete a FAFSA until Jan. 1, 2016. Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, applicants will be able to complete a FAFSA as early as October 1 of the previous year.
2. **The FAFSA will require information from an earlier tax year.** Currently, in addition to other information, FAFSA applicants must report the prior year's income information. For example, for the 2016-17 school year, applicants must report income information for 2015--the tax year before the beginning of the school year. Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will report income information from two years prior, which in this case is 2015 income information--two tax years before the beginning of the school year.

US Department of Education; September 2015

*Apply! Apply! Apply for SCHOLARSHIPS! You will not receive a scholarship if you don't apply.*

## UPCOMING DATES

Thursday, March 2	College Fair @ FZ West
Friday, March 3	Deadline to register for the April ACT Test
Saturday, April 8	ACT Test (Not offered at FZN on this date)
Wednesday, April 19	ACT Test at FZN for all Juniors
Tuesday, May 2	Senior Awards Night
Friday, May 5	Deadline to register for the June ACT Test
Saturday, May 27	Graduation



### COUNSELING STAFF

Nita McGill—Counselor (A—Fi)

Karen Wilson—Director and Counselor (FL-LA)

Amanda Peters—Counselor (Le—Ri)

Becky Sieve—Counselor (Ro—Z)

Rebecca Taylor—Crisis Counselor

Ann Woods—Registrar

Julee Loesche—Financial Aid Secretary

Karen Berich—Guidance Clerk