



# Guidance Gazette

## FINAL SEMESTER TO-DO LIST FOR SENIORS

All graduating seniors need to turn in the Final Transcript Release/Senior Information sheet by April 6, 2018. This tells our Registrar where to send your final transcript after graduation and it informs the Guidance Office of the scholarship offers you have received.

After you have decided which college you will be attending, please return this form to the Guidance Office. Be sure to include ALL SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS you have received. Include scholarship offers you have received from the school you will attend **and** from the schools you do not plan to attend. If you will be joining the military, please indicate which branch. If you will not attend college, still return this form to let Guidance know what you plan to do after high school.

This form was emailed to all senior and parent email addresses listed in our Student Information System. Copies will be delivered to all Senior Communication Arts classes and are also available in the Guidance Office.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Several awesome scholarship opportunities for seniors arrive at FZN during the second semester. Make sure to check the scholarship list frequently for new applications! Visit **www.nhs.fz.k12.mo.us** ⇨ **Office** ⇨ **Guidance & Crisis Counselors** ⇨ **Scholarship Opportunities**. The list is also posted in the Guidance Office. Applications are available in the Guidance Office.

## ACT TEST OFFERED TO JUNIORS

The ACT test will be available to ALL juniors at Fort Zumwalt North on Tuesday, April 24. Testing in our building will begin promptly after the morning bell and will continue until approximately 12:00pm. Questions about this ACT test should be directed to Drew Spiegel, Assistant Principal.

## AP TESTING

AP Testing is fast approaching. Mrs. McGill will visit AP classes beginning the week of February 19th to instruct students on how to register for the test. Stay tuned!



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## MISSOURI CONNECTIONS

Missouri Connections is a web-based resource to help Missouri Citizens determine their career interests, explore occupations, establish education plans, develop job search strategies, and create resumé. Sponsored by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Economic Development, Missouri Connections is available to students, parents, guidance counselors, educators, and job seekers at no charge.

To get started, visit [www.missouriconnections.org](http://www.missouriconnections.org)

Guest Access: User Name = FZNorthHS Password = 2viewmoc

Once you access this website, create your own profile and save it with your own username and password.

A link to this website has been posted on the Guidance page of the FZN website @ [nhs.fz.k12.mo.us](http://nhs.fz.k12.mo.us)



### HELPFUL WEBSITES

#### Finding a College for You:

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
[www.collegedata.com](http://www.collegedata.com)  
[www.youniversitytv.com](http://www.youniversitytv.com)

#### Financial Aid and Scholarships:

[www.financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/](http://www.financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/)  
[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:

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

**COLLEGE VISITS:** Juniors, now is a great time to begin your college search. You are invited to attend any of the scheduled college visits to learn more about specific colleges. Stop by the Guidance Office to sign up.



If you plan on playing NCAA Division I or II sports in college, you should have completed the NCAA Initial Eligibility form in the 2nd semester of your Junior year. If you have not yet completed this form, please do so ASAP. Go to [www.eligibilitycenter.net](http://www.eligibilitycenter.net). The registration fee is \$75.

NCAA now requires prospective athletes to supply ACT or SAT scores to the Clearinghouse directly from the testing agency (ACT or SAT). **Test scores shown on an official high school transcript will no longer be acceptable for NCAA purposes.**

To submit your ACT score directly to the NCAA, go to [www.actstudent.org/scores](http://www.actstudent.org/scores). The ACT code for NCAA is 9999. The cost to have your ACT score submitted is \$12.

Additionally, all prospective student athletes intending to enroll in an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first time must complete the **NCAA Amateurism Certification questionnaire**. (Note: If you have already registered, you will need to use your PIN to go back and complete the questionnaire.)



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

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

### Test Dates for 2017-2018

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>(Late Fee Required)</u>
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018	March 10-23, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 5-18, 2018
July 14, 2018	June 15, 2018	June 16-22, 2018

#### ACT FEES

Basic Test Fee (no writing).....\$46.00

Basic Test Fee (with writing).....\$62.50

LATE REGISTRATION FEE.....\$29.50

(The total cost for late registration is \$75.50 - no writing)

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

## ACT PREP CLASSES

St. Charles Community College will offer four ACT preparatory courses during Spring semester 2018. These courses will prepare students for the April 14, June 9, & July 14, 2018 tests. Students will study actual test questions as they develop skills and strategies for taking the ACT.

1. Mondays 2/19 - 3/2 on (6-8:30 pm).
2. Thursdays 4/19 - 5/31 on (6-8:30 pm).
3. Wednesdays 5/23 - 7/11 (6-8:30 pm).

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)

**\*\*Get \$5 off the class, use discount code PEACHJAR.\*\***

\*\*\*\*\*

Webster University offers one-day ACT Prep seminars focused on reinforcing writing skills, study techniques and test-taking preparedness.

March 10, 2018

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

## CHOOSE A STARTING PLACE FOR YOUR FIRST COLLEGE SEARCH

It is best not to blindly look for colleges without some idea of what you are looking for. Here are three easy ways to start your search.

1. **Search based on college features.** If you have a few priority college requirements in mind, you can search for colleges that meet these requirements. (Large school vs. small school, rural vs. urban, private vs. public)
2. **Search based on what you want to study.** Finding an academic fit should be every student's highest priority. Alternatively, if you are clueless about what you want to study, search for colleges with liberal arts and science programs. They offer curriculum designed to help you choose a major.
3. **Search based on college location.** Do you want a school within a certain number of miles from home? Is there a city or region you would love to experience? Search for a variety of colleges located where you would like to live during your college years.

**\*\*See page 2 for a list of college search websites to check out\*\***

## 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**.

## SPRING BREAK 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.

## FAFSA

[WWW.FAFSA.GOV](http://WWW.FAFSA.GOV)

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.

You will 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).

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.

Starting with the Academic Year 2017-18, the traditional **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) submission date of January 1 changed to October 1**. In addition, families will be able to use tax information from the prior year.

The **January 1** start date made it difficult for families to get their tax information gathered in time to complete the application.

By moving the start date up three months to **October 1**, students will have more time to fill out this vital information, they’ll have tax information at hand and families will have more time to evaluate the school’s financial aid award package.

Academic Year 2018-19: Submit your FAFSA beginning October 1, 2017. Use income tax info from 2016.

## ACT PREP WEBSITE:

Below is a link to a resource for you to consider using for ACT Preparation. The website comes to us from MOREnet and includes a number of relevant tools that are available to both students and teachers. Making it even more practical is the fact that these tools are also accessible from home once a student/teacher has created an account on a district computer.

Among its features are:

- 4 complete timed ACT practice tests in Reading, English, Math, Science and Writing
- Each ACT exam is timed, scored and students may go back and view wrong answers along with explanations.
- ACT eBooks for Essay Practice, Flash Review, Word Games, Power Practice (basically an ACT study book with an additional 4 practice exams in an eBook format)
- AP practice exams
- Exams are graded and offer answer explanations
- A variety of Mathematics Skills Improvement practice tests and tutorials aligned to CCSS covering Algebra, Functions and Geometry
- A variety of ELA skills improvement practice sets, tutorials and eBooks aligned to CCSS covering Informational Reading, Literature, Writing & Language, Vocab, Word Analogies, Synonyms and Antonyms
- Biology and Chemistry practice and review
- Constitution Reviews
- eBooks to boost critical thinking skills

For a student to use this site, they must first register online using a district computer (takes less than a minute) using their district email account. After that, the user may login anywhere an internet connection exists.

If you are interested in using this resource, here is the link:

<http://www.learningexpresshub.com/college-preparation-center>

## COLLEGE FAIRS

### **MOACAC 2016 Spring College Fair**

Sunday, April 22

1 - 3 pm

Maryville University Recreation Center

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### **Fort Zumwalt District College Fair**

FZ West High School

March 8, 2018

6:30 - 8pm



## College Planning Workshop

Does planning for college have you stressed? Does the acronym FAFSA cause you to lose sleep? And are you still wondering, "What is my student supposed to be doing now?" Get the answers to all those questions and more at the next installment of Parent University.

### FEBRUARY 13, 2018

On Tuesday, February 13 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, you will have the opportunity to gain valuable information on several college planning topics. Local professionals will be at FZN to give you tips for a stress-free college planning process.

All the answers to your most complicated questions are just waiting to be answered! There is no need to RSVP. The program begins at 6:30 pm in the auditorium. If you have questions or need further information, please contact the Guidance Office.

## 2018 Speakers

Speakers for this year include:

- "Finding the Right Fit" - Meghan Higdon, Webster University
- "Selective College Admissions" - Katie Foley, St. Louis University
- "Financial Aid 101" - Jennifer Jekel-Farrell, St. Louis University
- Community College 101 (A+ information Included) - Mary Jo Grimm, St. Charles Community College

### FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

This session focuses on how to start the college selection process. Information regarding college visits, tools for comparing colleges and additional resources will be discussed.

### SELECTIVE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

This session provides in-depth information concerning the application process to moderate to highly selective institutions including information on college essay tips and suggestions.

### FINANCIAL AID 101

This session will provide information about types of financial aid, along with when and how to apply.

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE 101

This session offers an in-depth review of all the opportunities available to students who attend community college directly out of high school. The A+ Program will be discussed as well as how to make a seamless transition to a 4-year-school.



Ft. Zumwalt North High School

### CONTACT US

**FZN Guidance Department**

1230 Tom Ginnever Blvd.

O'Fallon, MO 63366

636-272-4447

Visit us on the web: [www.fz.k12.mo.us](http://www.fz.k12.mo.us)

# St. Charles COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## A+ Information Night for Seniors and Parents

Have all your A+ questions answered at SCC:

- ◇ Where do I begin?
- ◇ Why do I have to do a FAFSA each year?
- ◇ What are SCC's deadlines?
- ◇ How long am I eligible for my A+ benefits?
- ◇ How do I renew my A+ benefits?
- ◇ What costs are not covered by A+?
- ◇ If I am eligible for the PELL grant, can I still receive A+ benefits?

Attend one of the following dates:

March 7 \*\*\* March 26 \*\*\* April 10

6-7:30 pm

Auditorium, Daniel J. Conoyer Social Sciences Building



## UPCOMING DATES

### Spring Semester 2018

Saturday, February 10	ACT Test
Tuesday, February 13	College Planning Workshop @ FZN Auditorium -6:30pm
Thursday, March 8	Fort Zumwalt District College Fair @ FZ West High
Friday, March 9	Deadline to register for the April ACT Test
Saturday, April 14	ACT Test (Not offered at FZN on this date)
Sunday, April 22	College Fair @ Maryville University
Tuesday, April 24	ACT test for Juniors @ FZN
Tuesday, May 1	Senior Awards Night
Friday, May 4	Deadline to register for the June ACT Test
Saturday, May 26	Graduation
Saturday, June 9	ACT Test (Not offered at FZN on this date)
Saturday, July 14	ACT Test

## GUIDANCE STAFF

Nita McGill—Counselor (A—Fi)

Karen Wilson—Director of Guidance/  
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