

MUSTANG MESSAGES SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome to MUSTANG MESSAGES. This newsletter is especially designed for senior parents and seniors. It is my hope that the information given in this newsletter will be useful as you make plans for the future. I plan to include information on scholarships, important dates that you may want to remember, college rep. visit reminders and other information that seniors and parents may need to know.

MUSTANG MESSAGES will be distributed on a monthly basis. It will also be placed on the Silver Lake website in the "counselor corner". If you have any questions or would just like to visit, please stop by or call me at the high school (756-6611).

Sincerely,

Chris Sluka

COLLEGE FAIR - CCC HASTINGS

Silver Lake seniors will be attending a college fair at Central Community College-Hastings on Monday, September 13. Over 60 college and military representatives have been invited to participate. The college fair will help students meet college officials and provide the opportunity for students to receive a variety of information from area schools. We plan to leave the high school around 9:50 and return by 12:00.

MAKING COLLEGE VISITS

Senior class members and parents are encouraged to visit colleges that they are interested in attending. Fall typically is a good time to make campus visits because this gives the student plenty of time to make comparisons regarding the different aspects of college life.

This year, students are encouraged to make college visit appointments through the guidance office. Most colleges need at least a week in advance notice so please keep this in mind when selecting a visit date. **A college visit is considered an excused absence with homework to be done prior to missing school.**

COLLEGE CAN BE EXPENSIVE, BUT ...

Two new programs are available which can help. The University of Nebraska's *CollegeBound Program* offers students who qualify for a federal Pell Grant **FREE** tuition up to 16 hours per semester. This program is available for students attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, or the University of Nebraska-Kearney. A similar program, the *NSCS Advantage Program*, offers students who are Pell Eligible free tuition to attend Peru State College, Wayne State College or Chadron State College. Federal Pell eligibility is determined by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students and parents can begin to complete the FAFSA after January 1. Each program is renewable as long as the student continues to be Pell eligible and the student meets the deadline to apply. Contact the financial aid office of each college for more information.

COLLEGE REPS TO VISIT

The colleges listed below will send admission representatives to Silver Lake:

Lincoln College-Tech.	Sept. 15	10:00
UNL	Thurs, Sept. 30	11:15
CCC-Hastings	Wed., October 13	10:30

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Mon., Sept. 6	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
Mon., Sept. 13	College Day - CCC
Wed., Sept. 15	2:30 Out-PT Conference
Thurs., Sept. 16	2:30 Out-PT Conference
Fri., Sept. 17	NO SCHOOL
Fri., Sept. 17	ACT Registration Deadline for Oct. Test
Fri., Oct. 15	End of 1 st quarter
Sat., Oct. 23	ACT test date
Fri., Oct. 29	Fall Break - NO SCHOOL

ACT DEADLINES APPROACHING

The ACT is a college entrance exam used by most four-year colleges for admission purposes. Some two-year community colleges also use the ACT for admission reasons. High school students who plan to go to a four-year school or a two-year college that uses the ACT are encouraged to take the test in the spring of their junior year and again in the fall of their senior year.

Many scholarships also use the ACT as a determining factor and as a result, some students may choose to take the test more often.

This year's October ACT test date is Saturday, October 23. The registration deadline is Friday, September 17. The cost for taking the test is \$33.00 each time a student tests. ACT encourages students to register online at www.actstudent.org.

Other test dates are:

December	11
February	12
April	9
June	11.

EDUCATIONQUEST PROVIDES HELP TO SENIORS

EducationQuest provides a variety of services for seniors and parents including brochures, college planning counseling and financial aid assistance. The 2010-2011 College Prep Handbook has recently been delivered to Silver Lake Schools and will be given to each senior. The Kearney office phone number is 800-666-3721. They also can be found on the web at www.educationquest.org.

APPLICATION PROCESS CHANGE AT UNL

Beginning this school year, test scores sent for admission to UNL (such as the ACT) must be sent electronically from the testing agency. Test scores will no longer be accepted from high school transcripts. Students should request the scores be sent to UNL when they register for the test. UNL's school code is 2482 for the ACT.

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE: TIP OF THE MONTH

Many college students are often unprepared when trying to grasp a class' big picture. Instead, they tend to only study what matters most in the short-term, the details. Parents often ask how they can help their student prepare for college while they are still in high school. These tips can be a helpful start:

- Ask your child to identify the main points the teacher was trying to portray that week in a particular.
- Encourage your student to review their notes and text to look for major concepts.

Being able to identify main ideas is a key to success in college.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Scholarship: Coca-Cola Scholarship

Requirements: Seniors with a cumulative "B" average, who are actively involved in school and community, work part-time, and who exemplify leadership and commitment, who plan to attend a four-year college. Apply at www.coca-colascholars.org.
Amount: \$1000 - \$5000 (renewable)
Deadline: October 31, 2010

Scholarship: Heartland Latino Conference Academic Scholarship

Requirements: Student must be of Latino/Hispanic heritage pursuing a college education in Nebraska and must graduate in 2011. Students may apply at www.heartlandlatino.org.
Amount: \$1000
Deadline: September 24, 2010

Award: Wendy's High School Heisman Award

Requirements: Seniors with at least a "B" average who participate in at least one high school sport. Apply at www.wendysheisman.com. NOTE: The first 41,000 applicants will receive a free Wendy's Restaurants Gift Card.
Amount: \$2000 to \$10,000
Deadline: October 3, 2010

Scholarship: Jeffrey Raikes Scholarship-UNL

Requirements: Student who has high academic ability and is interested in Computer Science, Business or Engineering. Students in top 10% of class with a 30 or higher on the ACT are encouraged to apply.
Amount: Cost of room and board at UNL for 4 years.
Deadline: November 15, 2010

Scholarship:Hearst Foundation Scholarship

Requirements: Senior who has been/is a class officer or student council representative. A qualifying exam is part of the application process. Applicants should have an interest in civics/government.
Amount: \$5000 and expenses-paid trip to Washington D. C. March 5-12, 2011
Deadline: September 20, 2010

Scholarship: Horatio Alger Scholarship

Requirements: Senior who plans to complete a bachelor's degree who has critical financial need (preferably \$50,000 or lower adjusted gross income per family). Student must also be involved in extra curricular and community service activities, have at least a "C" average and be a U. S. citizen. Student must have demonstrated perseverance in overcoming adversity in their life. Students are to apply online at www.horatioalger.org/scholarships.
Amount: Awards vary from \$2500 to \$20,000
Deadline: October 30, 2010

Scholarship: Prudential Community Award

Requirements: Student must complete application form describing a volunteer community service activity performed over the past year.
Amount: \$1000
Deadline: November 1, 2010. Students can apply online at www.prudential.com/spirit