

SENIORS

Prepare now for life after graduation.

How do you obtain information your senior year?

- You and your parents are encouraged to sign up for text messages from guidance. Sign up by sending **@2022clay to 81010.**
- Guidance announcements and scholarship applications are emailed to senior teachers.
- Guidance announcements and scholarship information are on the senior scholarship board located across from the main office.
- Guidance announcements and scholarship applications are listed on our school's website, clay.kyschools.us. You will need to go to the guidance department page and then go to the senior page to find the information.

Are you planning (or even considering) to attend college?

- **If yes, surprisingly you can begin applying to colleges/universities now.** Applying is easy! Go to the school's website, look for the apply button, and then follow the instructions.
- Some schools charge a fee to apply. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, ask Mrs. Christy to have the fee waived if you are charged.

Transcripts

If you need a transcript sent to a college, create an account at **parchment.com** and then request your transcript for the school (or schools) of your choice. You will not be charged for using Parchment while you are in high school.

After you apply to any college/university, you will need to send your transcript to the school through Parchment. You will also send a final transcript after high school graduation.

ACT

- What are college readiness scores? **English (18), Math (19), and Reading (20)** - If you don't have college readiness scores, you need to take the ACT again.
- Many students have earned college readiness scores, but they do not have the scores needed to earn academic scholarships. These students may want to take the ACT again to try to earn the scores needed to reach scholarship goals.
- Register at my.act.org to test. Many juniors and seniors qualify for fee waivers (free testing). If you don't know if you are required to pay, ask Mrs. Christy in guidance.
- Students who prepare for the ACT and take the test many times earn higher scores than students who do not. There are many free ACT prep resources (ex. ACT Academy).
- If you don't have the scores you want, register for the October 23rd ACT at CCHS.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- **SENIORS (YOU! ☺) NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA IN OCTOBER OF 2021. IF STUDENTS WAIT UNTIL LATER, THEY MAY LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN STATE GRANT MONEY.**

- Apply for financial aid at **fafsa.gov** on October 1st. Information from the FAFSA is used to determine if you are eligible for different types of federal student aid, such as grants, loans, and work-study.

Admissions Counselors

Regardless of which college/university you are considering, there is a person who works at the school in the admissions office assigned to work with Clay County High School students. For example, Trent Hurt is an admissions counselor for ECU – Richmond and is assigned to Clay County High School students. There is someone assigned to you at every college/university.

Contact the admissions counselors at the colleges/universities you are interested in attending. They are the experts at the schools they represent. They know the most about scholarships, deadlines, and other important information.

Scholarship Information

- **Visit the websites of colleges you are interested in attending to find out about available scholarships.** Colleges offer numerous scholarships to their students. Example -> Are you considering attending ECU? Here is a link to see how much scholarship \$ you may earn at ECU: scholarships.ecu.edu/. Apply by February 1 to earn the automatic academic scholarships at ECU. There are also other scholarships to apply for at ECU.
- Many of the most competitive college scholarships have a deadline earlier than you would expect. You need to apply as early as possible. If a competitive scholarship deadline is December 1, you may want to apply in October.
- Contact college admissions counselors assigned to your school and ask about scholarships and financial aid available. The admissions counselors are the experts.
- Guidance staff will inform seniors about available scholarships throughout the year.
- Look for scholarships on your own. You can find opportunities not announced at school. Scholarship search engines, such as: collegeboard.com, fastweb.com, and scholarships.com, may help you find opportunities.

More Information

- There are events for seniors to learn more about the different colleges/universities. Contact admissions counselors or look on college websites for more information.
- KHEAA (Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority) sent a book called *Getting In* to each senior. The book contains much valuable information, such as: information about colleges/universities in KY, college planning, and financial planning. Use your book as a resource.

Why should you login to your account at kheaa.com?

- **KEES \$** - You can login to your KHEAA account to see how much KEES \$ you have earned. If your listed amount earned isn't correct, see Mrs. Christy. She can fix it.
- **Grant \$** - If you complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) early enough and qualify for federal grant \$, you will also receive state grant money. You can login to your KHEAA account to see how much state grant money you are awarded. State grant money runs out, so make sure you complete your FAFSA in October.
- **FAFSA Verification** - If you are chosen for FAFSA verification, you may complete the process through your KHEAA account.

Additional Scholarship Information

Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program

The Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (WRKS) helps Kentuckians who have not yet earned an associate degree. You can apply for this scholarship through your KHEAA account in May of your senior year.

There are many people assigned to Clay County High School to help you as you prepare for life after graduation.

- **CCHS Guidance Staff** - You are always welcome in the guidance office (as long as a teacher has given you permission). Your parents/guardians are also welcome to visit, call, or email.
- **College Admissions Counselors** – There are people assigned to Clay County High School at every college. These people are called admissions counselors. Get to know admissions counselors assigned to our school. They are the experts. They know the most about scholarships, deadlines, and other important information.
- **Military Recruiters** - If you are interested in joining the military, we have recruiters assigned to our school. Ask guidance staff to contact recruiters if you want to meet with them. ASVAB (the test to get into the military) scores do matter. You can take the ASVAB again if needed to improve your score.

Please ask for help when needed.

Senior Checklist

College, Military, and Work

College Checklist

- _____ Apply to college (s) (in September).
- _____ Figure out how to pay for school (grants, scholarship \$, work study, loans, savings).
- _____ **October 2021** – Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at fafsa.gov. If seniors wait to complete the FAFSA, they may lose the opportunity to earn state grant \$.
- _____ After completing the FAFSA, many students are chosen for FAFSA verification. If you are chosen for FAFSA verification, you must complete the verification process. If FAFSA verification is not completed, you will not receive any federal aid (ex. grants, loans).
- _____ Students receive award letters (stating the cost to attend) from colleges.
- _____ After you choose a college, the college will contact you regarding housing, orientation, registering for classes, etc. You will work with your college to complete the needed steps.
- _____ Colleges will need final high school transcripts (with final semester grades and graduation date listed) and college transcripts with dual credit and other college classes listed. Students request final high school transcripts free through Parchment. Students will have to pay colleges to send college transcripts.

Military Checklist

- _____ Research the different branches of the military. Which branch is best for you?
- _____ Meet with recruiters. Guidance staff can ask recruiters to meet with you at school.
- _____ Retake the ASVAB if needed. Higher scores yield more job opportunities.
- _____ ***October 2021** – Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at fafsa.gov. If seniors wait to complete the FAFSA, they may lose the opportunity to earn state grant \$. After completing the FAFSA, some students are chosen for FAFSA verification.

Work Checklist

- _____ Find work opportunities.
- _____ Apply.
- _____ ***October 2021** – Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at fafsa.gov. If seniors wait to complete the FAFSA, they may lose the opportunity to earn state grant \$. After completing the FAFSA, some students are chosen for FAFSA verification.

*FAFSA completion is listed in case the student changes his/her mind and chooses to attend college. Completing the FAFSA late can result in losing the opportunity to obtain state grant money.