



# Guidance Newsletter

September 2016

## Senior Meetings

Seniors, you will be meeting with your counselor one-on-one in September to discuss planning for the next step after high school. College admission requirements, career options and graduation requirements will be some of the topics covered. Although it is not required, making a list of questions you would like answered would



## College Reps Coming to SCHS

Throughout the school year, various universities, tech schools, cosmetology schools and armed service organizations will visit St. Charles High School. Any student, Freshmen—Senior, can talk with these representatives when they visit. They will have tables set up in the Commons during lunch. Below is a list of schools who are scheduled and the dates they will be on campus. Be sure to check the website for an updated list.



## Upcoming College Visit Weekends

Many campuses set aside certain weekends for prospective students to come and see what their schools are all about. This is a great way for you to visit campuses, meet other prospective and current students, talk with faculty, attend presentations on Financial Aid and look at Study Abroad Opportunities. Listed below are several campuses and their prospective student visit days. Make sure to visit their websites as some require you to register.

### Missouri S & T Discovery Days

9/30, 10/7, 10/10, 10/17, 10/20, 10/24, 10/28, 11/14

### Open House Days

10/8, 11/12

### Truman State

### Open Saturdays

9/17, 10/1, 10/29, 11/12, 12/3,

### Saturday Showcase

9/24, 11/5

### Meet Mizzou Days

10/1, 11/5

### Central Missouri Choose Red Days

9/2, 10/28, 11/14

Red Rock Day

10/8

### SEMO Show Me Days

10/15, 11/12, 11/14

### Missouri State Showcase Open House

9/24

### St. Louis University

Preview Days 10/12, 11/2

Saturday Visits (Register Online)

9/12, 10/3, 11/7,

### UMSL Days

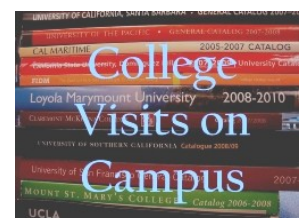
11/14

### Webster Preview Days

10/12, 11/6, 12/5

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| US Army            | 9/6   |
| Columbia College   | 9/8   |
| Navy               | 9/8   |
| Missouri Western   | 9/13  |
| UMSL               | 9/15  |
| Truman University  | 9/16  |
| SEMO               | 9/21  |
| Paul Mitchell      | 9/26  |
| Army               | 9/27  |
| DePaul University  | 9/27  |
| Missouri S & T     | 9/28  |
| Lincoln College    | 9/29  |
| US Army            | 10/3  |
| Lindenwood         | 10/3  |
| University of Iowa | 10/12 |
| Murray State       | 10/17 |
| Mizzou             | 11/3  |

This list gets updated daily, so please check the Guidance website for an updated list.



## PSAT TEST DATE - OCTOBER 19TH!



### Juniors—sign up TODAY!

#### Why take the PSAT?

The PSAT is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19th during the school day and the cost is \$20. Space is limited, so please see Mrs. Finke or your guidance counselor as soon as possible. The PSAT is excellent practice for the ACT and SAT. Students who take the PSAT are automatically considered for a National Merit Scholarship. The PSAT is a no brainer if you are college bound!



### ACT TEST DATES

ACT Test Dates for 2016—2017

Basic Test Fee (No Writing) —\$42.50

Basic Test Fee (With Writing) - \$58.50

Late Registration Fee—\$25.00

School Code: 26250 Test Center Code: 176830

| <u>Test Date</u> | <u>Registration Date</u> | <u>Late Registration</u> |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| October 22       | September 16             | September 17-30          |
| December 10      | November 4               | November 5-18            |
| February 11      | January 13               | January 14-20            |
| April 8          | March 3                  | March 4-17               |
| June 10          | May 5                    | May 6-19                 |



Both the ACT & SAT fulfill the same testing requirement for college admissions, so there is no need to take both. However, if a student feels as though one test is not showcasing their academics and true ability, they can certainly take both.

### Key Differences

The ACT is more popular in the Midwestern states.

The SAT is more popular in coastal states.

However, either should fulfill the testing requirement at a university.

The ACT is comprised of an English, Math, Reading and Science section.

The SAT is comprised of a Critical Reading, Math, and Writing section.

The ACT has an optional writing section available for an additional cost.

The SAT has a required writing portion.

The ACT is structured so that a student takes exams in the following order:

English, Math, Reading, and Science.

The SAT, although only covering three areas (Critical Reading, Math and Writing) is broken up into 10 sections.

This means a student tests on each topic multiple times during the exam.

The ACT is scored out of 36. The SAT out of 2,400.

The ACT math section includes math up to trigonometry.

The SAT only tests through Algebra II.

The SAT is said to focus more on vocabulary than the ACT.

For an extensive list of differences between the New SAT and the ACT go to:

<http://blog.prepscholar.com/new-sat-changes>

# COLLEGE FAIRS

## St. Louis National College Fair

Sunday, October 16  
1:00—4:00 p.m.  
St. Louis University  
Simon Recreation Center

## The 26th Annual St. Charles County Regional College Fair

Thursday, September 22  
6:00—7:30 p.m.  
St. Charles Community College  
College Center

## Performing & Visual Arts College Fair

Sunday, October 25  
1:00—3:00 p.m.  
Webster University—Grant Gymnasium  
Over 70 colleges & universities from  
around the country!  
Register at [www.gotomypvafair.com](http://www.gotomypvafair.com)

## What is FAFSA?

**FAFSA**—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.

**GET A PIN**—The PIN allows you to sign your FAFSA electronically. Apply for your PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). If you are providing parent information on the FAFSA, one of your parents must also sign your application. To sign electronically, your parent should apply for his or her own PIN.



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.

## FAFSA CHANGES!!!!

**SUBMIT A FAFSA EARLIER:** Students will be able to submit a 2017–18 FAFSA as early as Oct. 1, 2016, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit their FAFSAs as early as October 1 every year. (There is NO CHANGE to the 2016–17 schedule. The 2016–17 FAFSA became available Jan. 1, 2016.)

**USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION:** Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information. Here's a summary of key dates for submitting the FAFSA depending on when you plan to go to school:

If you plan to attend college from July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018 you can file your FAFSA as early as **October 1, 2016 using your 2015 tax information.**

For more information go to [StudentAid.gov/fafsa](http://StudentAid.gov/fafsa)



## Senior Dates to Remember

**Senior Class**  
**Panoramic Photograph**  
Class of 2016  
Stadium Photograph  
Mid October—TBA  
10:10—11:00 a.m.  
Gymnasium

**Jostens Informational Meeting**  
Cap & Gown Order Packets  
Delivered  
Wednesday, October 21, 2015  
10:10—11:00 a.m.  
Auditorium

**Cap & Gown Ordering**  
Wednesday, October 28, 2015  
SCHS Lower Commons  
ALL LUNCH SESSIONS

### *Still need to get your Senior Picture Taken?*

Photographers will be at school on

Thursday, October 6, from  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
to take senior pictures.

School is **NOT** in session that day due to  
parent/teacher conferences so your schedule  
should be wide open!



### Where to Look for Scholarships



- On the SCHS Guidance Webpage—A list of scholarships is maintained on the website as they are sent to SCHS from various organizations and businesses.
- At Your College—Visit with the Financial Aid representative at the colleges you are researching. They will be able to direct you to the scholarships available at their institution.
- At your Parents' Employer—Many companies offer scholarship to children of their employees. Have your parents ask their employers if they offer scholarships to graduating Seniors.
- At [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) & [www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)—These are national databases of scholarships for high school and college students. Be ware that you are com-



### 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*.

### Now Hiring

Little Guppy—Afternoon Assistant  
Applicants must be 18 or within a  
month of being 18 years of age.

Apply in person or online at  
[littleguppy.com](http://littleguppy.com)

Little Guppy is located at  
3151 Elm Point Industrial Drive  
St. Charles, MO 63301



### **GUIDANCE STAFF**

**Julie Basler**  
Lead Counselor  
Counselor (A–F)

**Brad Bichel**  
Counselor (G–O)

**Katie Schweitzer**  
Counselor (P–Z)

**Lynn Gunkel**  
Registrar

**Deb Finke**  
Secretary

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