

The Senior Scoop

APRIL, 2018

A Publication of the Counseling Department at Monson High School Just for Seniors

College Countdown...Making the Final Decision



Are you faced with a decision about which school you will attend next fall? Have you been accepted to multiple colleges and don't know which one is best for you? Do you have a variety of financial aid packages from which to choose? If so, you are not alone. April often brings much additional stress and frustration to seniors who don't have a clear first choice college.

First of all, don't panic. Go back to the basics and think about who you are and what you want from a college. Write down what your ideal college looks like and what opportunities you want to be available to you. Now compare these lists with the colleges to which you have been accepted. Which colleges have the most things you desire? If there is no perfect match, begin to look at how many things do match. By looking at each college in an objective way, you may find your answer simply by looking at which school has the most number of things you seek.

Before making a final decision, consider how you will pay for school. If in need of financial aid to help pay for college, which school has the best financial aid package? Compare financial aid offers carefully since packages can vary widely. Look for the college that has significant grant (or free) money as compared to ones that offer you more loans. Don't feel obligated to attend the least expensive college. It may be worthwhile to attend a more expensive school for piece of mind or a better fit.

Make sure to consult with your family, friends, teachers and your counselor when making this decision. By simply discussing the options with another person, solutions sometimes become very clear as different perspectives are often presented.

Take advantage of college programs designed to "sell" you on a school. Visitation or open house programs specifically for accepted students may help you to figure things out. When visiting, make sure to ask questions from everyone whom you come in contact. Stay overnight in a residence hall, read the student newspaper, go to the gym or visit a class to get a feel for how the campus really works.

After all is said and done, sometimes it comes down to a gut instinct. The feeling that a college is the right fit is often unexplainable. Remember that there is no right or wrong choice and that your decision is not necessarily final. The opportunity to transfer to another school is always a possibility if things don't work out. However, if you did your homework in the beginning and only applied to colleges that were a good fit, you will be happy at whatever school you choose.

Are You College Bound in the Fall?

All seniors will participate in new program this year - *So You've Decided Which College to Attend, Now What?*

This program will be held on Friday, May 18 during the special SAP extended session in the cafetorium. Elizabeth Cleary from the Residential Life Office at UMASS Amherst will be the featured speaker. She will talk about how to make the transition to college a smooth and less stressful process.

In addition, recent graduates of MHS who have successfully navigated the college transition will also share their experiences, both good and bad. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

While not all seniors are planning on attending college, the information will be valuable to everyone none-the-less.



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April Scholarship Listing



The Stephen Philips Memorial Scholarship Fund

April 3, 2018/May 1, 2018

The Stephen Philips Memorial Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce the creation of the Western Massachusetts Scholarship Program. This program offers renewable college scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year to students from Western Massachusetts who have financial need, display academic achievement, and have demonstrated through their activities in high school and/or choice of college major a commitment to social justice and/or environmental concerns. Please visit www.phillips-scholarship.org for more information and to obtain an application.

New England Association for College Admission Counseling

April 8, 2018

High School juniors and seniors from NEACAC-member high schools in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont are invited to submit a 500-word essay. For the essay topic and more information please visit: <http://www.neacac.org/essay-contest-information-application> .

Massachusetts Broadcasters Association

April 13, 2018

To apply for this scholarship, a student must be a Massachusetts resident, be enrolled or plan to enroll at an accredited two or four-year school with a major or intention of studying over-the-air broadcasting. The student need not attend school in Massachusetts to be eligible. Applications are available for download at www.MassBroadcasters.org/scholarship .

Junior League of Greater Springfield

April 21, 2018

Applicant must be female; applicant must attend school in Hampshire, Hampden or Franklin County; must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher; complete 20 hours of community service, yearly; submit a letter of reference from a current volunteer supervisor. Please see The Counseling Office for an application.

Marine Corp League Scholarship

April 30, 2018

Must have a relative who has served in the United States Marine Corps or as a Navy Corpsman with a Marine Unit for more than 90 days. Please see the Counseling Office to obtain an application.

The William B. Menard Memorial Scholarship Program

May 10, 2018

This scholarship is open to current high school seniors through college juniors entering or continuing at a four-year college or university, with home addresses in the states of MA or CT, who are interested in studying gold management and/or pursuing a career in the golf industry. Please see The Counseling Office to obtain an application.

Abbot and Fenner Scholarship Program

June 14, 2018

The A&F Scholarships are available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in any accredited post-secondary institution. Various scholarships are available. Please visit <http://www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm> .

The Law Offices of Mark E. Salomone For Road Safety

August 15, 2018

Must be a current or admitted student at an undergraduate institution or law school in the United States. For more information and to apply please visit: www.marksalomone.com/scholarship .

The 2017 Aspiring Nurse Scholarship

August 31, 2018

This scholarship competition is open to all U.S. high school seniors who plan to pursue college education in nursing, including LPN/LVN, AND, and BSN programs. Application and more information is available by going to: <http://www.nursingschoolsalmanac.com/articles/2017-aspiring-nurse-scholarship>.

AES Scholarship

October 6, 2018

The consulting firm of AES Engineers is committed to continuing its support of higher education by providing scholarships to deserving students. This award is available to all students, regardless of their field of study. To be eligible the student needs to answer one of the essay questions that they will find on our site at <http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm>. We are offering a scholarship that will be awarded on the basis of character, as determined by evaluating the essays that are submitted. Amount of award: **\$500.00**