

The Senior Scoop

APRIL, 2017

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 Monday, May 15 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 Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund

April 3, 2017

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund offers renewable, 4-year scholarships to student with financial need who display academic excellence, a desire to make a meaningful contribution to society, and strong citizenship and character. Download the 2017 application at www.phillips-scholarship.org

New England Association for College Admission Counseling

April 8, 2017

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>.

Wing Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Inc.

April 15, 2017

Is pleased to offer a one year scholarship in the amount of \$750.00 to a student planning to enter the medical field. Examples of careers that are considered –nursing, medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, radiology, and medical technology. Please see Counseling Office for a copy of the application.

The Ann and Tony Odierna Community Service Award

April 15, 2017

All students from any middle school through high school or Grades 6-12 (public or private) in Hampden County of Western MA are eligible. Information and directions about this scholarship are available at www.tonyahockey.com by clicking on **Community Service Award** (please examine all four headings).

Marine Corp League Scholarship

April 30, 2017

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 Counseling Office to obtain an application.

League Foundation GBQ Scholarship

April 30, 2017

Be graduating from high school in the year he / she applies for a scholarship; be a United States Citizen; be attending an accredited college, university, or vocational school within the United States or Canada. Proof of acceptance is required; provide an OFFICIAL copy of his / her high school transcript showing a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better using a 4.0 scale or equivalent. Please visit www.leaguefoundation.org for an application and more information.

Pioneer Valley Women's Running Club Annual Scholarship

April 30, 2017

PVWRC is a civic-minded club that hopes to support a female runner in its local community through this annual scholarship fund. The scholarship aims to reward a well-rounded, intelligent, civic-minded, college-bound high school senior who's passionate about running. Please visit <http://www.pvwrc.org/about/>.

The William B. Menard Memorial Scholarship Program

May 1, 2017

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 Counseling Office to obtain an application.

B. Davis Scholarship

May 22, 2017

This Scholarship is available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in any post-secondary institution. For more information please visit <http://www.studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm>.

Abbot and Fenner Scholarship Program

June 12, 2017

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>.

2017 Horatio Alger Association Career & Technical Scholarship Program

June 15, 2017

This program provides financial assistance to students throughout the nation who have financial need and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity. Scholarship criteria also include high school completion by spring of 2017, **commitment to pursue and complete a career or technical certificate/degree**, and United States citizenship. For more information or to obtain an application please visit <http://www.application.horatioalger.org>.

The 2017 Aspiring Nurse Scholarship

June 30, 2017

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>.