

Holyoke High School

Guidance News

Financial Aid Information for Seniors:

FAFSA Day Massachusetts (formerly **College Goal Sunday**) – **January 29th**, is designed for people who are applying to college for the 2012-2013 school year and need help completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). **One-on-one assistance will be offered at Holyoke Community College between 2:00-4:00 P.M.** For help with the CSS Profile, and/or the Community Foundation Scholarship Application appointments are available from 10:00 to 2:00 PM. For further information on what to bring with you contact: Robin Rondeau (413-552-2092) or Karen Derouin (413-552-2248). **HHS students should register for this event in the cafeteria on January 17, 23, and 24.**

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Avanza-2-College is a parent and student informational program offered six nights during the school year at Holyoke High School, William J. Dean Technical, Holyoke Community College, and the Picknelly Adult & Family Education Center (Transportation Center, Maple Street). Holyoke High School has a unique partnership with Holyoke Community College that offers Admissions, Financial Aid, and Program information and assistance for students applying to college. For further information contact the HHS Guidance Department or Harold Santiago at HCC Admissions Office (413-552-2579). Upcoming sessions:

“What is FAFSA?”

January 19, 2012

**Picknelly Adult & Family Education Center
At the New Transportation Center, Maple St., Holyoke
Time: 6-8 P.M.**

“What’s My Next Step in the FAFSA Process?”

February 16, 2012

**Holyoke High School
6-8 P.M.**

“Electronically Submit Your FAFSA Today”

March 22, 2012

**Picknelly Adult & Family Education Center
At the New Transportation Center, Maple St., Holyoke
Time: 6-8 P.M.**

VOC GEAR-UP is currently accepting new students in grades 9-11, in their **college readiness program** which operates year-round and is based at HHS in the library. Please see Lisa Pisano or Mariela Agosta to apply.

SAT Exams

Test dates and sites in the area are listed on the [SAT Schedule](#) link on our main page. Registration materials are available in the Guidance Department or register online at <http://sat.collegeboard.com/register> The SAT exam fee is \$49.00 but you may be eligible for a fee waiver – see your guidance counselor. College-bound juniors should be thinking about signing up for one of the exams given before the end of the school year. HHS is a test site for December and June. There are exams given each month at other area schools – check the above schedule for locations and dates.

Test-Optional Colleges:

Most 4-year state colleges and universities still require students to submit SAT or ACT scores, but there are a growing number of private colleges that have dropped the requirement for standardized tests and instead look closely at the high school courses taken and grades, including the GPA, as well as a student's essay, life experience, or portfolio. To find test-optional colleges visit Fair Test at: <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional/state>

A new Planning For College Website:

The Guidance Department at Holyoke High School is pleased to announce that we have started using a new online program to help students prepare for higher education and their future career. Click the "[**Your Plan For College**](#)" link to access this wonderful tool that will help students prepare for tests such as the SAT, MCAS, and Accuplacer. The "Your Plan for College" site compares different colleges, uses assessment tools, and helps students create their academic resume needed for senior year. Students will also be able to use this website to help determine the college that best suits them. Contact your guidance counselor for more information. This program is for students and parents.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Homework House provides free after-school tutoring and mentoring for children in grades K to 8 at two locations in Holyoke. The program, operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, is **looking for high school honor students** to volunteer a few hours a week as homework tutors and role models for the younger students. Contact: 413-265-1017 or hpdroholyoke@gmail.com or www.homeworkhouseholyoke.org

Baystate Health Center in Springfield is accepting high school volunteers who are interested in the health profession. All volunteers are pre-screened before being placed in an assignment. Applicants must be able to speak, read and write basic English as interviews and orientations are held in English. Candidates are required to commit to once a week for a minimum of three hours, over a six months period. If interested, speak to your guidance counselor for an application

GET INVOLVED - It is never too late to get involved at Holyoke High School. Integrating yourself into the high school community will help you learn more about yourself, and connect you to other students as well as staff members. Join class fundraising efforts, attend school events, become a member of a club, or go out for one of our athletic teams. Holyoke High School provides an opportunity to explore new activities and continue ones you like. In addition, colleges and universities are looking for well-rounded students who have more to offer than a stellar academic record. Admissions officers look beyond GPA and test scores to see what other activities have been part of the student's life.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I arrange to talk to my counselor? Drop in to the Guidance Office and make an appointment by listing your name and homeroom on the appointment signup sheet at the podium. Or email your counselor directly. It's a great way to get a fast response.

Mr. González, rgonzalez@hps.holyoke.ma.us Mrs. Horton, nhorton@hps.holyoke.ma.us
Mrs. Izquierdo, kizquierdo@hps.holyoke.ma.us Mrs. Nadeau, pnadeau@hps.holyoke.ma.us
Mr. O'Connor, goconnor@hps.holyoke.ma.us

What is Holyoke High School's "school code" or "CEEB code"? 221018

How do I get a transcript sent? Pick up a Transcript Release Form and submit it to your counselor or our guidance secretary, Ms. Marilyn Sanabria. The forms are available to print from our website.

Can I communicate with my child's teachers electronically? This year teachers at HHS have begun using a pilot program called **EDLINE** to facilitate communication between teachers and parents using a secure online website. As more and more teachers become familiar with the program parents will be able to login and quickly access information about their students' classes, activities, homework, grades, test dates, missing assignments, and much more. Parents who are interested in using EDLINE should contact the Guidance Office to receive their activation codes

What is the *Scholarship Wall*? It's a large bulletin board in the Guidance Office where we post information on current scholarship opportunities. Seniors should be checking it weekly to see if there is something they could apply for. Each scholarship is referenced to a file in a nearby cabinet where a paper application or more information can be found. If you can't find something ask one of the guidance aides or see your counselor.

Are there any scholarships for juniors and underclassmen? Yes. Here's one. The Christian A. Herter Memorial Scholarship Program is sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and targets 10th and 11th graders who demonstrate strong academic promise, financial need, and who may be disadvantaged by socio-economic background or difficult personal circumstances. An essay is required. See your counselor for more information. Deadline is March 1, 2012.

Summer Program Opportunities:

The Holyoke Youth Conservation Corps are looking for youth, ages 15-17, interested in learning and working outdoors during the summer. Part-time positions are available to work on environmental projects around the City of Holyoke and on other Trustees of Reservations properties in the area. If interested, contact their office at 193 High Street, tel. # 413-532-1631 ext. 11, or email kpreissler@ttor.org

The National Student Leadership Foundation is looking for qualified students to attend their annual **National Student Leadership Conferences** held at major universities in Washington DC, New York, and other cities during the summer. These are career-focused leadership programs for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students who have demonstrated academic excellence, extracurricular involvement and leadership potential. Visit www.nslcleadership.org for more information. If interested, speak to your guidance counselor to see if you qualify for nomination.

The **Catalyst Academy** is a one-week summer residential program for rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors held at **Cornell University** in Ithaca, NY – about 4½ hours drive from Holyoke. The mission of the program is to advance diversity in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. Minorities are encouraged to apply and financial assistance is available. Deadline to apply is March 1st. Complete an online application at <http://www.engineering.cornell.edu/diversity/office-diversity-programs/summer-programs/highschool-programs/index.cfm> or speak to your counselor, if interested.

The **National Youth Leadership Forum** offers a number of residential programs for high school students at colleges in Washington DC, Boston, Massachusetts and Connecticut at which students attend educational forums in one of four fields: Medicine, Law and CSI Investigation, National Security, and Collegiate Success. Programs last from 4 to 10 days. Students must have a 3.3 GPA and career goals consistent with the programs offered. Scholarships are available to those who qualify. Speak to your counselor by early February if interested in being nominated.

PricewaterhouseCooper (PwC) at Bryant University in Rhode Island offers a week-long residential program for Latino/a and African American or Black rising high school seniors to learn more about the accounting profession. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale) and have completed Algebra II by the end of their junior year. The application is quite involved, including an essay, and the deadline is March 1. Please see your counselor for more information.

Holyoke Community College:

Acceptance to the **ADN (Registered Nursing Program)** program at HCC is selective and space limited. Students who complete the two-year ADN program are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN exam to become a Registered Nurse (RN). To learn more about this program and its requirements, we strongly recommend that you attend a Nursing information session. Each session lasts approximately one hour and is conducted by a member of the admissions office and a representative from the Nursing Department. Monthly Nursing Information Sessions are held in Frost Bldg. Rm. 309. For more information, contact Kathy Santos at (413) 552-2467, or ksantos@hcc.edu.
