

New from the Guidance Department
SENIORS, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW!

1. **Welcome back**, we missed you!

- Congratulations on making it to this milestone. We are looking forward to your leadership this year!!
- We want to help you in continuing your plans for the year/s beyond high school – **please schedule your senior meeting with your guidance counselor starting the week of September 18th. Plan on your meeting lasting approximately one hour.**
- During the senior meeting we will discuss the process for:
 - Asking for letters of recommendation
 - Requesting transcripts

2. First priority for senior meetings will be given to students applying to four-year colleges with emphasis on Early Decision (ED) or Early Action (EA).

- Some of you, who are anxious to get started, should begin by making your senior meeting appointment first in order to receive a Blue Senior Folder.
- Those of you who are not planning to go to a four year college, your process might be simpler.
- **Regardless of your plan, all seniors should have a scheduled senior meeting prior to the end of the 1st quarter marking period.**

3. The Guidance Office will be distributing “**Senior Memos**” on a regular basis through advisory and via email. The memos are also posted online. They contain critical info on college open houses, college fairs, colleges visiting guidance, financial aid information and guidance deadlines.

4. If you have not already done so, please log-on to **Naviance using your PowerSchool student username and password**. Naviance is a tool for helping you to explore career and post-secondary plans. We also use Naviance to share the list of colleges coming to visit KHS. You should check the list often, as it is updated daily. You may sign up to meet various college representatives through Naviance and you can ask your classroom teacher for a pass to come to Guidance for the short meeting. Your teachers understand that the meetings with reps are a priority for college planning purposes. Please let us know if you have a concern about missing a particular class. Note: this is an EXCELLENT opportunity for you to have a face to face meeting with a person who is likely to be reviewing your application for admission.

5. **Upcoming college fairs** in our area which you should consider attending:

- University of Southern Maine College Fair, Tuesday, September 26 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Sullivan Gymnasium on the PORTLAND campus.
- University of New Hampshire College Fair, Monday, October 2 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Lundholm Gymnasium in the Field House on the Durham campus.
- A list of colleges and universities attending each of these fairs may be found on the NEACAC website at <http://www.neacac.org/fall-fair-schedule>.

6. Seniors going to four-year colleges should plan to repeat the SAT at least once and could also consider taking the ACT. See the testing schedule for this year on the back side of this sheet.

SAT Test Dates for 2017-2018 <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>	<u>Late Registration (added fee)</u>
October 7	September 8	September 27
November 4	October 5	October 25
December 2	November 2	November 21
March 10	February 9	February 28

ACT Test Dates for 2017-2018 www.actstudent.org

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>	<u>Late Registration (added fee)</u>
September 9	August 4	August 5-18
October 28	September 22	September 23-October 6
December 9	November 3	November 4-17
February 10	January 12	January 13-19
April 14	March 9	March 10-23
June 9	May 4	May 5-18

7. If you are a student who receives free or reduced lunch, please notify your counselor as you may be eligible for **fee waivers** for both standardized tests and college application fees.

8. Athletes - see Mr. Schwartzman if you are planning to play sports at the college level (NCAA Division 1 and 2 and NAIA).

9. You are required to have successfully completed **24 credits** and **30 hours of community service** in order to graduate. You must also be scheduled for 6 classes each semester to be considered a full-time student. Please check all of the above at the beginning of the school year to be sure you are on track to graduate in June.

All students should establish an appropriate email address (preferred RSU email address) for corresponding with colleges. Please provide your guidance counselor with your email information. **Please check your email regularly.**

Click [HERE](#) to see a list of colleges visiting KHS this fall.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT APPLYING FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID:

Completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* is required to apply for state and federal financial assistance for higher education. The FAFSA for the 2018 – 2019 school year **will be available online beginning October 1, 2017** at www.fafsa.gov. Most families can complete the FAFSA in less than 30 minutes.

In addition to the following information about the FAFSA, some private schools require an additional form called the CSS Profile. The Profile can be found on the College Board website (www.collegeboard.org). Please see your guidance counselor with questions.

GET YOUR FSA ID EARLY:

The FSA ID is the user name and password students use to access all federal student aid websites, including [FAFSA.gov](http://fafsa.gov). All students need an FSA ID. Dependent students will also need one parent to have an FSA ID in order to sign the FAFSA. We strongly recommend that students (and one parent, if applicable) create their FSA ID ahead of time. Go to fsaid.ed.gov to create an FSA ID and use FAME's [FSA ID Information Tracking Sheet](#) to keep track of FSA ID information.

GETTING HELP WITH THE FAFSA

FAME (Finance Authority of Maine) provides ***free*** step-by-step support to assist students and families in filling out the FAFSA application for financial assistance for higher education.

Contact FAME:

- Call: 1-800-228-3734
- Email: education@famemaine.com
- Connect with them on [Facebook](#)

Online Help:

FAME offers FAFSA help online. Learn what documents and information you need to gather [before you file](#), what steps you need to take to [fill out the FAFSA](#), and what you need to do to [follow up after you file](#). See more at: <http://www.famemaine.com/education/topics/filing-the-fafsa/#sthash.GZSfhPdm.dpuf>

In-person FAFSA Help Session at the following locations:

- **Biddeford Center for Technology on October 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.**
- **Sanford Regional Technology Center on October 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.**

Though many schools have priority filing deadlines, some types of aid (like Federal Pell Grants) may be available after those deadlines. File your FAFSA even if you've missed your school's priority filing deadline.

The schools you listed on your FAFSA will receive your FAFSA information electronically.