

Guidance Notes for Juniors and Seniors

By Debra J. Anderson, H.S. Guidance Counselor

December 8, 2011

*Please note: In an effort to be more efficient, I will place future Guidance Notes on the school webpage at <http://www.centralcityschoolsne.org>. Simply go to the **High School** tab, to **Guidance** (along the left hand side of the screen), and then to **Guidance Notes**. As always, I would like to visit with you if you have any questions. The best way to contact me is at 308-946-3086 or by email at djanders@esu7.org.*

EducationQuest

Perhaps you would like to visit the EducationQuest Foundation Office with your son or daughter. You may call and make an appointment at 800-666-3721 (for the Kearney office), 800-303-3745 (for the Lincoln office), or 888-357-6300 (for the Omaha office). If you have e-mail available, sign up through the EducationQuest Foundation for the free **Countdown to College** e-mail service for monthly planning tips (for students grades 9 -12 and parents). The EducationQuest Foundation webpage also offers an on-line activities resume for students to keep their achievements current, a college-search, and scholarship matches. All of this and more can be accessed online at www.educatioquest.org.

The Nebraska Career Information System

The **Nebraska Career Information System** is full of interest inventories, occupational information, and links to colleges across the nation. Please take time to check NCIS out. If you do not have the Internet, you are welcome to use a computer in the public library, school library, or in my office. Here is the information that you will need for Internet NCIS:

URL: <http://necis.intocareers.org>

NEW USERNAME: 09centralhs

NEW PASSWORD: H005709

Most of our students already have a Personal Learning Plan established and can log in at:

URL: <http://necis.intocareers.org>

USERNAME: (first four letters of their first name, first six letters of their last name)

PASSWORD: (first initial, last initial, student ID number)

Besides the Nebraska Career Information System, Education Quest has listings of scholarships through Scholarship Quest at www.educationquest.org. Fast Web allows students to search for over 600,000 scholarships at www.fastweb.com.

Testing

Our 10th grade students just received the results of the **PLAN Test**. Our students did very well when compared to other students across the nation. We also discussed the benefits of further education.

Twenty-eight sophomores and juniors took the **PSAT** in October. The PSAT is aligned with the SAT college entrance exam. National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists are selected through this test. PSAT results will be given to our students this week.

ASSET and **COMPASS Tests** (ASSET on the computer) are given by the community colleges and technical schools. Call the admissions and testing office to set up the test with the community college a few weeks ahead of time. The test itself will take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. It is often good to combine the testing with a scheduled tour of the community college and its programs.

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors possibly interested in entering the military should take the **ASVAB** or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. This test is required for students interested in any branch of the Armed Services. The ASVAB also includes a great career assessment, to help students have a better idea of what their interests are. Contact me if you would like to take the ASVAB at school. The ASVAB will be given at CCHS on Thursday February 2nd at 8 am. This is a day when students will not be in school, but teachers will be here for In-Service.

Many seniors who are college bound have already taken the **ACT**. The December test date is the last date that will typically meet scholarship guidelines (October test date for Wayne State). It is very important to know if a certain ACT score is needed for acceptance into a specific college or program of study that a student may be wishing to pursue. College bound juniors (and some gifted sophomores) will choose to take the ACT a number of times this school year. College bound students should take the ACT three or more times, to have the best composite score.

ACT has an optional Writing Test. Students should plan to take the Writing Assessment also if they have excellent writing skills and wish to demonstrate these to prospective colleges or if the college the student is interested in attending recommends it. At this point most colleges in Nebraska do not require the optional writing test, but to be sure, a student may log onto www.actstudent.org to check the recommendations for specific colleges.

Some of our seniors are also planning to take the **SAT** Reasoning Test. (Few schools in this area require the SAT Subject Tests.) Some students score even better on the SAT than on the ACT, depending on their particular strengths. Some out-of-state schools require the SAT instead of the ACT. Most Nebraska colleges will use either an ACT or SAT score. Scholarship committees and colleges always ask for the best scores that a student has achieved, even if a student has taken the ACT or SAT a number of times.

With both the ACT and SAT deadlines are very important. If a student chooses to register after a registration deadline, there are additional costs. I have registration materials available in my office. Students may also register for the ACT online at www.actstudent.org or the SAT at www.collegeboard.com, but they **must** remember to put in our high school code which is **280-440**.

Test	Test Date	Registration Deadline
ACT	December 10	November 4
ACT	February 11	January 13
ACT	April 14	March 9
ACT	June 9	May 4
SAT	October 1	September 9
SAT	November 5	October 7
SAT	December 3	November 8
SAT	January 28	December 30
SAT	March 10	February 10
SAT	May 5	April 6
SAT	June 2	May 8

All students who plan to take the ACT or SAT should complete at least one practice test prior to testing. These are free to students and are available in my office, including a number of them from different years. Also, if a student goes to their Personal Learning Plan in the Nebraska Career Information System, there are excellent materials available to study from Peterson's online, free of charge.

John Baylor (who is also the radio voice of Husker Volleyball, and a Nebraska celebrity) has a test prep website that can be very helpful. A few years back he came to CCHS and presented his ACT Prep course to some of our students. Now his course is online, available at your convenience. Go to www.johnbaylortestprep.com to check this out. There is a cost for his course.

General College Information

College representatives and military recruiters have been visiting our school periodically. This gives our students an excellent opportunity to receive information regarding the specific college or military branch that is represented. College bound students may also check out colleges online. Website addresses may be found in the booklet called the College Prep Handbook or through the Nebraska Career Information System.

Juniors and seniors need to visit the colleges that they are interested in during the school year. A college visit while CCHS is in session is considered an excused absence or a "white slip" activity, however, these still count against a student's attendance for the semester. College visits do not count for early out purposes in May when documented with the office though. Simply call the Admissions Office of the college that you wish to visit a few weeks ahead of time to schedule a tour.

Juniors and seniors find it extremely helpful to visit colleges in person. Some colleges ask that students come to open houses. Others just ask that you call two to three weeks ahead of time and schedule an appointment for a tour. While visiting, students usually get to meet staff members, see the dorms, take a closer look at academic programs, and attend extracurricular activities. Oftentimes appointments may be made with advisors, fine arts directors, or coaches. Inquire about scholarships and financial aid specific to the schools when you visit.

Juniors and seniors can apply to community colleges and trade schools. Students must be seniors to apply for admission at 4 year colleges.

Specific Community College Information

I have received information about some of the programs of study that are popular to take and that fill up quickly at some of the Community Colleges around the state. At Southeast Community College in Lincoln the programs that fill quickly and require special admission standards are: Microcomputers; Graphic Design, Practical Nursing; and Associates Degree of Nursing. At Southeast Community College in Milford these programs include: Building Construction; Architecture; Auto Collision; Computer Programming; and Automotive Technology. At Northeast Community College in Norfolk, admission to the Utility Lineman, Ag Diesel Mechanics, Auto Body, Electromechanical, and Automotive courses are often limited. Their Nursing and Vet Tech programs are selective and limited also.

Central Community College prides itself in not having waiting lists, however, please be advised that some of the health related programs are competitive and require special admissions standards (for more information, please contact the Admissions Office soon). These programs include Associates Degree of Nursing and Practical Nursing at the Grand Island and Columbus campuses. They also include the competitive programs of Medical Laboratory Technician, Health Information Management (Medical Records), Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, and Medical Assisting located on the Hastings campus.

If it is a community college that the student is interested in, it would be best to schedule a tour and also a time for COMPASS or ASSET Testing. Monday through Thursday visits are generally the best days of the week to visit community colleges. Juniors who are interested in any of the programs of study that fill up quickly should apply right away and not wait until their senior year to do so.

NCAA/NAIA

Any senior interested in participating in intercollegiate Division I or Division II athletics will need to complete a NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse Application online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. The cost is \$60. This process should be started and the fees sent in by first semester for seniors. I would be happy to assist with this.

Any student interested in NAIA athletics should visit www.PlayNAIA.org.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Juniors and seniors who receive Resource Services and who are on an IEP may wish to inquire about how Vocational Rehabilitation Services may assist with further career exploration, financial aid, and college. You may contact the Vocational Rehabilitation Office at 3335 West Capital Avenue, Grand Island, NE 68803 at 308-385-6200 or 800-862-3382.

Scholarships and Opportunities

Please remember that in general the very best scholarships come from the colleges themselves. **Apply to the colleges** that you are interested in first semester and thoroughly research their scholarship opportunities (via the internet, college brochures, and college financial aid offices). Academic awards are given to recruit scholars. Students hoping for an academic scholarship should rank high in their class (generally the top 20%), and have a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Colleges also want to attract students for their specific talents. Athletes are recruited by coaches and must meet eligibility requirements. Performance scholarships in the fine arts are judged on auditions. Art students must submit portfolios. More recently, colleges have been scouting for leadership. Leadership awards are based on involvement, e.g. offices held during high school. Students wanting leadership awards should work on resumes that include their school and community activities.

Make sure that you apply for the **Merrick Foundation Scholarships** and other local scholarships. Our community has been very generous to our youth with scholarships in the past.

Plan to have your parents complete their taxes by mid-February and submit a **FAFSA** for grants and low interest loans.

If you are planning to attend a publicly supported college in Nebraska (like a community college, state college, UNL, UNO, or UNK), make sure that you also apply for the **Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship** which is due on March 1st. FAFSA results are required for this generous scholarship, which was offered to 5 of our seniors last year and 9 of our seniors the year before.

National and state scholarships are usually offered by large companies such as Wal-Mart, Target, etc. Because these scholarships are offered nationwide, the competition is extremely high and the odds of being a finalist are low.

Scholarships through Colleges:

Art, Music, Dance, Theatre Arts, and Special Talent Auditions and Showings for scholarships are common among colleges. Contact the colleges that you are interested in attending to inquire about such opportunities. They normally begin in the fall and usually continue into the winter months.

Private colleges encourage students to apply early in the academic year. Scholarships are often awarded on the basis of class rank, standardized test scores, diversity, talent, leadership, and church membership.

Concordia University – Applications should be in during first semester if possible. Certain scholarships are offered as part of the application process. Athletic and special skill scholarships are also available.

Creighton University – Students who submit their application and all required credentials by the scholarship deadline of January 6, 2012 will be considered for academic scholarships. Applicants who satisfy specific eligibility requirements for prestigious scholarships are mailed additional information and forms at the time of acceptance.

Doane College – Rolling admission. A general scholarship application, which is included as part of the application process, is based on ACT or SAT scores and class rank. Applications should be in during first semester. Athletic and special skill scholarships are also available.

Hastings College - Major scholarships include Walter Scott, Trustee, President, and Pro Rege Scholarships. Students interested in scholarships should apply first semester.

Midland Lutheran College has a number of scholarships based on various criteria. Apply early.

Nebraska Wesleyan University has a number of scholarship opportunities. Only ACT and SAT scores of tests taken through December will be considered for scholarship purposes.

Check out the **Midwest Student Exchange Program** if you are interested in attending an out-of-state college in Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, or Wisconsin.

The NSCS Advantage Program is for students who plan to attend Wayne, Chadron, or Peru State College, are Federal Pell Grant recipients, and are enrolled full time. These awards are made automatically if the student applies to college by the deadline, submits their FAFSA, and qualifies for a Pell Grant. Simply go to www.nscs.edu; then click on the Students button; and then NSCS Advantage for more information.

The **Peru State College** scholarship priority deadline is January 15, 2012.

The main deadline for **Wayne State College** scholarships was December 1, 2011, however seniors meeting specific guidelines may still apply for the Board of Trustees Scholarship at www.nscs.edu (January 15, 2012), and the Davis-Chamber Freshman Scholarship for academically promising high school students at www.nscs.edu (February 1, 2012).

The Board of Trustees Scholarship - The Nebraska State College System's Board of Trustees offers this scholarship to students who will be attending Wayne, Chadron, or Peru State College. To apply, you must score at least 25 on the ACT or 1130 on the SAT, be a graduating senior from a Nebraska high school, be a resident of Nebraska and enroll as a full-time college student in the fall semester following your high school graduation. This scholarship provides full tuition, renewable for 4 years. To apply for this scholarship - Obtain a Board of Trustees Scholarship application at www.nscs.edu and read and follow the application instructions carefully. Submit your completed application to the board office by the deadline of January 15, 2012.

The Davis-Chambers Scholarship is for students who wish to attend Wayne, Chadron, or Peru State College who have a B average, and have completed and submitted an estimated FAFSA. The deadline is February 1, 2012. Apply at www.nscs.edu.

Collegebound Nebraska provides an amazing opportunity for students with financial need. Nebraska students are guaranteed total grant assistance equal to, or greater than, the full cost of tuition to UNL, UNO, or UNK provided they are accepted to the University, complete the FAFSA by April 1 of each year, complete the financial aid process by June 1, and are found to be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant (federal grants for students from low-income families). Go to <http://collegeboundnebraska.com/> for more information.

The deadline to apply for admission and be considered for **University of Nebraska in Lincoln** general scholarships is January 15, 2012. Check out all of the available scholarships through your student account. Also complete a **Personal Statement** (as outlined on their website at www.unl.edu) so that it can be received by this date in order to be considered for service, leadership, and diversity scholarships. The **UNL Honors Program** has a final application deadline of March 1, 2012. If you are interested in attending UNL and becoming involved with the Honors program you can find an application at www.admissions.unl.edu/academics. Recommendation forms in support of your application are also required. Students interested in UNL with at least a 29 ACT and ranked in the top 10% of the class should apply.

Applications to the **University of Nebraska at Kearney** are due by February 1, 2012 for general scholarships. Check out the Health Science Scholars Program, the NU Paths Program, the Multicultural Community Service Scholarship, the Peter Kiewit Foundation Educators Opportunity Scholarship, and the Davis-Chamber Scholarship to complete special requirements for additional scholarship opportunities. There is also a special form to complete by February 1, 2012 for the **UNK Honors Program**, if you have an ACT score of 27 or higher and if you rank in the top quarter of your class.

Applications to the **University of Nebraska at Omaha** must be submitted by February 1, 2012 in order to be considered for scholarships. There are also **Goodrich Scholarships** for those students who are planning to attend UNO with a financial need. They are due on February 1, 2012.

Northeast Community College – has one scholarship application for their main scholarships and the deadline is February 1, 2012.

Central Community College – Apply for admission to CCC by mid-January if you have an ACT of 21 or higher. A separate application for the ACT Advantage Scholarship will be mailed from CCC to your home and must be completed by February 15, 2012. Apply by March 1, 2012 online for the **CCC General Scholarship**. Make sure to complete the Tech Prep scholarship portion also – because we are a Tech Prep school. If you are interested in taking a CCC class this summer, you should apply for the **CCC Summer Scholarship** by April 20, 2012.

Southeast Community College Scholarships are available for seniors planning to attend SCC in Lincoln, Beatrice, or Milford at <https://scc.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com> or go to www.southeast.edu and go to financial aid and scholarships. Follow the directions closely. There is a March 1, 2012 deadline.

Many community colleges offer the **TRIO Program**. It is for students who have low income, or who have a documented learning disability/ physical disability. Students in the TRIO program are assigned a coordinator who assists the students in personal, social, and academic growth.

The **College of Hair Design** in Lincoln has scholarships available for those interested in attending their school.

Other Scholarships:

The **NFIB Young Entrepreneur Awards** were created to highlight the critical role that private enterprise and entrepreneurship play in the building of America. The application is available online at www.nfib.com/yef/yef-programs/young-entrepreneur-awards. The deadline is December 15, 2011.

Discover Colleges provides a free private college information service as well as a \$2,500 private scholarship drawing. Students simply log onto www.discovercolleges.com to request information and automatically be entered in the scholarship drawing.

The Christian Connector provides a free Christian college information service as well as a \$2,500 Christian college scholarship drawing. Students simply log onto www.christianconnector.com to request information and automatically be entered in the scholarship drawing.

The **US Bank Internet Scholarship Program** runs through March 2012. Forty \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to students who plan to attend a two or four year college in a random drawing. We have had students awarded these scholarships before! Apply online at usbank.com/scholarship.

The **Donna Reed Foundation** often has awards for students in the fine arts. Simply visit www.donnareed.org for more information.

For information about the **Hispanic Scholarship Fund** go to www.hsf.net.

Any student with a home telephone line through **Great Plains Communications** (Archer or Chapman exchange) may wish to check out all of the scholarships that they offer. Contact Counselor Anderson for more information.

The Elks National Emergency Educational Grants are for children of deceased or disabled Elks members. Information about this may be found at www.elks.org/enf/scholars/downloadmvs.cfm.

The **Nebraska Elks Association Vocational Scholarship** application is due in January. Parents of students applying for this scholarship do not need to be members of the Elks Association. You may pick up this application from Counselor Anderson. Other Elks scholarship applications may be found at www.elks.org/enf/scholars/downloadmvs.cfm.

The **World War II Scholarship** deadline is in January. Contact me if you are interested.

Burger King Scholars Program is for students who work a minimum of 10 hours per week, are involved in community service activities, and have a financial need. To learn more about this opportunity go to www.haveyourwayfoundation.org/bksp_scholarship_eligibility.html. The deadline is January 10, 2012.

Scholarships are available for students who have MS or whose parent has MS through the **Multiple Sclerosis Society**. For more information visit www.nationalmssociety.org or call 800-344-4867. The deadline is January 13, 2012.

National Honor Society has a national competition for scholarship money. If you are in the CCHS Chapter of National Honor Society and have completed extensive service to the community, please contact me. The scholarship deadline is January 20, 2012.

The **Norma Ross Walter Scholarship** application is for women who intend to major in English. The deadline is January 27, 2012.

Make sure that you apply for the **Merrick Foundation Scholarships**, which became available toward the end of November and for any other local scholarships. Our community has been very generous to our youth with scholarships in the past. Simply go to www.merrick-foundation.org to Scholarships and to Seniors Scholarship Application. In order to be considered for the most scholarships you must submit your application online, and mail in two recommendation forms, a head and shoulders senior picture, and typically the completed and signed Financial Need Information form. The deadline for all materials is February 1, 2012.

The **Elks National Foundation Legacy Awards** application is due February 1, 2012. Legacy Awards are four-year, \$4,000 scholarships. A parent or grandparent of a student applying for this scholarship must be a member of the Elks. Elks scholarship applications may be found at www.elks.org/enf/scholars/downloadmvs.cfm.

Check out the **KFC Scholarship** at www.kfcscholars.org. It is for students planning to attend a 4 year public college or university. The Deadline is February 8, 2012.

NMC is pleased to offer students an opportunity to attend CCC in Hastings for students hoping to become diesel technicians through two separate programs; the NMC Student Sponsorship Program and the Caterpillar Foundation Scholarship. The NMC program allows Caterpillar numerous sponsorships and provides funds to cover tuition and book fees along with a tool and toolbox allowance. This is worth an estimated \$14,000 to selected students. Five \$1,000 scholarships will also be awarded. Deadline is February 10, 2012.

If you are interested in cooperative education and attending a college or university out of state, you may want to look into the **National Co-op Scholarships**. For complete information go to www.co-op.edu. These \$6,000 scholarships are renewable with a value of \$4,200,000. The deadline is February 15, 2012.

For **American Legion Scholarships** go to or www.vets.state.ne.us. If your parent or stepparent was in the military or a veteran and is now deceased or disabled due to military involvement, please contact the nearest County Veterans Service Officer.

The **Nebraska American Legion Scholarships** with a March 1 deadline include the Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship, the Maynard Jensen Memorial Scholarship, Baseball Player of the Year Scholarships, and the Jim Hurlbert Memorial Baseball Scholarship. Contact Counselor Anderson for information or go to www.nebraskalegion.net.

The **American Legion Auxiliary** has a number of scholarships that are due by March 1, 2012. Go to www.nebraskalegionaux.net to find more information about their scholarships for students who are veteran connected,

junior members, former Girls State participants, enrolling in a vocational school, or interested in nursing. I also have copies of the scholarships available in my office.

If you are planning to attend a publicly supported college in Nebraska (like a community college, Wayne State, Chadron State, Peru State, UNL, UNO, or UNK) and you have some financial need, make sure that you also apply for the **Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship** at <http://www.buffettscholarships.org/> which is due on March 1st. FAFSA results are required (so try to complete your FAFSA around the middle of February) for this generous scholarship, which was offered to 5 of our seniors last year and 9 the year before.

The Engebretson Foundation will award one senior a scholarship that will pay up to \$10,000 of tuition. Applicants must have financial need, academic merit (28 or higher on the ACT), and leadership potential. Go to www.engebretsonfoundation.org. The deadline is March 1st.

The Grand Island Concert Association has \$750 Scholarships available to those with voice, instrumental, or theatrical talent. The deadline is March 1, 2012.

The **Lincoln Community Foundation** has scholarships also for students who live outside of Lancaster County. Go to www.lcf.org for more information. The deadline is March 15, 2012.

Southern Power District in the past has offered a limited number of \$1000 scholarships to individuals who plan to attend an accredited school to begin a utility line study program. The applicant must agree to complete a 12 week summer internship with Southern in cooperation with the school attended. The deadline April 1, 2012.

The Big Sun Organization is proud to be able to continue to help young athletes succeed in their academic pursuits. The deadline is June 22, 2012. Go to www.bigsunathletics.com for more information.

Other Opportunities for HS Students:

Lincoln Electrical is sponsoring an Electrical Apprenticeship program. The program is for five years and includes both on-the-job training and related classroom study. See Counselor for details.

Access College Early Scholarships are often available to current high school students with a financial need taking classes through Central Community College. Contact Counselor Anderson if you have interest in an ACE Scholarship for any of Mr. Negus's Dual Credit Classes, CCC Distance Learning Classes, or other classes available through CCC.

The **John F. Kennedy Library Foundation** invites U.S. high school students to write an essay on an act of a political courage. For contest information, registration, and to submit your essay, visit the Profile in Courage Award Program at www.jfklibrary.org. Deadline is January 7, 2012. First place winner will receive \$10,000.

Nestle' Very Best in Youth and HOBY have entered into a partnership to recognize young people who are making a positive difference in lives other than their own. Students should complete their application online at <http://verybestinyouth.nestleusa.com> in March.

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For Seniors who do not plan to attend college at a CCC Campus next year –

The colleges you have applied to would like to have a record of any college credits that you have earned so far. You should complete and mail or fax the attached form to have your Central Community College tech prep and early entry grades sent to the colleges you have applied to now and again at the end of June. (I will remind you in May to get this completed.) If you wish to you may complete this form on your computer. Simply go to www.cccneb.edu under quick links in the upper right corner of the CCC homepage and select request a transcript. Check "Send when grades are posted - Fall" and "Send official transcript to the college below". Make sure that you put in the college names and addresses you have applied to. Then check for completeness, print, sign, and mail or fax it.