

COUNSELING OFFICE

NEWSLETTER



SENIORS APPLY TO COLLEGE!

On Wednesday, Sept.27th, the seniors at Hay Springs High School applied to college! Mrs. Pinnt and Connagher Stumpff, a representative from Western Nebraska Community College, assisted students in filling out applications to the schools of their choice, which included 4-year colleges, community colleges, and trade schools. Although some students may decide that college isn't the right path for them, applying to at least one school allows students to see what's out there and what kind of offers are available.

EDUCATIONQUEST.ORG

- Contains information about every college in every state
- Can be filtered by tuition cost, size, majors offered, etc.
- Has Financial aid guidance (including help with filling out the FAFSA)

Important dates

- Nov.8 - ASVAB testing for Juniors at 8:30
- Nov.8 - Connecting the Dots for Freshmen and Sophomores in Gordon
- Nov.13 - World Kindness Day
- Nov.14 - Senior Financial Aid Program @ 5:30
- Nov.22&23 - No School / Thanksgiving Break
- Nov.29 - Career Cabs for Sophomores in Chadron
- Dec.9 - National ACT test date

ACT INFORMATION

- The Junior class will take the ACT as their state test in the spring (the test is given at the school and is free to members of the junior class).
- The ACT normally costs \$68 (without the writing portion). There are fee waivers available in the counseling office for students who receive free/reduced lunch.
- The following dates are national ACT test dates: Dec.9, Feb.10, Apr.13, June 8, July 13
- **Students should register by Nov.3rd to take the Dec.9th ACT test.**
- Students can register to take the ACT at act.org.
- Students can access their On to College accounts to study for the ACT.

2024-2025 FAFSA

(FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID)

- The FAFSA has traditionally opened on Oct.1st, but because of some new updates, it will not open until some time during December of this year.
- In order to prepare, you can locate your 2022 tax information and both students and parents can create FSA IDs (usernames and passwords) by going to **studentaid.gov**.
- Why should everyone fill out the FAFSA if they are thinking about going to college?
 - FAFSA results determine how much students can receive in federal grants and scholarships (that students don't have to pay back).
 - FAFSA completion is necessary to qualify for Federal loans. Federal loan repayments can be driven by income and can sometimes be forgiven depending on employment.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Scholarship listings can be found by going to **hshawks.com** and clicking the scholarship link or the counselor link (different formats).
- There are national, state and local scholarships available. Many local scholarships will open in the spring.
- Colleges have their own institutional scholarships - students need to be aware of each college's deadlines and application requirements.
- Students can do their own research to find scholarships that apply to them (possibly through past experience, parent's workplace, etc). You should never have to pay for or join anything to apply for scholarships!

APPLYING TO COLLEGE

- Students should apply to as many colleges as they are interested in. Different colleges will offer different scholarships based on GPA, ACT scores, interests, etc. Applying to several colleges allows students to choose the best 'deal' for them.
- Many states now offer in-state tuition to Nebraska students. It is a good idea to check tuition costs before deciding against an out-of-state college.

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

Nov. 14th at 5:30pm - Seniors and their parents are invited to attend a 'watch party' for the financial aid program provided by EducationQuest. After viewing the presentation, there will be a time for questions and discussion of all things college-related.