

SENIOR NEWSLETTER



You have made it - You are finally a senior! So what do you do now?

Throughout the year, the counselors will post information concerning colleges, financial aid, scholarships, etc. in a senior newsletter to help guide you through your senior year. These will be available in your English classes, the office, the counselor's office, and on the GHS website. Make sure you get and READ one.

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION: State law requires that students must complete the following to graduate:

1. FAFSA or Parental Waiver.
2. Parental Consent Form for Information Release
3. CPR

COUNSELOR ZONE REMIND 101 - Receive text messages on the latest updates from the counselors by doing the following:

1. Open new text message
2. Enter 81010 or (318)787-0430
3. Text this message: @granthig

WORKKEYS - Ms Arlene will test certain seniors on Wednesday, September 20. Teachers have been emailed a list of those who will test.

COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR - Tuesday, October 3 at Grant Junior High Gym. Register at www.lacollegefairs.com then either bring barcode on phone or on paper to be scanned by colleges. Permission slips will be handed out soon.

LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS MINIMUM ADMISSION STANDARDS for FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN - See attached sheet for what requirements to enter straight into a four year college. All require TOP University classes, but GPA and ACT score vary.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID AND TOPS - You will need to complete the **FREE** online FAFSA application at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The application for the 2018-19 college year will open October 1, 2017. You will use information from your parents' 2016 income taxes. **STAY AWAY FROM THE WEBSITE FAFSA.COM.**

TO COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA), YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR YOU AND YOUR PARENTS:

- Social Security Number
- Your parents' 2016 federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned. (**Note:** You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.)
- Records of bank statements, investments, and untaxed income (if applicable)
- An FSA ID to sign electronically.

FSA ID - You and your parent will need a separate FSA ID to fill out the FAFSA form. To set up a FSA ID or read more about this, go to <https://fsaid.ed.gov>. This ID is also used for signing forms for federal loans.

ACT - Pick up ACT brochure for registration information in the counselor's office or go to www.actstudent.org. October and April tests will be given at Grant.

NCAA - If you are planning on playing college sports, you must register with NCAA. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, there is a waiver for the registration fee. Use the ACT code 9999 as one of your college choices to have your scores sent to NCAA. You can register at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

BLS - HUH? - Bureau of Labor and Statistics is great web site to find out if a job is growing or declining, how much it pays, exactly what the job requires, and the amount of education needed for that job. <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>.

"MATCH AND FIT" COLLEGE ACCESS AND CAREER PLANNING WEBSITE: <http://www.unlockmyfuture.org>

IMPORTANT ACT INFORMATION

Test Date	Registration Deadline
October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017
February 10, 2018	January 12, 2018
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018
July 14, 2018	June 15, 2018

- Cost – Basic \$46, Plus Writing \$62.50
- 11th or 12th grade students who qualify for free or reduced lunch can use a total of 2 fee waivers
- Grant's School code is 190740 (Put this so ACT will send us your scores.)
- TOPS Code: 1595 (Use as one of your college choices to have your scores sent to TOPS.)
- The April test date is the last date for TOPS without a penalty. (If you take the test in June/July, TOPS will give you 7 semesters of tuition instead of 8.)
- Grant's Testing Center Code: 154700 (Put this only if testing at Grant.)
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SCHOLARSHIP INFO SCHOLARSHIP INFO SCHOLARSHIP INFO SCHOLARSHIP INFO

BE AWARE – There are many scams that ask for money in exchange for scholarships and financial aid. Do not pay any companies to find you financial aid or scholarships. There are many free scholarship searches on the internet.

COLLEGE & FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION & TIPS – Click on the Students and Parents tab on the following websites to learn more about preparing for college and receiving financial aid and scholarship.

www.osfa.la.gov

www.regents.louisiana.gov

www.lela.org

ASKLELA.ORG – This website has an extensive list of scholarships and deadlines. Click on For Students and Parents Tab, then on Scholarships.

LELA QUARTERLY SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING – Register at www.asklela.org by September 30, 2017.

WENDY'S HEISMAN – For seniors who have at least a “B” average and participate in at least one school-sponsored sport. Deadline: Phase 1 - October 2, 2017, Phase 2 - October 23, 2017. Apply online at www.WendysHeisman.com.

COLLEGE JUMPSTART SCHOLARSHIP – Go to <http://www.jumpstart-scholarship.net/> Deadline: October 17, 2017.

HORATIO ALGER – For seniors with 2.0 and critical financial need who plans to attend Louisiana university. Deadline: October 25, 2017. <https://scholars.horatioalger.org/scholarships/about-our-scholarship-programs/national-scholarships/>

COCA COLA SCHOLARSHIP - Info at www.coca-colascholars.org Deadline October 31, 2017.

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE SCHOLARSHIP – Deadline: October 31, 2017.

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship#/fromscholarshipexperts>

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORED BY VETERANS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS – <https://www.vfw.org/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Voice-of-Democracy-Student-Entry-Form-and-Brochure.pdf?la=en>. Audio essay required. Deadline is October 31, 2017

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD – For students who have made contributions to their communities through volunteer service. Apply online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or www.nassp.org/spirit by November 7, 2017.