

Seton Guidance Corner

October 19, 2023

Planning for College & Military Academy Night at Seton

Seton is hosting a “Planning for College & Military Academy Night” for all freshmen and sophomores and their parents on Wednesday evening, November 8, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Faustina. Presenters will speak on what students can start doing now to plan for college and for entrance into a military academy. Topics include information on high school transcripts, GPA's, AP and CLEP exams, school resumes, financial aid, FAFSA, scholarships, and college loans. Parents and students will also have the opportunity to speak with Seton Alumni as well as FOCUS missionaries from various colleges. Please RSVP by November 1 here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054CA9AA2EA31-44924088-planning>.

College Financial Aid 101

1. **Grants** – A form of aid that students do not have to repay as long as they meet all obligations. Grants are available through the federal government, state government, and schools. A common federal grant is the Pell Grant, and a common state grant is the Tuition Assistance Grant (VTAG). Grants are usually based on financial need as demonstrated on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid); however, school grants can be based on financial need and/or merit.
2. **Work Study** – A program that provides students with on or off campus employment to help pay college costs and can often be in a student’s field of study. Information on Work Study opportunities are typically available through a school’s Financial Aid Office.
3. **Scholarships** – Considered gift aid that students do not have to repay as long as they meet all obligations. Scholarships are often based on academic achievement, athletic ability or special talent such as a skill in art, music, dance, or writing. In addition, they can be available to students interested in specific areas of study. Local scholarships may be offered through organizations such as the Lions Club, Rotary Club, American Legion, banks, and other service organizations.
4. **Military Service** - ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) scholarships cover a college education prior to service. The military also offers tuition assistance programs during service.
5. **Student Loans** – A type of financial aid that must be repaid with interest. There are federal and private student loans. Due to higher interest rates and less flexible repayment options, it is recommended that private student loans only be considered if grants, scholarships, and federal loans do not meet college costs. <http://www.educationplanner.org/students/paying-for-school/ways-to-pay/index.shtml>

Introducing The Pursuit of Wisdom App

The Pursuit of Wisdom courses—a brand-new series from Ave Maria University—allow listeners to experience the wisdom and guidance of their esteemed faculty. The free Catholic courses can now be listened to throughout the day and are available on iOS and Google Play. New courses are released bi-monthly, exploring a wide range of topics in philosophy, theology, literature, history, and beyond. To sign up, visit <https://www.avemaria.edu/the-pursuit-of-wisdom/>.

Seniors, are you planning to apply Early Action?

The Early Action deadline for many schools is November 1 and less than two weeks away. There are several benefits to applying to colleges early (i.e., increased chance of being accepted, more opportunity for financial aid, and receive an early response to your application). If you are planning to apply early and need your transcript sent anywhere to meet this deadline, email Mrs. McIntyre at tmcintyre@setonschool.net. Please do not wait until the last minute. Also, if you need a Counselor Letter of Recommendation, email Mr. Geary at pgeary@setonschool.net, and remember, he requires at least a two-week notice.

HOBY 2024 Leadership Program for Sophomores

Sophomores are invited to apply as Seton's ambassador at the 2024 Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Program that will be held May 31-June 2, 2024, at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. The HOBY program was founded in 1958 and is designed to help high school sophomores recognize their leadership talents and apply them to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, school, workplace and community. Although there is a cost to attend (\$275), this is a great opportunity to develop or enhance leadership skills as well as strengthen your student resume which can be valuable when applying to colleges, military, and trade schools. To apply and be considered to attend as Seton's ambassador, please email Mrs. Guyant at cguyant@setonschool.net by November 1. For more information about the program, visit <https://www.vahoby.org/about/>.

Upcoming College Visits at Seton

Monday, October 30 – The Catholic University of America

CLT, SAT, and ACT Registration Deadlines Coming Up

CLT Test Date – November 2 (Remotely Proctored)

Registration Deadline – October 26

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for CLT's free practice test.

SAT Test Date – December 2

Registration Deadline – November 2

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free SAT practice test.

ACT Test Date – December 9

Registration Deadline – November 3

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free ACT test prep.

Scholarship Opportunities

Study.com Scholarship

Amount: \$2,000

Deadline: November 1, 2023

<https://app.goingmerry.com/scholarships/studycom-scholarship-for-high-school-seniors/20325>

Young Artist Award

Amount: \$10,000

Deadline: November 15, 2023

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/26488/young-artist-award>

Copyright in the Cyberspace Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: November 30, 2023

<https://studentscholarships.org/scholarship/20658/copyright-in-the-cyberspace-scholarship>

**Please note, opportunities in the Guidance Corner are not endorsements of the programs. They are shared as options for students and parents to carefully consider.*