

# Fort Zumwalt West High

Senior Class College Bulletin/September 2017

<http://whs.fz.k12.mo.us/departments> [committees/guidance](http://whs.fz.k12.mo.us/committees/guidance) [crisis counselors/senior information/](http://whs.fz.k12.mo.us/crisis_counselors/senior_information/)

## HELPFUL INFO & WEBSITES

### Career Planning

Mappingyourfuture.org  
Stchas.edu/Beready  
mostercollege.com  
Bls.gov/oco/  
Dhe.mo.gov  
Missouriconnections.org  
CareerVoyages.gov  
Careerkey.org  
Mymajors.com  
Careerinfonet.org  
Explorehealthcareers.org

### College Info

Individual college websites  
Collegeboard.com  
Collegeview.com  
atozcolleges.com  
Petersons.com  
Mymajors.com  
Book of Majors  
College Handbook  
Campustours.com  
Collegeanswer.com

### Financial Aid

finaid.org  
studentaid.ed.gov  
fafsa.ed.gov  
dhe.mo.gov (Missouri)  
collegeanswer.com  
sfstl.org

### Scholarships

Meritaid.com  
Fastweb.com  
Scholarshipexperts.com  
Wiredscholar.com  
Finaid.org  
Mymajors.com  
Stlouisgraduates.org  
Raise.me  
Collegeanswer.com  
Weeklyscholarshipalert.com  
Studentpaths.com (wacky)  
Sussle.org/scholarship  
<http://scholarshipamerica.org>

### ACT/SAT-Assistance

actstudent.org  
number2.com  
princetonreview.com  
m-w.com  
march2success.com  
soyouwanna.com (educ)  
eprep.com

### Military & ROTC

Militarycareers.com  
Todaysmilitary.com  
goarmy.com & armyrotc.com  
navy.com & nrotc.navy.mil  
airforce.com & afrotc.com  
marines.com  
goang.com (Air Natl Guard)  
arng.army.mil (Natl Guard)

### Military Academies

West Point:  
[admissions.usma.edu](http://admissions.usma.edu)  
Air Force:  
[academyadmissions.com](http://academyadmissions.com)  
Naval Academy - [usna.edu](http://usna.edu)  
Coast Guard - [cga.edu](http://cga.edu)  
Merchant Marines  
[usmma.edu](http://usmma.edu)

## FINANCIAL AID 101

### Types of Aid FAFSA Help

Students & Parents Are Encouraged to Attend  
Thursday, October 12 at 7:00 pm

West High Auditorium

Presented by Saint Louis University

### ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID 101 NIGHTS

EAST HIGH – SEPT. 7<sup>TH</sup> 6:30

SOUTH HIGH – OCT. 3<sup>RD</sup> 6:30

NORTH HIGH – OCT. 19<sup>TH</sup> 6:30



## SENIOR FALL CHECKLIST

- Meet with School Counselor to discuss career and college.
- Check your school email often.
- Turn in Transcript Release Form.
- Narrow choice of colleges and apply early.
- Colleges are visiting West High. The dates are on the parent portal, electronic marquee in commons and on the Guidance Office Door. Sign-up at least 1 day prior to the visit date in the Guidance office. Check for additions periodically.
- Register to take or re-take the ACT or SAT
- Consider taking an ACT or SAT class to improve your score. Many scholarships are decided on your ACT score. Go to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) to register.
- Compile an activities resume. Some colleges and most scholarship applications will require it.
- If planning to play a sport in college, register with NCAA Clearing House, [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) or NAIA Clearing House. [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org). Send ACT/SAT scores to them.
- If applying for Early Decision to a college, ask whether they offer an early estimate of financial aid eligibility.
- Begin applying to outside scholarship programs available to seniors.
- Attend West High's Financial Aid Night on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. in the Auditorium. Or check out the other District High School dates below.
- Look for scholarships from web searches.
- Follow **FZW\_Guidance** on Twitter
- Keep track of application & scholarships deadlines for each college.
- Start FAFSA beginning October 1

**Important Info for Parents:** We are required by Federal law to provide lists to military recruiters of our junior and senior students. We will be providing students' name, address and phone number (unless the phone number is unlisted). If you do not want this information given, you must submit a request in writing to your student's guidance counselor, or you may email your request to your student's counselor. Additionally, if for any reason you have a problem with a military recruiter or feel your student is being unduly pursued; please don't hesitate to let us know that as well.

# COMMON MISTAKES ON COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

## Missing Deadlines

College admissions process is filled with deadlines. Missing a deadline could mean a rejection letter or loss of financial aid.

## Applying for Early Decision When It's not the Right Choice

When applying for Early Decision typically you must sign a contract stating that you are applying to just one college early. Early Decision is a restricted admissions process, so it is not a good choice for students who aren't really sure that the Early Decision school is their first choice. Some think that Early Decision will improve their chance of admission, but in the process they end up restricting their options. Also, if students violate their contract & apply to more than one college through Early Decision, they run the risk of being removed from the applicant pool for misleading the institution.

## Using the Wrong College Name in an Application Essay

Many students write a single admission's essay & then change the name of the college for different applications. Reread each application carefully & always have someone else proofread as well.

## Applying to a College Online Without Telling School Counselors

Applying online makes it easier than ever to apply to colleges. Many students, make the mistake of submitting applications online without notifying their school counselors. Counselors play an important role in the process, so leaving them out of the loop can lead to several problems:

- Transcripts are delayed or never mailed
- Letters of recommendation from teachers are delayed or never sent
- College admissions decision process becomes inefficient & delayed
- Applications end up being incomplete because the counselor can't follow up with the colleges

## Waiting too Long to Ask for Letters of Recommendation

Students who wait until the last minute to ask for letters of recommendation run the risk that letters will be late, or they will not be thorough and thoughtful. Students should identify teachers early, talk with them & give them as much information as possible about each program they are applying. This allows teachers to craft letters that match an applicant's particular strengths with the specific college programs.

## Student Lack of Involvement

Students need to self-advocate during the admissions process. It's the student who needs to build a relationship with the college, not the parents. Students need to manage their own affairs once they get to college, so the admissions staff wants to see evidence of this self-sufficiency during the application process. While parents should certainly be involved, the student needs to make the connections with the school & complete the application.

## College Application Process:

### Complete Application:

- Option 1: Online via the college's website.
- Option 2: By paper. We have some paper or we can help you obtain it.

### Send application:

- For online applications, review, submit and pay the fee. Check for counselor supplement forms.
- For paper applications, turn application and application fee to your counselor. It will be mailed with a transcript.

### Send Transcript:

- A transcript is a copy of your high school grades by semester. It also includes your GPA and ACT or SAT scores. A signed Transcript Release Form must be on file before a transcript is sent. After online application has been submitted, fill out an orange slip in guidance.

### Send ACT - SAT Scores:

- Most colleges **now** require that ACT or SAT scores be sent directly to that college; they may **no longer** accept the scores on a transcript. If possible, send scores when signing up for the tests. ACT charges \$12.00 per report sent after the test is taken.

### Recommendations:

- Some colleges require recommendations from teachers or a counselor. Ask them at least two weeks before you plan to submit an application.

### Essays:

- For tips, go to <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay-skills/index.html>. Request an English teacher to critique your essay.

### Common Applications:

- If using the Common Application, check the website for any additional forms or supplements that are also required for that specific college.

### DEADLINES:

- Pay attention to due dates.

## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEACHER? "FZSD GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM"

Brochures are available in the Guidance Office for the Fort Zumwalt 'Grow Your Own Teachers' Program. You must be interested in teaching in the areas of: Special Education, Industrial Technology, High School Science & Math, High School Foreign Language, or English Language Learners, and attend one of the Missouri participating colleges. Applications, essay and two teacher recommendations are due October 1! Eligibility guidelines apply. Applications are available online only at [www.fz.k12.mo.us](http://www.fz.k12.mo.us). See Mrs. Baker for more information.

# A+ INFORMATION

If a community college is even a slight consideration after graduation, you can still enroll in the A+ Schools Program and save lots of money. However, the deadline for senior enrollment is September 13th, so hurry and pick up an application and return them to Mrs. Roy in the A+ Office!

For seniors, all tutoring hours and other A+ paperwork must be completed by May 1, 2018. If you need to complete tutoring hours, stop by the A+ Office as soon as possible. Tutoring will begin in September. Seniors will have priority to tutoring assignments if they fill out a tutoring placement request by September 11th.

**ALL A+ TUTORS MUST ATTEND A TUTOR SESSION BEFORE YOU CAN START TUTORING!!!!**

## DID YOU KNOW...

- Some Four year Universities offer A+ scholarships, it is your responsibility to check with the admissions rep for scholarship eligibility.
- Early Grads (December 2017) check with the admission rep at colleges any concerning A+ scholarships.
- You may now use A+ benefits for Summer 2018 classes (no matter where you intend on going in the Fall). You must do the following:
  1. Be a 2018 graduate and going to college for the first time.
  2. Apply by the summer session deadline (see [www.stchas.edu/apply](http://www.stchas.edu/apply)).
  3. Be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours (it's to your benefit to determine if the credit is transferable to the University you are attending in the Fall).
  4. You must fill out 2 FAFSA forms:
  5. One for the 2017-18 school year based off 2016 tax return and one for the 2018-19 school year based off 2017 tax return. (Make sure to have the results for both sent to the Community College (SCC's school code is 017027)
  6. Make sure to have the Guidance Office send your final transcript to SCC as well as the University you are attending in the Fall.
  7. If you use you're A+ benefits in the Summer of 2018, and you attend somewhere else in the Fall, you may not use A+ benefits for any other following summers.
  8. Ex. May 2018 – graduate from West
  9. June 2018 – attend summer session at SCC
    - a. Fall 2018 – attend any University
  10. Spring 2019 – attend any University
    - a. Summer 2019 – no A+ funding
    - b. Fall 2019 – return to University

**Note for Parents: The state pays for the A+ scholarship to community colleges and state vocational technical schools. In addition, several 4-year colleges and universities in Missouri offer their own A+ scholarships.**

## A+ Office

**Dr. Dreyer – Principal - 636-379-0300 ext. 17502**  
**Mrs. Roy - A+ Secretary – 636-379-0300 ext. 17503**

## COLLEGE FAIRS

**St. Charles County Regional College Fair**  
([www.stchas.edu/collegefair](http://www.stchas.edu/collegefair))  
Thursday, September 21  
6:00 – 7:30 pm  
St. Charles Community College  
College Center Gym

**St. Louis National College Fair**  
([www.nationalcollegefairs.org](http://www.nationalcollegefairs.org))  
Sunday, October 22  
1:00 – 4:00 pm  
St. Louis University  
Simon Recreation Center

**National College Fair of Performing & Visual Arts**  
([www.nationalcollegefairs.org](http://www.nationalcollegefairs.org))  
Sunday, October 7  
1:00 – 3:00 pm  
Webster University  
Grant Gymnasium

**Fort Zumwalt School District**  
Thursday, March 8, 2017  
6:30 – 8:00 pm  
Fort Zumwalt West High  
School Gymnasium

# SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT?

## What is included in the cost of college?

College costs include more than tuition and room and board. Here are common costs:

Item	Description
Tuition	The cost of taking courses. Course costs vary by school.
Room and board	Dorm and food plans costs vary by school.
Books and school supplies	Books (check out various websites to maybe rent books) Book bags – computer bags Notebooks, paper Pens & Pencils computer paper, printer supplies, desk accessories, folders, trays, planners, desk calendars
Fees	May include activity fees, parking fees, computer fees, and additional fees for your major classes, example, nursing classes, engineering classes. Always check with school.
Equipment & room materials	Computer and Printer; Reading lamps; Microwave & refrigerator; Sheets, towels, bedding; shower items; storage bids; etc.
Travel & Miscellaneous Expenses	Commute to School, include gas & tolls costs. Live on campus, include travel during school breaks. Spending money, clothing & mobile phone costs

## Steps you can take to ease your transition:

- **Plan ahead.** Reserve your textbooks early. This is the best way to get used books, or find the another option (renting, e-text) that will save you the most money and guarantee you have your books on the first day of class. You need all your textbooks on the first day of class.
- **Get to know your instructors.** Ask questions. Meet with them one-on-one to discuss the syllabus and how best to succeed in the course.
- **Be engaged.** You are not going to class because “mom & dad” said so”. You are attending for your future career. Every class is valuable. Participate in class and prepare for each section.
- **Be active.** Do not sit along the sidelines. Take responsibility for your actions and seek help when you need it.
- **Take control of your life.** Manage your time by using a planner. Make sure you build in time for homework, studying, eating, sleeping, maintenance of your health and fun! Check out a Student Rec Center.

## SENIOR COUNSELOR’S EMAIL

Mrs. Hutson – A – K  
[jhutson@fz.k12.mo.us](mailto:jhutson@fz.k12.mo.us)

Mr. Smith – L – Z  
[staceysmith@fz.k12.mo.us](mailto:staceysmith@fz.k12.mo.us)



## ACT INFORMATION

Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or obtain packet in Guidance office. Our school code is 262488. We are a test site for ACT, test center code is 214720.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Reg. (extra fee)
October 28, 2017	Sept. 22, 2017	Oct. 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	Nov. 3, 2017	Nov. 17, 2017
February 10, 2018	Jan. 12, 2018	Jan. 19, 2018
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018	Mar. 23, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 18, 2018
July 14, 2018	June 5, 2018	June 22, 2018

Cost: \$46.00 or \$62.50 with writing portion, \$29.50 additional for Late Registration.