

COUNSELOR CHATTER

OCTOBER 2020 EDITION

Mrs. Zearley, Lexington HS Counselor

.....**TIME TO FILL OUT YOUR FAFSA**.....

What is FAFSA? The Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Every college you apply to must have this on file, whether you qualify for federal money (grants, loans, work/study, scholarships, etc) or not. Additionally, many scholarships may ask for this, as well. The FAFSA opens every year on October 1 and closes the following June.

Not sure you want to go to college yet? **FILL IT OUT ANYWAY!** Better safe than sorry. You will be glad you filled it out earlier if you later decide to go to college. If you don't go to college, there is no penalty for having filled it out without using it. Once the government runs out of money to give to students, they run out. That's why we try to have students fill it out as close to October 1 as possible.

LET US HELP YOU FILL OUT YOUR FAFSA!! IT TAKES 15 MINUTES OR LESS!!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13th from 5:30-7:30PM

OR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12th from 9AM-3PM

1. SIGN UP FOR YOUR SPOT ON MRS. ZEARLEY'S OFFICE DOOR
2. CREATE YOUR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FSA) ID (follow the directions in the FAFSA packet located in your senior file)
 - a. YOU AND YOUR PARENT MUST CREATE SEPARATE FSA IDs WITH SEPARATE EMAIL ADDRESSES
3. FILL OUT THE PAPERWORK IN THE PACKET
4. BRING YOUR FSA ID AND YOUR FILLED OUT PAPERWORK TO YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH MR. RUSHING on 10/13 or 11/12

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY! Mr. Kirk Rushing- an academic and financial aid counselor from ECU-EOC- has been helping seniors fill out their FAFSA for over 20 years, and is very experienced.

PLEASE SEE ME TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT. Again, YOU WILL NEED to apply for FAFSA ID (FSA ID) before your appointment with Mr. Rushing and YOU WILL need to have your 2019 TAX INFORMATION to complete this application.

Of course, if you don't want to wait until October 13th or November 12th, you may fill out the FAFSA on your own at www.fafsa.gov.

.....**COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIRS**.....

Lexington's annual College and Career Night will be on Tuesday, October 13 from 4:30-7PM during Parent Teacher Conferences. We have multiple colleges from around the state attending. If you don't see your college on our list, you can join the statewide *virtual* college fair happening the same day and week. We will have computers available during Parent/Teacher Conferences for those who may need additional access to technology.

Colleges attending Lexington's College & Career Fair:

- *Cameron University
- *Langston University
- *Murray State University
- *Randall University
- *Redlands Community College
- *Southern Nazarene University
- *University of Science and Art of Oklahoma
- *Mid-America Christian University
- *Oklahoma Christian University
- *Oklahoma Baptist University
- *Northeastern Oklahoma State University
- *Northwestern Oklahoma State University
- *University of Oklahoma

DON'T SEE YOUR COLLEGE? *Sign up for the statewide Oklahoma College Fair* happening the week of October 12-16. Click on the blue links below to see which colleges will be presenting. You can register for a session in each 45-minute timeblock. To do so, click the blue Student Registration link for each interested session. If you are interested in attending sessions that are running together, please continue to register for both sessions.

[Virtual Fair 1 - Monday, October 12](#)

5:00 - 5:45 pm

6:00 - 6:45 pm

7:00 - 7:45 pm

[Virtual Fair 2 - Tuesday, October 13](#)

5:00 - 5:45 pm

6:00 - 6:45 pm

7:00 - 7:45 pm

[Virtual Fair 3 - Wednesday, October 14](#)

5:00 - 5:45 pm

6:00 - 6:45 pm

7:00 - 7:45 pm

[Virtual Fair 4 - Thursday, October 15](#)

5:00 - 5:45 pm

6:00 - 6:45 pm

7:00 - 7:45 pm

[Virtual Fair 5 - Friday, October 16](#)

12:00 - 12:45 pm

1:00 - 1:45 pm

2:00 - 2:45 pm

.....**HOW DO YOU STAY INFORMED**.....

Check your Senior Folder. This is where you will find scholarship information and updates on things your seniors sponsors and I may need from you before graduation.

"Counselor Chatter" monthly memos as well as other information specific to Seniors will be accessible online at www.lexington.k12.ok.us. Go to the school website and look on the right hand side under "Quick Links" to find the link titled "LHS Senior Site".

.....**REMIND APP FOR SENIORS**.....

I will send information and reminders using the Remind App. You and/or your parents/guardians can sign up for this by texting @lexhs21 to 81010 to receive information via text message or you may log on to www.remind.com/join/lexhs21 to receive updates. If you sign up and would like to unsubscribe, you simply reply "unsubscribe".

:~::~SCHOLARSHIPS/IMPORTANT LINKS::~:~::~

Many scholarships I come across will be in your senior file. However, there are many scholarship search engines. I will be able to share A LOT of information with you, but you will need to do your own research as there are entirely too many offers for any one person to keep up with at any given time. Here are a few websites that will be extremely important for you to keep up with:

www.ucango2.org

www.actstudent.org

www.scholarships.com

www.fastweb.com

www.okcollegestart.org

www.cappex.com

IF YOU ACCESS THIS NEWSLETTER ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE YOU CAN CLICK ON THE ACTIVE LINKS TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FOR EACH.

:~::~APPLY TO COLLEGE::~:~::~

Begin to apply to your colleges of interest SOON.....LIKE NOW! If you meet admission criteria, NOW IS NOT TOO EARLY TO APPLY! The earlier you apply for admission, the better your chances of getting scholarships and offers. Just because you apply to a college and they accept you and offer a scholarship, does not mean you are obligated to go there. SHOP around, apply to colleges and determine later where your best offers and programs are. See who will give you the best deal for the best future!

When you are ready to fill out an application, you may do so on your own OR if you need help you are welcome to come work on it in my office. You all are one of my biggest focuses and my door is always open. You must put forth the initiative to come to me, though. I'm more than happy to help, just ask.

I will offer 2 days of "excused absences" for you to visit college campuses. See me for more information.

:~::~ACT DATES 2020-2021::~:~::~

Most- if not all- colleges must have an ACT score for you to accept you to their college. If you have not taken the ACT, see Mrs. Zearley ASAP! You may be eligible for a FREE ACT waiver.

OUR ACT CODE FOR LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IS 372105

| Test Date | Deadline | Late Deadline | Online Score Release* |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Dec 12, 2020 | Nov 6, 2020 | Nov 20, 2020 | Dec 22, 2020; Jan 5, 2021 |
| Feb 6, 2021 | Jan 8, 2021 | Jan 15, 2021 | Feb 16; Mar 1, 2021 |
| Apr 17, 2021 | Mar 12, 2021 | Mar 26, 2021 | Apr 20; May 4, 2021 |

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| June 12, 2021 | May 7, 2021 | May 21, 2021 | June 22; July 6, 2021 |
| July 17, 2021 | June 18, 2021 | June 25, 2021 | July 27; Aug 10, 2021 |

MY OFFICE IS ALWAYS OPEN TO YOU
FOR WHATEVER YOU NEED.
PLEASE COME SEE ME! :)