

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Titan Time

Are you struggling in a class?
Meet your teachers in the
library BEFORE school for help.

College Visits

Are you planning to tour a
college soon? Great! Don't
forget that you will need to
bring back **documentation** of
your visit and submit to Mrs.
Watson or Ms. Garrett in one of
the attendance offices.

Endorsements

Are you on the Career and
Technical, Academic or
Distinguished diploma track?
Are you meeting the
expectations of the selected
endorsement? If you're unsure,
check with your counselor.

Transcripts

Please remember to stop by
and complete a transcript
request with Ms. Hunter,
Records Clerk. You can also
email her your request at
sha136@madison-schools.com.



....and a Happy New Year!

Hopefully, your Christmas holidays were magical and this new year has already proven that it will be a year of satisfaction, good health, happiness, peace, and success! Speaking of success, are you ready for graduation? But have you done everything you need to do in preparation for graduation? Have you completed at least ONE college application? Have you and your parents completed the FAFSA? It opened December 31st. (Please click the link for more information - <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-12-15/2024-25-fafsa-soft-launch-details-and-timelines>) Have you used one of your college





Every student should be successful academically. That's why Paper has partnered with the Mississippi Department of Education and Madison County Schools to provide students with free, 24/7 access to trained tutors. Students can ask questions and work on problems in real time. Try it TODAY!



If you are eligible for free or reduced lunch, you can receive a total of 4 ACT waivers from your counselor.



SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 27, 2024



SAVE THE DATE: May 20, 2024

MS Coliseum at 7:00 p.m.

visit days to tour a college that you may be interested in attending in the fall? Have you completed housing applications and applied for scholarships? Are you registered for the next available ACT Test? Have you worked hard to pull up low grades? Hopefully, the answer was YES to all of those questions.

College Checklist



__1) Complete college applications for schools with early admission deadlines.

__2) Give any recommendations or forms to your counselor as soon as possible.

__3) Continue completing online applications for admission, housing, and scholarships to those colleges you've selected.

__4) Contact financial aid offices of colleges for additional scholarship/financial aid forms.

__5) Schedule college visits.

__6) Finish the 2nd semester STRONG!

IMPORTANT DATES

January 11 - Report Cards

February 19 - Winter Break

March 7 - FAFSA Day

March 11 - 15 - Spring Break

March 21 - Academic Excellence Program

Tips for Applying for Scholarships

1. Apply for local scholarships

Many communities offer local scholarships through clubs, organizations, small businesses, and benefactors. The odds of winning these scholarships are greater because they're open to a smaller group of students.

2. Apply for scholarships with smaller awards

Scholarships with smaller awards usually have fewer applicants, so your chances of winning may be higher.

3. More work = fewer applicants = better chances

Many students avoid scholarships that require a lot of work, such as essays, videos, and projects. As a result, the applicant pool is much smaller, which means greater chances for you.

4. Get personal

Instead of burning yourself out applying for every scholarship you qualify for, have some fun! Apply for scholarships that fit your interests and that you'll enjoy.

5. Don't introduce yourself in your essay

It's cliché and may even get you disqualified. Many scholarship committees conduct blind readings, and essays that include names or other identifiers are immediately discarded. Get to the point as quickly as possible.

6. Don't repeat the essay prompt

No one wants to reread the same sentence hundreds of times a day. Be original! Use the beginning of your essay to showcase your personality and set yourself apart from the crowd. Try starting your essay by setting the scene for a story or jumping directly into your answer.

7. Don't use quotes

Your essay should be about *you*. The best essays are unique and stand out from the competition, so be original and use your own words.

8. Satisfy all the requirements

You can write the best essay in the world, but if the prompt asks for a list of five things, and you only list four, you may be disqualified. Make sure you answer every question and accurately meet every requirement.

9. Stick to the word limit

Get as close to the word limit as you can, but don't go over. Exceeding the word limit may disqualify you.

10. Proofread

Spelling and grammar mistakes may get you disqualified. Make sure to proofread your essay at least twice and ask your parents and friends to look it over, too. The more eyes, the better.

11. Submit early

Don't wait until the due date, just in case there's a problem with the site, the Internet connection, or your computer.

12. Apply for as many scholarships as you can

The tip we hear the most from scholarship winners is to apply for as many scholarships as you can. Treat it like a part-time job and set aside several hours every month to look for and apply for scholarships. You should continue applying for scholarships for as long as you're in school.

13. Don't give up!

If you don't win, don't take it personally, and DON'T GIVE UP! Like most things in life, the most successful scholarship winners are the ones who keep trying. Good luck!