

Senior Class of 2017
October Monthly Memo

Important Upcoming Dates:

October 18th- New Orleans National College Fair, 9-12 am, and 6-8 pm at the Ponchartrain Center

- Students will need to register beforehand by visiting this website: <https://www.gotomyncf.com> or access this from the counseling website.

October 24th- FAFSA and Financial Aid Parent/student night 6-8 pm at TJ.

*For more information about these events and to see other events, please visit the Thomas Jefferson Counseling Website under the 'upcoming events' tab. www.tjhs counseling.com

*****Please read the following information carefully. Very important regarding the FAFSA.*****

- Your FSA ID is equivalent to your signature, parents and students each need to create their own FSA IDs using separate email addresses. Parents should not create an FSA ID for their child and vice versa.
- In some situations, you may need to wait up to three days to use your FSA ID after creating it. If you want to avoid FAFSA delays, create your FSA ID now, by going to the following website or tjhs counseling.com
- The official government site: <https://fafsa.gov/> where you can create your FSA ID and begin completing the FAFSA
- You **do not** have the option to report your 2016 tax information. I know for some families, 2015 income doesn't accurately reflect your current financial situation. If you have experienced a loss in income since the 2015 tax year, you should complete the FAFSA with the info it asks for (2015), and then contact each of the schools to which you're applying to explain and document the change in income. They have the ability to assess your situation and make adjustments to your FAFSA.
- I would recommend creating your FSA ID and starting the FAFSA as soon as possible. If you have specific questions you can write them down and ask your questions at our meeting, or you can call the help line.
- **Call Lela's FAFSA help line for assistance: (844) 463-2372**
- Make sure that all information is correct. Use the same name and personal information that you have used on the ACT/SAT tests.
- **Be sure to add any college(s) you're considering, even if you haven't applied or been accepted yet.** This is more important than ever now that the FAFSA has launched earlier on October 1st! Even if there is only a slight chance you'll apply to a college, add it to your FAFSA. You can always remove schools later if you decide not to apply, but if you wait to add a school, you could miss out on first come, first served financial aid.
- The schools you list on your FAFSA will automatically receive your FAFSA results electronically. They will use your FAFSA information to determine the types and amounts of financial aid you may receive.
- If you add a school to your FAFSA and later decide not to apply for admission to that school, that's OK. The school likely won't offer you aid until you've been accepted anyway.
- You can list up to 10 schools on your FAFSA at a time. If you want to add more than 10 you can make corrections once you receive your SAR (student aid report) after submitting and completing the FAFSA.

Applications:

Keep working on your applications and scholarships. Make sure you add my email if you are completing the common application. Pay attention to your deadlines. Turn in your brag sheets to me if you need a letter of recommendation.

Early Action deadlines are approaching- some on November 15th. Check your schools and make note of your deadlines.

Transcript Request Forms- located in the scholarship binder in the office. You must fill this out and pay \$1 if you need a transcript mailed to a college.

- If applying using common app or SENDedu, I upload documents electronically. You should apply to more than one school if using the common app. Make sure schools receive your ACT/SAT scores. Visit the ACT/SAT website to do this. Make sure you list colleges and TOPS code when taking the ACT (you get 4 for free). Please refer to tjhs counseling.com for further details about this.

If you need help with anything or have questions please come see Mrs. Luxhoj.