

GEAR UP

**BELIEF—Building Engaged Learners to
Increase Expectations for the Future**



Parent Newsletter

November 2022

Volume 6, Issue 5

THE “REAL” TRUTH

MYTH:

Students only attend community college because they cannot get into a four-year university.

REALITY:

There are many reasons students attend community colleges instead of traditional four-year colleges. Cost is one of the biggest incentives, since community college is usually more affordable. Therefore, many students choose to take core classes at a community college and then transfer to a 4-year university. In addition, many students choose to live at home to save money on housing costs. Class schedules can be more flexible, as well, so students can work more hours. However, community colleges often have fewer services and support and lower graduation rates than 4-year colleges, so the savings might come at a cost.

Financial Aid and Scholarships in Four Steps

STEP 1: FILL OUT THE FAFSA

By filling out the FAFSA, your student will be considered for grants, loans, and work-study aid. Remind your student to fill out the FAFSA as close to October 1.

STEP 2: RENEW SCHOLARSHIPS

If your student received any renewable scholarships through an organization, make sure he/she files the appropriate paperwork to receive the award for the next year. Ensure your child is meeting any requirement set by the scholarship, such as minimum GPA.

STEP 3: APPLY FOR NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

Check for scholarships that may be only for current college students, especially on campus or in your student's department/major at college.

STEP 4: KEEP SAVING!

If you are helping to support your student in college, be sure to keep saving each month. Encourage your student to take a part-time job if his studies allow, as well as jobs during the summer or breaks, to help offset college costs. The less loans your student must take out now, the better!

Quarter End Date	Progress Reports and Report Cards	Planning Days
First Quarter: 08/15/22-10/11/22	Progress Reports Go Home: 09/15/22 Report Cards Available through FOCUS: 10/24/22	First Quarter: 10/17/22
Second Quarter: 10/12/22-12/16/22	Progress Reports Go Home: 11/16/22 Report Cards Available through FOCUS: 01/10/23	Second Quarter: 01/03/23
Third Quarter: 01/09/23-03/10/23	Progress Reports Go Home: 02/08/23 Report Cards Available through FOCUS: 03/27/23	Third Quarter: 03/20/23
Fourth Quarter: 03/21/23-06/02/23	Progress Reports Go Home: 04/20/23 Seniors' Grades Posted 05/08-05/15/23 Report Cards Available through FOCUS: 06/02/23	Fourth Quarter: 06/08/23-06/09/23

Seniors' Section

Please check each month for more updates/information.

Englewood High	BEACON Days, Instant Decision Days and FAFSA Family Nights will be occurring. Stay connected and take advantage of these opportunities.
First Coast High	BEACON Days, Instant Decision Days and FAFSA Family Nights will be occurring. Stay connected and take advantage of these opportunities.
Jean Ribault High	BEACON Days, Instant Decision Days and FAFSA Family Nights will be occurring. Stay connected and take advantage of these opportunities.
Riverside High	BEACON Days, Instant Decision Days and FAFSA Family Nights will be occurring. Stay connected and take advantage of these opportunities.
Terry Parker High	BEACON Days, Instant Decision Days and FAFSA Family Nights will be occurring. Stay connected and take advantage of these opportunities.
Westside High	BEACON Days, Instant Decision Days and FAFSA Family Nights will be occurring. Stay connected and take advantage of these opportunities.
William M. Raines High	BEACON Days, Instant Decision Days and FAFSA Family Nights will be occurring. Stay connected and take advantage of these opportunities.

Upcoming Events:

The events below are subject to change. Thank you for your understanding, as we continue to work hard to provide fluid educational experiences to your son/daughter.

- November 11th Veterans' Day Holiday – schools closed
- November 14th Instant Decision Day – Ribault High
- November 15th Instant Decision Day – First Coast High
- November 23-25th Thanksgiving Holidays – schools closed
- November 30th Early Dismissal for students
- December 14th Early Dismissal for students
- December 16th End of second quarter
- December 19-30th Winter Break – schools closed
- January 2nd
- January 3rd Teachers' Planning Day – no school for students
- January 4th Students return to school



SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Education Matters Scholarship

Sponsor: Unigo; **Amount:** \$5,000; **Closing Date:** November 30, 2022; **Description:** Scholarship is open to students 14 years of age or older who are legal residents of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia and are currently enrolled (or will enroll in the future) in an accredited post-secondary institution of higher education. Applicant will need to submit a short response to a given prompt. Click on the link:

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/education-matters-scholarship>.

Student Video Contest

Sponsor: American Road & Transportation Builders Association; **Amount:** \$500; **Closing Date:** December 3, 2022; **Description:** Contest is open to students in elementary school through graduate school. Contestant must submit a video on transportation infrastructure. Click on the link:

<https://artbatdf.org/scholarships-awards/student-video-contest/>.

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally funded program that helps prepare middle and high school students for education after high school. Visit duvalschools.org/gearup to learn more and access resources to help your child succeed.