

Charleroi Area High School

Class of 2008

Things You Need to Know

Edition #3



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Noteworthy News:

Need help finding a college?: Check out www.collegeboard.com and utilize their college find and college match maker services. Also check out www.cappex.com and create a profile. Colleges all over the US can see your information. Also check out www.fastweb.com and www.educationplanner.com-- more great resources!!!

NEW OPPORTUNITY!!!!!!

Tuition Funding Sources is a private website that contains the largest scholarship database along with college and career information. We are proud to be one of the selected schools to receive this program for free paid for by the Pepsi Cola Company. Last year schools using the TFS website obtained more than \$3 billion in scholarship funds.

See attached sheet for login instructions.

Check out The Common Application: The Common Application is a not for profit organization that serves students and colleges and universities by providing an admission application – online and in print – that students may submit to nearly 300 schools. Once an application is completed, copies can be sent to any number of participating colleges. This allows you to spend less time on the busywork of applying for admission and more time on what's really important: college research, visits, essay writing, and senior year coursework. For more information, see Mrs. Toth or check out their website at <http://app.commonapp.org>

College Board's CSS/Financial Aid Profile: Colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on the PROFILE to help them award private grant and scholarship funds. There is a cost to this service however The College Board is a reputable, well known entity. A limited number of fee waivers are granted to first time college applicants from families with very low income and few assets. Fee waivers are awarded automatically online based on family financial information. Applications will be available after October 1. For more information visit www.collegeboard.com or see Mrs. Toth.

The Christian Connector, Inc.: www.christianconnector.com is a free Christian college information service as well as provides a \$2,500 Christian college scholarship drawing.

Check out eCampusTours.com is a college planning website featuring virtual tours of college campuses as well as a scholarship search. You can also check out the career exploration section for possible career paths and related education tracks.

Information Sessions: Please check the walls outside of the guidance office for information regarding information sessions sponsored by a variety of post secondary institutions.

Planning on going to college?

**You can begin to apply for financial aid
as early as January 1, 2008.**

Information can be gathered at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Many schools have a February 15th financial aid application deadline so be aware of those deadlines. If none of the colleges you are considering have this deadline, set a March 1st deadline for yourself and your parent(s) to complete this form to be sure to get as much financial aid as you can from the state and from the colleges and universities.

Scholarship Update January 2008

Applying to Penn State, Pitt, Cal U, Slippery Rock or any of the other state system of colleges and universities?

The Ralph Young Family Foundation Scholarship

Created in 2002 with major emphasis on helping deserving public high school students within Allegheny and Washington Intermediate Units to obtain a public college education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Applications are available in the guidance office and should be mailed directly to the Foundation no later than April 21. Amount of scholarship varies. Interested students must see Mrs. Cotton for an application.

Attention Athletes: Scholarships of \$7500 await 25 outstanding scholar athletes in grade 12 nationwide. If you are a star both in the classroom and on the field, the Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year Award Program may be for you. To find out more, see Mrs. Toth in the guidance office or check out www.bodybymilk.com. **Deadline is March 7, 2008.**

Attention students of *Italian heritage*:

I. The Pittsburgh Italian Scholarship Fund provides students of Italian heritage who demonstrate financial need to pursue higher education, with annual scholarship funds.

The criteria for the scholarship is as follows:

- Student must demonstrate excellent academic performance.
- Student must demonstrate financial need.
- At least one parent must be of Italian heritage.
- Students, notified by mail, must successfully complete an interview with the Board of Directors.

See Mrs. Toth for an application. **Deadline is March 31, 2008.**

II. The Italian American Cultural and Heritage Society has established this annual scholarship program as continued proof of their commitment made to the education of youth of Washington County and provide educational assistance to high school seniors of Italian descent who are intent on enrolling in a four year college program and meet the established criteria. Criteria is as follows:

- At least one parent must be of full Italian descent (preference will be given to students whose parents are both of Italian descent)
- High QPA—a Quality Point Average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Challenging Curriculum—Strong evidence of preparation for college through rigorous curriculum choices.
- Leadership in Co-curricular activities—Evidence of leadership in co-curricular activities.
- Recommendation—Strong recommendation by a school staff member or official.

See Mrs. Toth for an application. **Deadline is March 7, 2008.**

III. Italian American Heritage Society of Monessen has established this scholarship to encourage and assist youths of Italian descent to pursue higher education. They consider this award to be a way of helping to produce highly educated individuals who will be a credit to the community and the nation. Criteria is as follows:

- Applicant must have one parent or grandparent of Italian heritage.
- Applicant must be in the upper 1/3 of his/her graduating class (ranked 37th or higher for the CAHS class of 2008) and have been accepted at an accredited college in a 4 year course of study.
- Applicant must present a transcript and two academic teacher recommendations.
- Applicant must be available for an interview.
- Applicant must be a student at one of the following schools: Belle Vernon, Charleroi, Monessen, or Ringgold.

See Mrs. Toth for an application. **Deadline is March 15, 2008.**

Attention students that are sons or daughters of active duty police and fire personnel, as well as volunteer fire departments personnel: The Pennsylvania Burglar and Fire Alarm Association is pleased to announce its scholarship program consisting of state and national awards for children of active duty police and fire personnel, as well as volunteer fire departments personnel. Students must be current seniors and be accepted for admission to an accredited college or university to attend in the fall of 2008. **Deadline is March 15, 2008.**

John and Sophie Choratch Scholarship Fund: This scholarship is available to a senior whose parent is a first responder (ambulance, fire, police, emergency medical technician, etc.) of Washington County. This is for a student pursuing post secondary education at a trade school, college or university in the fall of 2008. Financial need is a consideration. See Mrs. Toth for details. **Deadline is April 1.**

Attention students planning to attend California University of Pennsylvania: The Valley Independent has joined with **California University of PA** to provide two annual scholarships for local students. These full tuition, one year scholarships (one male and one female) recognize students who made a significant contribution in a variety of high school clubs and activities, community service and athletics. Charleroi Area High School is to nominate one male and one female to be considered for these awards. If you are interested in being considered as a nominee to represent Charleroi Area High School, please see Mrs. Toth before **February 15th**. Names will be given to the scholarship selection committee which will determine the two Charleroi nominees.

Attention all seniors: The Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association is pleased to extend the invitation to high school seniors for three \$1000 scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded based upon the submission of an essay by the participating students. Each school is invited to select one senior student's essay for submission. The essays are to be three to five pages double spaced. This year's essay contest topic will address whether the civil rights of a female athlete, who has been denied the right to play on the boys High School soccer team, have been violated. Please see Mrs. Toth for more information. **Deadline is March 21, 2008.**

Attention students planning to attend Robert Morris University: You could be eligible for a fall dorm grant worth approximately \$2470 working as a Student Manager or as Video Coordinator for the Robert Morris football team. For more information, see Mrs. Toth.

Attention students planning to pursue studies in an environmentally-related field: **The Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania** sponsors the Beulah Frey Environmental Scholarship to high school seniors who are interested in furthering their studies in an environmentally-related field. Eligible seniors are those applying to two and four year colleges and universities who are majoring in an environmental field of study. Scholarship applications, along with policies and procedures, can be accessed directly from ASWP's website, www.aswp.org. **Deadline is March 31, 2008.**

Attention students interested in pursuing a career in agriculture: **The Monsanto Company with the National Association of Farm Broadcasting** will continue the annual *Commitment to Agriculture Scholarship Program*. For more information, please visit their website at www.monsanto.com or www.ffa.org. **Deadline is February 15, 2008.**

AXA Achievement Community Scholarship: Through the **AXA website**, students are able to access more than \$1.3 million a year in scholarships on the national and local levels. Students are also able to obtain advice through a comprehensive resource for information to help students and parents plan for college. Learn more at www.axa-achievement.com. Deadline for the scholarship is **February 15, 2008**

Curtis Wachter Scholarship in Photojournalism/Photography: For a graduating senior from Washington County that will be majoring in photojournalism or photography in college or art school. Financial need is a consideration. A portfolio of images is required. See Mrs. Toth for details. **Deadline is April 1.**

D. Jack Gaido Sr. Memorial Fund Scholarship: For a graduating senior from Washington County. Must have at least a 2.75 or better GPA. Financial need is a consideration. See Mrs. Toth for more details. **Deadline is April 1.**

Hightower Scholars Scholarship Program: From the Hightower Scholars mailing: "The scholarship season for Hightower Scholars has officially begun. Our scholarships are for graduating minority seniors unless otherwise noted. Please call us at (724) 335-4027 or visit our web site at www.hscolars.org for eligibility requirements and applications."

Ross F. DiMarco Scholarship: Two scholarships are being offered to high school graduating seniors, residing within the boundaries of Fayette, Greene, Somerset, and Washington Counties. Winners of this scholarship will exemplify the following characteristics: creates and fosters a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world; promotes the principles of good government and good citizenship; takes an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and/or moral welfare of the community; serves the community without personal financial reward. Preferences will be given to applicants who are members in good standing of a Leo Club. See Mrs. Toth for details. **Deadline is April 1, 2008.**

Society for the Education of Physicians and Patients Merit Scholarship: The Merit Scholarship is open to seniors attending a school located in Washington and Westmoreland Counties and who plan to attend an accredited United States four year college or university. They need not be intending to enroll as pre-medical or in any particular course of study. See Mrs. Toth for more details. **Deadline is February 15, 2008.**

SunTrust Off to College Scholarship Sweepstakes: \$1,000 scholarship for high school seniors, plus a \$100 SunTrust Visa Gift Card. High school seniors can win a \$1000 scholarship for their first year expenses at an accredited college or private career school. One winner will be chosen every two weeks from October 31, 2007-May 15, 2008. For complete details and registration information visit offtocollege.info or suntrusteducation.com.

The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Award: To be eligible for this award, the nominee must be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit or sons of the American Legion Squadron and have received the Eagle Scout Award. This is a \$10,000 scholarship. Three \$2,500 second prizes will also be awarded. **Deadline is March 3, 2008.**

Washington County Music Education Fund: Two types of scholarships are available: one for high school students attending a music study program and one for high school graduates majoring in music. Financial need is a consideration. Please see Mrs. Toth for more information. **Deadline is April 1.**