SENIOR SCOOP

FHS CLASS OF 2021 NEWSLETTER

November 2020 Vol. 2

Seniors,

Michigan College Month has come to a close, I can't believe it! Thank you, seniors, for all of your hard work in October. You all survived, and accomplished so much! I'm so proud that we achieved our goal of 60% of seniors with one college application in!

November marks the beginning of the **Michigan College Cash Campaign (CCC)**. This campaign is meant to encourage you to continue to look for ways to pay for college.

College can be expensive, **BUT** there are ways that it can be made affordable.

Make sure you are continuing to apply to colleges, file **FAFSA**, and apply for scholarships.

If you are unsure where to start, make sure to dig your red folder out of your locker and look at the "Scholarships" sheet!

Another great place to start is https://www.fremontscholarships.weebly.com, as there is a large Excel sheet of scholarships I've sorted through on there!

- Ms. Erlewein

CONTENT

Olivia Erlewein is the college adviser for Fremont High School. Ms. Erlewein is a recent graduate of Michigan State University. She has a degree in Arts and Humanities (RCAH). She grew up in Hesperia, MI, and graduated from Hesperia High School. She was inspired by her high school college adviser to serve at FHS.

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Note for November: Seniors should be completing their applications and beginning to think of financial aid and research scholarships. Many scholarships from universities have a deadline of December 1st.

MICHIGAN
College Cash Campaign

"The goal of the **Michigan College Cash Campaign** is to encourage a school-wide rally around **FAFSA completion and helping students find cash for college."** This is another statewide initiative to help seniors through the college enrollment process.

The average FAFSA completion rate in Michigan for 2019 was 56%. MCAN wants to increase this average and will offer rewards to participating high schools as incentives to improve your school's FAFSA completion rate.

The most commonly cited barrier to postsecondary education is college affordability. Along with being informed, and socially and academically ready, it is equally important that all students have access to the necessary funds to enroll, persist, and complete college. While completing the FAFSA is one step in the college-going process, it is the only way for students to unlock their access to federal loans and grants, statewide scholarships and grants, and often institutional and community-based scholarships and grants."

FAFSA
FederalStudentAid
An office of the U.S. Department of Education

FAFSA
(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

When you complete the FAFSA you become eligible to receive federal grants, loans and work study money for your education. You must also use this form to apply for most state and private aid. This form must be filled out if the student is eligible for the **MICHIGAN** Competitive Scholarship. Forms are available on the FAFSA website: www.fafsa.ed.gov/

The 2021-2022 FAFSA (the form that the class of 2021 should file) opened **October 1st, 2020** and must be received no later than **March 1st, 2021.** You will use tax information from two years prior to the year you are filing (this year, 2019 taxes).

The earlier you apply, the better chance you have at receiving the most amount of aid.

MI Student Aid
www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid

Register by Nov. 5th for the Dec. SAT!

Retaking the SAT and getting a higher score could mean the difference between getting into your #1 school and your #4. Getting a higher score could mean thousands of more dollars in financial aid/Scholarships. Colleges typically look at your highest score so there is little downside to retesting.

Particularly this year, I highly recommend retaking the SAT. With the gap caused by school closing down last spring, it's easy to 'forget' how to test. Even if you applied as test optional, universities will still use your test score to determine your scholarship consideration. At almost every university, the scholarships that you can receive if you send your SAT score are higher than those you can receive without it (there are some general exceptions to this, such as WMU).

If the cost of re-taking the SAT is a burden to you and your family, please see Ms. Erlewein about a fee waiver!

Tips for retaking the SAT:

- Make sure to read section directions.
- Answer questions that you know first, save ones you might need more time on for later.
- Eliminate answers you know are incorrect.
- Don't skip answers, give your best guess.
- Know what to expect on the test.
- Take a practice test beforehand.
- Study on Khan Academy.
- Eat a healthy breakfast the morning of.

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline*	SAT Scores Release Date	SAT Essay Scores Release Date**
August 29, 2020	July 29, 2020	August 16, 2020	September 21, 2020	September 28, 2020
September 26, 2020: ADDED	August 26, 2020	September 15, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)	October 9, 2020	October 16, 2020
October 3, 2020	September 4, 2020	September 22, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)	October 16, 2020	October 23, 2020
November 7, 2020	October 7, 2020	October 27, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)	November 20, 2020	November 27, 2020
December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020	November 24, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)	December 18, 2020	December 26, 2020
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021	March 2, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)	March 26, 2021	April 2, 2021
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021	April 27, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)	May 21, 2021	May 28, 2021
June 5, 2021	May 5, 2021	May 26, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)	July 14, 2021	July 21, 2021

FAFSA The Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or the FAFSA, opens on October 1st. The FAFSA is a document that a student and their parent or guardian (if dependent) must fill out to receive federal aid to attend an apprenticeship or college program.

The FAFSA provides a variety of different financial aid options in the form of grants (such as the Pell Grant), loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), and work study opportunities. Even if a student does not have a large amount of financial need, they are still likely to receive a loan with a lower interest rate than that of a private loan.

If a student does not intend to go to college, filing for FAFSA is still a good idea as it will provide a safety net in case plans change. That means if a student is joining the military or the work force, it is still important to make sure that their FAFSA has been completed.

Although the FAFSA can take a bit of time to complete, I am here to help you. If you ever have any questions, please reach out!

The 2021-2022 FAFSA is now open!

1. Go to the right website! The FAFSA application can be found at **www.fafsa.ed.gov**.
2. Set up your FSA ID before you file. Students and one parent (for dependent students) will need an FSA ID in order to file a FAFSA. It generally takes 1-3 for the FSA ID to become fully operational.

Items you may need to file are:

- Social security number (both student and parent[s])
- Driver's license (if any) or state ID
- Permanent resident receipt card (If applicable) W-2 forms and other 2019 records of money earned
- 2019 income tax return
- Records of child support paid
- Records of taxable earning from Federal work study or other need-based work programs Records of student grant, scholarship, and fellowship aid, including
- AmeriCorps awards, that was included in student or parent AGI
- Current stock, bond, and other investment records
- Current business and farm records Current bank statements

I've been accepted... Now what?

If you've received acceptance offers from more than one college, **congratulations!** Your hard work has paid off, and now you get to choose which college is best for you. Don't worry about choosing that one perfect college — there's no such thing. What you do while you're there matters more than the college name on your diploma. Here's how to make your decision.

Ask questions. Create a list of any questions you still have about the colleges you're considering. You may want to get answers to questions like these:

- How many students return after freshman year? How many graduate?
- Does the college offer a lot of majors I'm interested in?
- What can I do for fun?

Get answers. The best place to get an answer depends on the question. Here are some of the resources that can provide information:

- People who work at the college
- Current students at the college
- The college's official website and its College Search profile

As you search for answers, it's important to use only trustworthy sources of information and to recognize the difference between fact and opinion. A college's official website and its admission officers are often the best sources of factual information about that college.

Visit — or revisit — the campuses. If you can't visit a campus, call or email the admission office with your questions. Ask if someone there can put you in touch with current students and recent graduates.

Think things over. You've done research and asked questions. Now it's time to check your own thoughts and feelings. Ask yourself questions like these:

- Which colleges best match my list of must-haves?
- At which colleges can I imagine myself as successful and happy?

Compare the colleges. Use your new information to sort the colleges by what they offer and what you want. Make a list of the pros and cons for each college.

We will discuss financial aid packages and decision making in the December issue!

Adapted from Big Future.

Scholarships

Now that the majority of seniors have completed their college applications, it is time to start treating applying to scholarships like a part-time job! Although scholarship season lasts until spring, many scholarship deadlines are only weeks away.

I recommend continuing to check back on scholarship search websites frequently and keeping an eye on deadlines. It's very easy to let these opportunities slip past, so make sure to pace yourself!

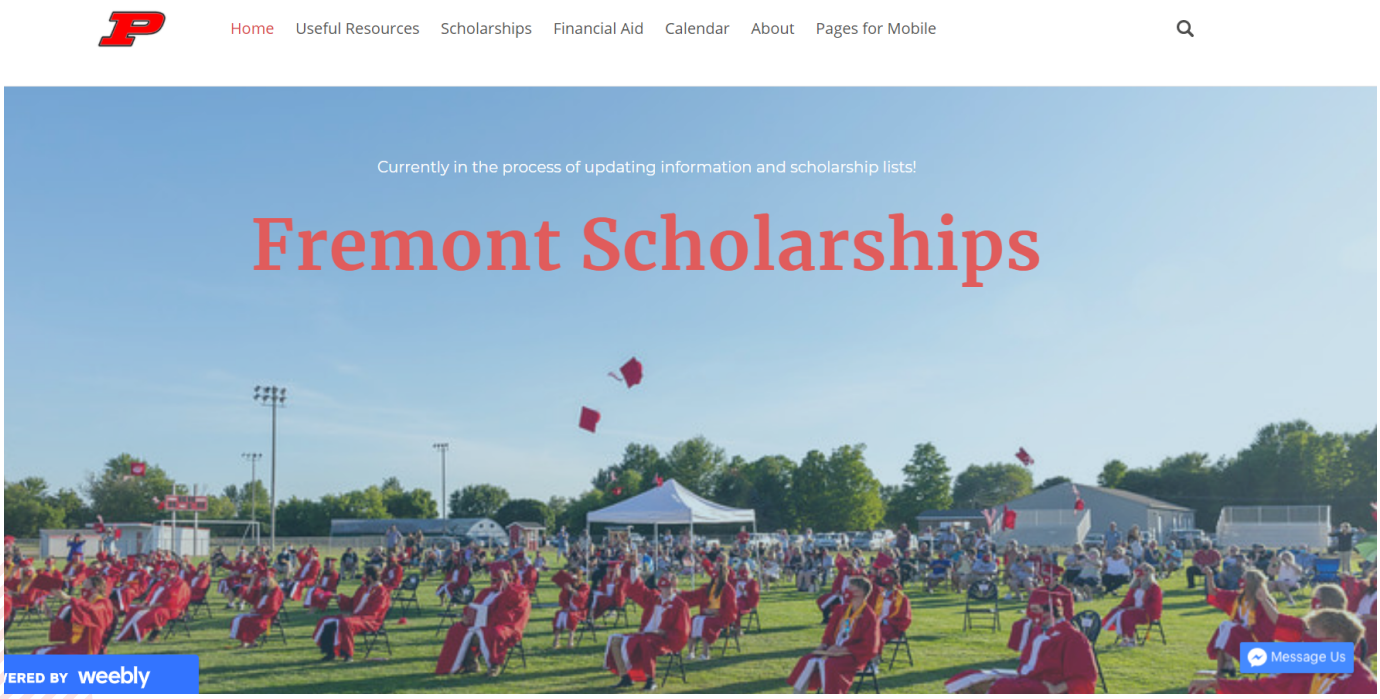
Check out the link below for scholarship resources!

Ms. E's Picks

Elk's Most Valuable Student
November 15th, 2020
The Elks National Foundation (ENF) awards 500 four-year scholarships based on academics, leadership, and financial need. National awards range from $1,000 per year to $12,500 per year.

Hagan Scholarship Foundation
November 15th, 2020
The Hagan Scholarship is a nationwide need-based merit scholarship. The scholarship provides up to $6,000 each semester for up to 8 consecutive semesters.

fremontscholarships.weebly.com



Senior To do List

- Keep up the good work! Semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility
- Visit with college admissions representatives who virtually visit Fremont High School
- File FAFSA if you have not completed it yet
- Keep applying for admission at the colleges you've chosen
- Plan a college visit with your family if the university allows in person visits (talk to me about potentially getting a gas card)
- Find out if you qualify for scholarships at each college where you have applied
- See your college adviser to discuss college and career planning
- Keep track of your email to make sure you are staying up to date with college decisions

Looking Ahead

Already looking forward to next month's issue? Here's a sneak peek at next month!

- What is a student aid report?
- What is a financial aid award letter?
- Making your decision
- Responding to colleges
- Scholarships
- Virtual alumni panel

Don't forget to check the calendar on the next page for important dates!

College Cash Campaign & Trades Month

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	MSU Institute of Agri. Tech @ 10:05AM 5 Oakland @ 12:25PM	Cookies 4 College 6 @ Lunch	7
8		Sheet Metal Workers @ 10AM & 1PM 10 Kettering @ 9:25AM	11	W. MI Plumbers & Fitters @ 1:30PM 12	Cookies 4 College 13 @ Lunch	14
15	Michigan Dept. of Corrections @ 12:30PM 16	17	18	19	Cookies 4 College 20 @ Lunch	21
22	Iron Workers @ 10:05 AM 23	24	25	Break 26	Break 27 (Ms. Erlewein's birthday, very important)	28
29	MI State Police @ 10:05AM 30	December 1	MDNR Conservation Officers @ 12:30PM 2			

EVENTS

11/5 MSU Institute of Agri. Tech @ 10:05AM

11/5 Oakland University @ 12:25PM

11/10 Sheet Metal Workers @ 10AM & 1PM

11/10 Kettering University @ 9:25AM

11/12 West Michigan Plumbers & Fitters @ 1:30PM

11/16 MI Dept. of Corrections @ 12:30PM

11/23 Iron Workers @ 10:05AM

11/26-27 Break

EVERY FRIDAY:

Cookies/Candy 4 College

@ Lunch, ask about financial aid and get a cookie/candy!