

# CRUSADER SENIOR PARENT NEWSLETTER

Doris Rempe-Counselor  
October-November-December  
2011 GRADUATES!

## COLLEGEBOUND NEBRASKA

**ANY STUDENT PELL ELIGIBLE MAY RECEIVE FULL TUITIONS AT UNL, UNK, OR UNO.**

Learn how to become Pell eligible by attending a financial aid workshop.

**“If you are a Nebraska resident who meets admission requirements for the University of Nebraska, and if you are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant, you can attend the University of Nebraska and pay NO tuition. This fall, the university system will be expanded the program to include students who are just beyond Pell eligibility. A typical family of four with one child going to college, having a family income of \$50,000 or less, will meet the guidelines for “Collegebound Nebraska” funding.**

**SENIORS & SENIOR PARENTS:** If you have not made any college visits, please do so during the next month. Many schools begin awarding scholarships soon after a student applies, but the money is limited. The earlier you apply, the better your chances. Also, you do not need to wait until your October ACT score is back to apply. A new transcript can be sent if your score improves. Don't forget to complete a “Counselor Request Form” to request a transcript, senior class schedule, or recommendation letter. Only a handful of seniors have completed any college admissions applications. **Seniors have been encouraged to complete three college admission applications before CHRISTMAS.**

Finding free money is easy if you know where to look. Many Web sites, including the College Board's [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), offer searches at no cost. Also, check out listings on FastWeb [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), Don't forget! [www.educationquest.org](http://www.educationquest.org) and one of the most important websites, Central Catholic School's [www.gicentralcatholic.org](http://www.gicentralcatholic.org) GICC's scholarships are updated every two weeks and are current as of November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **BUT FIRST DO SOME PREP WORK:**

**What makes you unique?** Make a list of academic, extra curricular and work experiences that make you stand out (résumé), the more specific the scholarship, the easier it is to win it, says Baird Johnson of FastWeb, which has a database of more than 600,000 scholarships: “We have ones for students who may be short or overweight or athletes or non-athletes or even willing to go to their prom dressed in duct tape.” (This is true!)

**Think local and personal.** The smaller the geographical area the scholarship targets, the better your chances. Also, see if you or your parents' workplace, community groups or area businesses have programs (Kohl's, Best Buy, and Target do.) Don't forget to talk to college financial aid offers. Most aid ultimately comes from them.

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### **SENIOR AND SENIOR PARENTS: SCHOLARSHIPS...**

**(Parents: I advertise scholarships in the announcements, on the senior bulletin board, and on the GICC website, but your senior has to complete the applications. Scholarship committees do not accept anything after the deadline listed regardless of reason. Please remind your senior to contact me if he or she has any questions regarding a scholarship. You are also welcome to call or make an appointment to discuss scholarships as well. I have already visited with several parents and seniors regarding this topic.**

Dec. 1-Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship Deadline

Jan. 15, 2011-Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees Scholarship [www.nscs.edu](http://www.nscs.edu) (25+ ACT)

Jan. 15-UNK, UNL, UNO Scholarship Deadline (must have completed admission process first)

Jan-TBA-Warren & Velda Wilson Foundation Scholarship (multiple \$1,000 scholarships)

Feb. 15-Stueven & Harding Scholarship application deadline



## SENIORS!

**22/51** of the 2010-2011 seniors have requested college application information be sent from the counselor to one or more colleges. Way to go seniors! Seniors are encouraged to complete the admission process to at least three colleges as soon as possible.

In the two weeks after Thanksgiving, Mrs. Rempe will be scheduling a Mid-Year Review with every senior. Discussion topics will be college admission applications, second semester schedules, credit information, transcripts, scholarship updates, updating resume, and career interests. Those seniors who miss their appointment with the counselor at the scheduled meeting day and time need to make an appointment to see Mrs. Rempe the first week in January.

(PLEASE REQUEST ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPTS IF NO COST IS LISTED)



### **IMPORTANT!**

### **SCHOLARSHIP NOTIFICATIONS TO COUNSELOR!** **SENIORS AND SENIOR PARENTS**

Several seniors have already received award letters from colleges and universities. Please give a copy of ALL AWARD LETTERS to Mrs. Rempe as soon as you receive them. Even if you are not planning to attend a school that has offered you a scholarship, I would like a copy of any scholarship or award letter. I would also like a copy of the "package" letter a school gives to you which would include scholarships plus financial aid offers. Only scholarships and other awards will be listed in the senior program

### **WHAT SHOULD SENIORS BEING DOING NOW?**

- 1) **Revising** personal essay, resume' and letter requesting recommendations and turning them in to your counselor **ON TIME.** (Final copies should be completed on or before December 1, 2008) Many seniors are far from this goal. **A pass/fail grade will be given on senior report cards at the semester.**
- 2) **Completing** admission applications to at least two or three colleges. (Preferably online) by December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 3) **Completing** a "Counselor Request (transcript) Form (Gold Form on shelf next to Mrs. Rempe's office and giving Mrs. Rempe all necessary information to send to the college.
- 4) **Searching** free scholarship search web sites
- 5) Checking the senior bulletin board, GICC website and the Scholarship files listed in this and previous newsletters before asking questions about them.
- 6) **Obtain** a pin number now for student and one parent for the FAFSA (financial aid form) to be filed after Jan. 1
- 7) **Writing** letters requesting recommendations from counselor, teachers, or employers.

## University of Nebraska-Kearney

UNK will have a [new general education curriculum](#) starting with the incoming class of college freshmen in fall 2010. This new General Studies program includes a stronger emphasis on developing critical thinking skills.

Much of the new program is similar to the current General Studies. Differences include the addition of a Portal course, a Capstone course, and a Democracy in Perspective course. The Portal course is a freshman seminar with primary focus on critical thinking skills. Democracy in Perspective courses are about the rights and obligations of citizens in a democracy. The Capstone course is an interdisciplinary experience that requires an original project demonstrating mastery of the General Studies [learning outcomes](#).

You can view the courses offered in the new General Studies program [here](#).

An important change that students and parents should know about is the writing requirement. The old General Studies program included two semesters of composition, English 101 and 102. The new General Studies program includes only English 102: *Academic Research & Writing*. The prerequisite for this course is either 1) English 101, or 2) an ACT English subscore of 29 or above. **Most incoming freshmen will not meet the ACT score prerequisite and will need to take English 101.** English 101 does not count for credit in the General Studies program, but counts toward the 125 credit hours required for graduation.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

There are basically three kinds of scholarships for which seniors apply.

**Category 1-** This is probably the best paying category. These are the scholarships which are granted by the colleges/universities themselves. Secondary institutions grant scholarships to attract certain kinds of students to their campuses. Academic awards are given to recruit scholars. Students hoping for an academic scholarship must rank high in their class (Top 15%), have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and score above a 24 on their ACT, (This may vary slightly depending upon the college or university). Ivy-league schools, who attract only scholars, will attach a high financial need to qualify. Colleges also want to attract students for their specific talents. Athletes are recruited by coaches and must meet NCAA eligibility requirements. (Your ACT score must be sent directly to the clearinghouse). Performance scholarships in the fine arts are judged on auditions, and art students must submit portfolios. A recent talent colleges are looking for is leadership. Leadership awards are based on involvement, offices held in high school. Résumés are very important in earning a leadership award.

**Category 2- National and State Awards.** These scholarships are usually awarded by large companies such as Coca-Cola, Tylenol, Toyota, Walmart etc. Because these scholarships are awarded nationally, competition is extremely high. State foundations such as AK-SAR-BEN, Peter Kiewit, and Walter Scott offer scholarships to Nebraska students who rank in the top 10%-20% of their class. Students usually have to gather letters of recommendations and write essays according to specific directions. These scholarships normally require a fair amount of effort on the student's part and should be started early.

**Category 3-Local scholarships.** Central Catholic students have access to quite a few regional and local scholarships offered by Grand Island or Hall County businesses or foundations. Most of these scholarships will be posted as soon as they are received, usually second semester.

**SAVE- IMPORTANT!**  
**REQUESTING RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Seniors...When requesting recommendations, please follow these simple steps.**

1. At least two weeks in advance, give or mail to a teacher, counselor, administrator, or other adult individual a written recommendation request letter, along with a copy of your resume and essay, specifically stating the reason for the recommendation.

Two weeks allows the recommender time to write a thoughtful recommendation and demonstrates your organization and consideration.

2. Give or mail to the individual a stamped envelope addressed to the recipient of the recommendation (If the recommender is to send it directly to them). If the recommendation is from a teacher, counselor, or administrator, please include the address of the recipient and request a Central Catholic envelope be used.

3. If asking your counselor, please fill out a GOLD form indicating what you are requesting and to whom it is to be sent. If a recommendation letter is requested, a letter from the student requesting the recommendation is required, along with a copy of your resume and essay.

**4. If you have earned any credits from CCC or any other college, YOU MUST REQUEST A TRANSCRIPT be sent from that college.**

**HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION**

Your paper high school transcript contains the following information:

1) All courses taken from the 9<sup>th</sup> grade through 11<sup>th</sup> grade

2) Class rank at the end of the junior year (class rank at the beginning of the senior year can be obtained from Mrs. Rempe)

3) ACT scores, PSAT scores, CTBS score, PLAN score

**YOUR PAPER TRANSCRIPT DOES NOT HAVE:**

1) Your senior class schedule for the year

2) Your high school attendance record

**ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPTS have the following:**

1) All courses taken from the 9<sup>th</sup> grade through courses in progress including senior class schedule

2) Electronic ACT scores (UNL and NCAA and NAIA wants these scores sent directly from ACT)

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT MRS. REMPE AT 384-2440 OR E-MAIL [drempe@gicentralcatholic.org](mailto:drempe@gicentralcatholic.org)**

As scholarships come in to the counseling office, please check the following scholarship locations regularly, Senior Bulletin Board, the scholarship files, and the scholarships on the web.

**HELPFUL HINT: TYPE SCHOLARSHIP FORMS UNLESS IT SPECIFICALLY ASKS YOU TO PRINT OR WRITE.**

**Résumé**, if asked for by college or scholarship, **SHOULD BE ON HEAVIER PAPER**. Résumés for recommendation letters can be on standard printing paper.

**Please note the deadlines for these colleges and scholarships and be sure to check the eligibility guidelines.**

See Scholarship list on the counselor's web page and on the Senior Bulletin Board outside the counselor's office. Some applications are found in the scholarship files in the counselor's office, but many are found online.