



- Jan 2**-St. Leo's Scholarship deadline
- Jan 4**-Second Semester Begins-no schedule changes this day only
- Jan 4**-Financial Aid Meeting @ Northwest High School (this is the 2nd opportunity for seniors and parents to learn what is new on the FAFSA)
- Jan 6**-Last Day for Warren & Velda Wilson appointments
- Jan 9**-Mrs. Rempe-out of the office all day
- Jan 10**-Gates Millennium Scholarship deadline
- Jan 11**- Counseling Department Advisory Board Meeting
- Jan 13**-ACT (*February test registration deadline*)
- Jan 13**-Last Day to Drop and Add classes
- Jan 13**-Warren & Velda Wilson Scholarship 1st round deadline
- Jan 15**-NSC Board of Trustees Scholarship deadline
 - UNK Scholarship deadline
 - UNL Scholarship deadline
 - UNO Scholarship deadline (to be assured consideration)
 - Chadron State, Peru State and Doane College Scholarship deadline
 - and many more
- Jan 30**-Faculty Prayer Day-No School
- Feb 11**-ACT test
- Feb 21 & 22**- ACRE Assessment (8th & 11th grade religious studies students)
- Feb 28**-UNK, UNL, UNO College Representatives- Junior Presentation



ALL GICC STUDENTS ARE AMBASSADORS

“The mission of Grand Island Central Catholic Middle-High School is to teach as Jesus did, calling young adults to an atmosphere of academic excellence and physical, emotional and spiritual maturity whereby every student grows in awareness as a contributing and responsible member of the Church and society.”

Characteristics of all GICC students:

- Caring
- Respectful
- Understanding
- Searching for alternatives to resolve differences
- Attentive to the feelings of others
- Determined to be positive role models
- Enjoying their GICC family and want others to feel a part
- Responding appropriately to adults and peers
- Serving for the betterment of the school and community

ATTENTION JUNIORS!

Important!

Juniors who are planning to sign up for college English Composition or AP Calculus for college credit during the summer of 2011 or the fall of 2011 must have an ACT or COMPASS score in the counselor's office by the first week in April. The last ACT test that the counselor can use is **February 11, 2012**. (ACT registration deadline is Jan. 13th) COMPASS test can be scheduled through Central Community College-Grand Island between the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Call CCC at 308-398-7423 to schedule a test. These tests must be completed and copy of scores given to Mrs. Rempe no later than the **last week in March 2012**. Please contact Mrs. Rempe if you have any questions.

PSAT RESULTS-JUNIORS



Juniors received their PSAT results from Mrs. Rempe between December 8th-16th during scheduled appointments with the counselor. Parents, please ask to see your child's results. Juniors will have access to an online career and college tool called **MyRoad** at... www.collegeboard.com/psatextra using their specific code on their answer results document.

PLAN RESULTS-SOPHOMORES



Sophomores received their PLAN results from Mrs. Rempe in November in Mr. Mohr's English classes. A perfect score on the PLAN assessment is a 32. The current sophomore class has an overall composite score of 18.9 compared to the national average of 17.2

EXPLORE-8TH & 9TH GRADE STUDENTS

Eighth and ninth grade students received their EXPLORE results in their English classes in December. The best score a student could earn on the EXPLORE is a 25. The current eighth grade class has a composite score of 16.5 compared to the national average of 14.9. The current ninth grade class has a composite score of 17.4 compared to the national average of 16.1.



CONGRATULATIONS !

Jessica Wiens and Alex Wirth- School Winners in the Wendy's High School Heisman Award.

Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership
Update
Congratulations!

Kathie Nguyen who will be attending HOBY in June 2012

CONGRATULATIONS TO GICC'S NEW YOUTH LEADERSHIP TOMORROW
MEMBERS

Jake Jarecke, John Noble, and Natalie Pfeifer

SENIORS! FINANCIAL AID NIGHT @ GI NORTHWEST-Jan 4, 2012

All seniors and senior parents who did not attend the financial aid night at Heartland Lutheran are invited to attend the meeting at GI Northwest January 4, 2012. EducationQuest presents valuable information regarding changes on the FAFSA. I encourage attendance at this meeting because they are very knowledgeable and can answer your questions regarding financial aid. Some scholarships ask for FAFSA information even if a student does not qualify for "free" money.

CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE-G.I



CCC-G.I. continues offering classes to GICC juniors and seniors in Business and Marketing for college credit. We have had several seniors who have taken advantage of this opportunity during the school year. Students interested in these courses **must take them in sequence**; therefore planning must take place before signing up. See Mrs. Rempe if you are interested in these business courses.



NEBRASKA CAREER CONNECTIONS

All Central Catholic parents and students can explore a career site that includes occupations and employment, education and training, assessment tools, and so much more. Visit Central Catholic's web site. www.gicentralcatholic.org. and click on the "counselor" for more useful tools. All 6th, 8th, 9th, and 11th grade students have had the opportunity to create an account on this website.



SENIORS-SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

Finding free money is easy if you know where to look. Many Web sites can be found. Check out the counselor's webpage for links. GICC's scholarships will be updated weekly and are current as of December 9th. Paper copies of current scholarships were available December 20th.

BUT FIRST DO SOME PREP WORK:

What makes you unique? Make a list of academic, extracurricular 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.

---Printed from USA Weekend

IMPORTANT- Seniors and Senior Parents can take the scholarship applications from the GICC scholarship files anytime the counseling office is open. If the scholarship application is located in the GICC Scholarship files, that will be indicated in the information on the website. If an application file is empty, please write me a note, and I will make a copy for you. Please read the eligibility requirements carefully so you do not take a scholarship if you do not meet the qualifications.



SENIORS & SENIOR PARENTS!

Seventy-four percent of the 2011-2012 seniors have requested college application information be sent from the counselor to one or more colleges. Seniors were encouraged to complete the admission process to at least three colleges before Christmas. The admission process must be completed before colleges will even consider scholarships for students.

Seniors were asked to turn in an updated résumé, personal essay, and letter requesting a recommendation to Mrs. Rempe before Christmas. A few seniors still need to revise their essay and letter requesting a recommendation. Seniors will be expected to check with the counselor on a regular basis for any questions they need answered regarding colleges, scholarships etc. (Signing up for an appointment will assure a time set aside just for that individual).



PARENTS-SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER AWARDS

Please give a copy of any award letters or scholarship offers you receive to Mrs. Rempe. Even if you are unsure as to whether you are going to accept the award, your counselor would like a copy of the letter regardless. Seniors: After you have decided upon your final college choice or have narrowed it down to two, please give Mrs. Rempe a copy of your acceptance letter as well. Several seniors have already received scholarship offers THANK YOU for your prompt attention to this. Copies of athletic offers need to be given to Mrs. Rempe as well as Mr. Schumann. This documentation is needed for the Honors Program at the end of the year.



COMMUNICATION

Parents: it won't be long before your child will be graduating high school, whether he or she is a freshman or senior. One tool we can give our children is teaching them to be an advocate for themselves, whether it is asking a teacher a question or questioning an answer on a test. When you send your son or daughter to the next level after high school, he or she will be on his or her own and must take that step to communicate with college instructors or other adults



COUNSELING DEPARTMENT ADVISORY BOARD

The first Advisory Board meeting was held December 14th. Members include: Doris Rempe-Counselor, John Golka-Principal, Keith Kester-Teacher, Jackson Buck, Lucky Gratopp, and Mallory Woods-Students, Jackie Cornelius, Susan Toner, Phil Thede, and Becca Heidelk-Parents. General discussion revolved around Respect issues in the school and discussion regarding future survey questions in relationship to these issues and potential curriculum ideas.



EducationQuest-FAFSA

From January 1-April 1, the college planning office will only make appointments for first-time FAFSA filers. During these appointments, the staff will provide a more detailed explanation of how and why the FAFSA is completed. This new approach will give clients the information and tools necessary to complete the FAFSA independently in future years.

Clients completing a renewal FAFSA between January 1 and April 1 will be encouraged to file their form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov using the FAFSA Tutorial at www.EducationQuest.org

All clients can continue to call any college planning office for help over the phone. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

REMINDER: DUKE TIP 7th Grade Students:

Please note that the deadline to register for the February ACT is January 13th.

The [Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program](#) - through Duke TIP - is a unique opportunity for exceptionally promising, high-achieving students with financial need. If chosen, Young Scholars receive comprehensive support from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation throughout high school and typically through college, including but not limited to:

- Advice about and financial assistance for enrichment programs, such as Duke TIP's [Summer Studies Programs](#) or [Independent Learning courses](#)
- Assistance in obtaining computers, software, or other learning technology
- Financial assistance for music, art, or other talent lessons
- Mentoring opportunities and leadership programs
- College admissions advising

For more information about the Young Scholars Program, [click here](#). Any questions may be directed to Bomi Roberson at Duke TIP: bomi.roberson@duke.edu or (919) 668-0248.



PARENTS! CHECK OUT THE “STUDY SKILLS” LINK ON THE COUNSELOR’S WEB PAGE. www.gicentralcatholic.org “counselor”

Seniors: Playing sports at a Division I or II school? You must be registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center. www.eligibilitycenter.org

Playing sports at an NAIA school? You must be registered with the NAIA Eligibility center. www.playnaia.org

Seniors! Frustrated by unfillable PDF applications?

Follow these steps: free website www.fillanypdf.com

- 1) Download the unfillable PDF form, click on the “Type” icon and change the font size as needed.**
- 2) Click on the form where you need to type and a text box appears. If the box is placed incorrectly, just click “undo” and place again. When finished, download the form and print from your computer.**



RESPONDING TO CYBERBULLYING

For Family Members:

Prevention

- Talk to your child about responsible online behavior.
- Monitor the amount of time your child spends online and provide guidance for online surfing.
- Set up the computer in a common area where you can supervise your child’s Internet use.

- Purchase tracking software to block inappropriate Web content and check your child's online activities.
- Encourage your child to tell a parent or trusted adult about threatening or harassing messages.
- Discuss and provide opportunities to practice strategies for responding to cyberbullying.
- Exemplify safe use of the Internet.
- Encourage your child's personal responsibility in respectful Internet use.

Intervention

- Don't reply to cyberbullying and save the evidence.
- Block offending e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers, or change your child's phone number and e-mail address.
- Try to identify the perpetrator and contact the parents if feasible.
- Report incidents and file complaints with communication services providers and Web sites where the cyberbullying is occurring.
- Report any potential criminal behavior related to cyberbullying to law enforcement
- Get legal advice.
- Notify your child's school of the problem.

For Youth:

If you are the target of cyberbullying:

- Don't respond to bullying or inappropriate messages, but save them as evidence.
- Don't feel shame. Discuss any online incidents that make you feel uncomfortable with a trusted adult, such as a family member, teacher or school counselor.
- Always report online bullying, hate incidents, inappropriate sexual activity and threats of harm to self or others to an adult family member (such as a parent), school authorities and the police.
- Block the e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers of people who are sending unwanted messages; if the messages continue, an adult family member can help you to change your phone numbers, e-mail addresses or screen names.
- File complaints with e-mail services, Internet Service Providers, Web sites, cell phone companies, etc. Service providers can find the offenders, cancel their service, and report them to the police if necessary.

When in doubt about what to do, log off the computer and ask for help from a trusted adult

***EducationQuest Foundation
College Planning Bulletin***

***A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students
January 2012***

It's time to prepare for the FAFSA!

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. Even if you don't think you'll qualify for need-based financial aid, you should complete the FAFSA to qualify for low-interest student and parent loans.

Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA and the financial aid process:

Contact the college(s) you applied to and ask for their FAFSA priority filing date. Because some types of financial aid are awarded first-come, first-served, it's important that you submit the FAFSA before that date.

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and one for a parent at pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the online FAFSA.

Complete your 2011 taxes early as the FAFSA requires current tax information. Approximately two weeks after you and your parents electronically file your tax forms, your IRS data will be available to retrieve and transfer into your FAFSA. This new process will simplify the income tax portion of your FAFSA. [Review this flyer](#) or see the "[Paying for College](#)" section at EducationQuest.org for more details.

Gather these student and parent items:

- 2011 federal income tax forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2011 W-2 forms
- Student's driver's license number
- Social Security numbers
- Birth dates
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Current cash, savings and checking account balances
- Current investment values (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding your home and retirement accounts
- Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
- Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that you or your parents live on and operate.)
- 2011 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2011 Workers' Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2011 such as housing/food/ living allowances for military and clergy
- Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

Be prepared to answer the following FAFSA question:

Did you or anyone in your household receive any of the following federal benefits?

- Supplemental Security Income
- Food Stamps
- TANF
- Free or Reduced Price Lunch
- WIC

Complete and file the FAFSA electronically at fafsa.gov before your college's priority date.

Expect a Student Aid Report acknowledging that your form was processed.

Expect Financial Aid Award Notifications in the spring from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA. The notifications will detail the financial aid assistance the colleges are offering (could be a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans).

Apply for student and parent loans (if necessary) in the summer through your college.

Check out these *free* FAFSA tools and resources

Visit the [“FAFSA Tools”](#) section at [EducationQuest.org](#) where you’ll find:

- **College Funding Estimator** – estimates your FAFSA results
- **“FAFSA Made Easy” video** – demonstrates that the FAFSA isn’t as difficult as it seems
- **FAFSA podcasts** – explain what the FAFSA is – and how to apply
- **FAFSA Checklist** – provides a complete list of items you need to gather before you complete the FAFSA
- **FAFSA Tutorial** – explains each FAFSA question

If you are filing a FAFSA for the first time and would like free personal help, call the EducationQuest location nearest you to make an appointment. Kearney: 308-234-6310 or 800-666-3721; Lincoln: 402-475-5222 or 800-303-3745; Omaha: 402-391-4033 or 888-357-6300; or Ogallala: 800-303-3745, ext. 6654.

January “To Do” List

Complete these tasks during January to stay on the right college planning track.

Seniors:

- ___ Ask the college(s) you applied to for their FAFSA priority date.
- ___ Attend the [Financial Aid Program](#) at your school or in your area.
- ___ Apply for FAFSA Personal Identification Numbers at [pin.ed.gov](#).
- ___ Complete your taxes early as you’ll need that information for the FAFSA.
- ___ Continue to apply for scholarships; see [ScholarshipQuest](#) for Nebraska-based awards.

Juniors:

- ___ Attend the [Financial Aid Program](#) at your school or in your area.
- ___ [Register](#) by December 30 for the January 28 SAT.
- ___ [Register](#) by January 13 for the February 11 ACT.
- ___ [Register](#) by February 10 for the March 10 SAT.
- ___ Continue to research colleges.
- ___ Start setting up college visits.

For free help with college planning, contact EducationQuest Foundation:

Kearney

308-234-6310
800-666-3721

Lincoln

402-475-5222
800-303-3745

Omaha

402-391-4033
888-357-6300

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