Austin High School

Austin High School
3434 Pheasant Creek Dr.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Senior Newsletter

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Searching for scholarships?

How can you find money for college? You can research scholarships on your own by visiting the reference section of your local library. Many excellent books are available on the subject. Online research is also possible through a wide range of websites. Scholarship offers are also mailed to high schools. Check the scholarship listing on the AHS website and see if you are interested in anything we have available. Many local organizations offer scholarships in the spring semester for which many seniors do not apply due to "severe senioritis". The important thing is to not give up on your search. It can be time consuming but also rewarding when you receive those scholarship checks.

Finding money for college

Students and parents need to be aware that in order to receive scholarships, they must do something worthy of honor. Scholarships may be awarded for good grades, proven leadership ability, a real commitment to community service, or for athletic ability. Most scholarships are awarded by the individual universities or for students studying a specific major. Check with the college or university to which you have applied.

Above all, when you fill out those applications; be neat, be thorough, and be on time.

Special points of interest:

- *Finding money for college*
- *Transcript information*
- *Things to think about when visiting colleges*
- *Colleges hosting fall events*
- *November senior check list*

TRANSCRIPTS

DO: Turn in your transcript request at least 3 days in advance (we do over 4000 each year). You can find a transcript request form at the counter of office 201 or on the AHS website. Turn the request into office 201. Remember to supply a stamped envelope addressed to the college or university (one envelope for each request) and limit your requests to those schools you want to attend. Remember that there is a limit of 5 free transcripts (official and unofficial). There will be a one dollar ($1) charge for each transcript over 5.

DON'T: Wait until the last minute. Transcripts are completed in the order received. If you must send it overnight, we prefer US Post Office overnight (purchase at the post office and supply with request) because we cannot guarantee that Federal Express will pick up before 3:00 p.m.

REMEMBER: Most colleges and universities take 4 to 6 weeks to log the transcript into their system. Thousands of students are applying at the same time. Give each teacher of counselor at least 2 weeks to complete a recommendation letter or form.

If you are applying to a Texas PUBLIC UNIVERSITY-you do not need to submit a stamped envelope as transcripts are now sent electronically.

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November Checklist

___ Research financial aid/scholarship information. Inquire about scholarships at your church, your parents' place of employment, and any local clubs or organizations to which you belong.

___ Keep your information organized, update items if necessary.

____Prepare for deadlines that might occur during the November or December Break. Don't wait until the last minute to request transcripts or letters of recommendation. When you leave to go on vacation so does the counseling office staff.

___Be mindful of Early Decision and Early Action deadlines.

- ***Early Decision*** requires you to commit that you will enroll in the college or University at the time of application. You should apply under an early decision plan only if you know that you can make a well-reasoned, first-choice decision. Upon admission, the institution will require a non-refundable deposit well before May 1st. **You may only apply to one university for early decision**
- ***Early Action*** permits you to apply to a college or university of your choice and receive a decision early in the senior year, well in advance of the normal spring response dates. Though you will hear early regarding your admission, you are not committed to attend and you may apply to other colleges. You are not required to make a commitment before May 1st, but you are encouraged to do so as soon as a final choice is made.

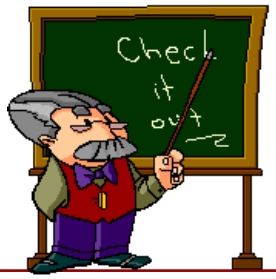
Planning on visiting colleges?

Ask Students…

- Do you spend most of your time outside of class studying? Is that amount typical for most students here?
- Are campus jobs readily available?
- Are faculty members accessible outside of class?
- Do faculty members teach undergraduate courses?
- Do many students go home on the weekends?
- Is it possible to study in your dorm room?
- Do you like to study in the library? Do you often do research there?
- Is it relatively easy to get the classes you want at registration time?
- If you could do it again would you still choose this college?

If you attend class, ask yourself…

- Are students interested in the course material?
- Is there time for questions and discussions? Do students participate?
- Are students prepared for class?
- Am I intellectually challenged by what's happening in the class?
- So the students seem to be learning—either new facts or new ways of thinking about a subject?
- Is there a good rapport between professors and students?
- Would I feel comfortable in the class as a student?



As you tour the campus, ask yourself…

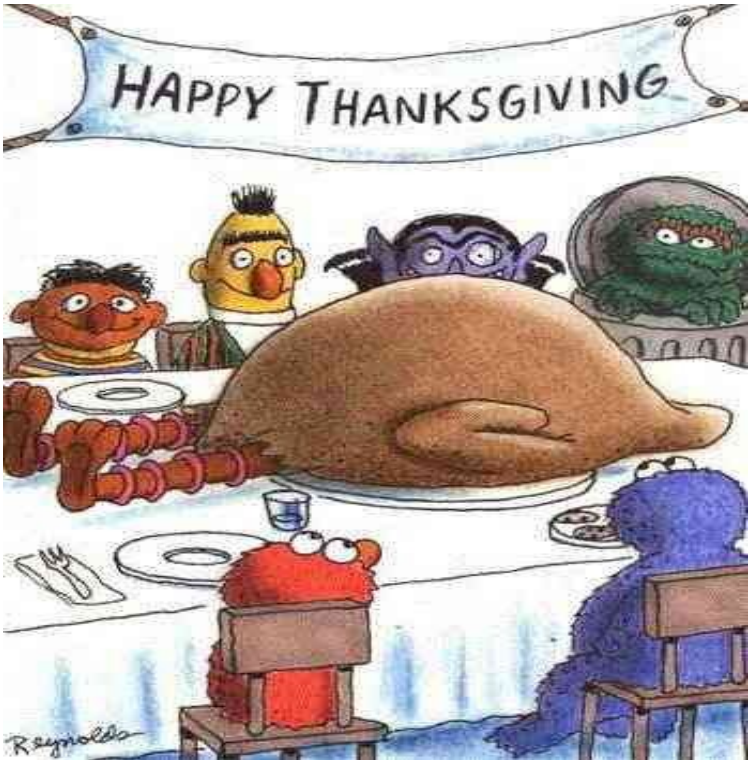
- Are the older buildings in good repair?
- Are there new buildings as well as old?
- Is the lab equipment up-to-date and available?
- Are the rooms in the residence halls quiet enough to study in? Are they in a pleasant setting?
- Are the common areas in the residence hall pleasant? Are there kitchen and laundry facilities?
- How accessible are computer labs and Internet access?
- What's the surrounding town or city like? Could I live here?

Could I live here?

Sources of Financial Aid

Higher education is probably more expensive than you realized. Consider some sources of obtaining the necessary dollars.

- Parents-Some students are lucky enough to have parents who have the financial ability to pay for their education. Perhaps your can pay for all or part of your education.
- Full/Part time job-Most students find it helpful or necessary to have a job while attending school or during the summer. You will have to arrange your work schedule to ensure you have appropriate class and study time to meet your career goals.
- Federal Student Programs-Federal education assistance is divided into two categories, grants and loans. There is a big difference. Grants do not need to be paid back. Loans do, plus interest. These programs are mainly on financial need.
- College Work-Study Program-While not a grant or a loan, the college work study program can help you secure a part-time job (on or off campus) to help offset expenses. The School Financial Aid Director can help you with this.
- Military Educational Assistance Programs-The national guard offers several different programs that may help you meet your educational expenses.
- Scholarships-Every college or university has a variety of scholarships available. These range from academic to athletic, based on need and ability.



Have a Happy Thanksgiving !!

UPCOMING COLLEGE EVENTS

******Mini College Fair at AHS November 3, 2009 at all lunches!!**

The following schools will be present with an admissions representative available for questions

UT Dallas	**HCC**
WCJC	**TSU**
TX State	**TX Tech**
TX A&M	**TCU**
OSU	**UTSA**
OU	**UST**
UT Arlington	**Lamar**
UH-Main	

AHS Website for all your senior needs!!

www.fortbend.k12.tx.us/campuses/ahsnews.cfm

COLLEGE SEARCHES

www.princetonreview.com
www.mycollegequickstart.com