

Central Valley School District
Monaca Jr/Sr High School

Guidance Newsletter

2009-2010 SAT DATES

Date Reg. Deadline

Mar. 13 Feb. 4

May 1 Mar. 25

June 5 Apr. 29

2009-2010 ACT DATES

Date Reg. Deadline

Apr. 10 Mar. 5

June 12 May 7



Attention Boys:

All men must register with Selective Service when they turn 18.

Those who fail to register can be denied important opportunities like student loans, government jobs, and a driver's license in most states.

Go to www.sss.gov or see Mrs. Winter for assistance.

Scholarships

THE CENTRAL VALLEY PTA is offering (2) scholarships to high school seniors. The first place scholarship is \$1000 and the second place scholarship is \$500. Applications are available in the guidance office and at www.centralvalleypsa.org (click on Guidance, then click on scholarships) Deadline for application is Friday, March 5th.

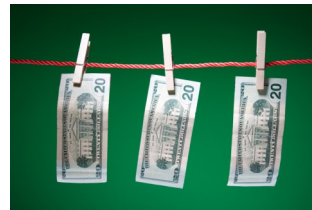
Members of the Clearview Federal Credit Union are eligible to apply for the RALPH B. CANTERBURY SCHOLARSHIP. Ten \$1250 scholarships are available. Applications must be received by March 31st. For more details, visit www.clearviewfcu.org

THE PA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY BANKERS (PACB) has established a scholarship program for children of PACB member institution employees. A listing of PACB member institutions and applications are available in the guidance office. Deadline for application is February 18th.

THE TYLER WADE-EPPS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP will award (5) \$1000 scholarships to senior athletes in Beaver County. Senior athletes with a GPA of 3.0 or above are eligible to apply. See Mrs. Winter for an application. Deadline to apply is by dismissal Thursday, February 18th.

THE BEAVER COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA WILL AWARD A \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP to a graduating high school senior who is a child or grandchild of a Vietnam era veteran. The student must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Deadline for application is no later than April 15th.

THE KOHL'S KIDS WHO CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM recognizes students who volunteer to help make their community a better place. Numerous scholarships and prizes will be awarded. Application deadline is March 15th. Visit www.kohlskids.com for rules.



Increase Your Earning Potential

People with more education tend to earn more money. Look at the average yearly earnings of workers over the age of 25 by education level.



Professional Degree	\$95,700
Doctoral Degree	\$79,400
Master's Degree	\$59,500
Bachelor's Degree	\$49,900
Associate Degree	\$37,600
Some College	\$35,700
High School Diploma	\$30,800
Less Than High School Diploma	\$21,600

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004



Juniors - Jump Start Your College Planning

- Continue to take challenging courses. When registering for senior year, don't just sign up for easy courses, because that will hurt your chances for college admission and you'll pay when you arrive at college and can't handle the coursework.
- Begin to make a preliminary list of colleges you would like to investigate further. Surf the Internet and use college resources in the counseling office or library.
- Fill out a college comparison worksheet. You can download one at www.actstudent.org/college/11.html
- Make plans to visit colleges this spring when classes are in session.
- Start or update an academic resume.
- If you don't have a Social Security number, get one as soon as you can. You'll need it for college applications. If you have one but don't know what it is, ask your parents.
- Register for the SAT or ACT. You should be academically ready to take it by spring of this year. If not, plan to take it in the summer or fall, and work hard in your courses.
- Check into applying to college online.
- Investigate scholarship opportunities.

Gathering FAFSA Documents

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) became available on January 1. It is important to complete the form and submit as soon as possible, as financial aid is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Here are some of the items you will need:

- Your Social Security number and your parents' Social Security numbers if you are a dependent.
- Your driver's license number if you have one.
- Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a United States citizen.
- 2009 federal tax information for you (and your spouse, if married) and your parents if you are providing parent information. You will still be able to submit your FAFSA even if you have not filed your taxes at the time, but you must still provide income and tax information.
- Records of untaxed income, such as Social Security benefits, welfare benefits and veteran's benefits for you and your parents.
- Information on savings, investments, and business and farm assets for you and your parents.
- Federal Student Aid advises families with unusual circumstances, including job loss, to complete FAFSA on the Web whenever possible, submit it and then contact the financial aid office of the school you plan to attend.
- Also, scholarship and financial aid scams are out there; do not pay a fee for FAFSA completion and filing. Help completing the FAFSA can generally be found at the school you are planning to attend, a school counselor or Federal Student Aid.

To get started, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. Don't miss out!

Source: www.act.org

Master Standardized Tests

The months preceding college or grad school might sometimes seem like they're filled with one test after another...PSAT, ACT, SAT...

The subject matter might be different for each of them, but there are some general strategies that can help you conquer any one of them.

Learn the structure and directions for the test ahead of time

You can save yourself a few seconds on each part of the test by doing this. That may not seem like much, but if you only have 35 seconds to answer a question, those few seconds could mean the difference between scratching your head and earning another point towards a higher score.

Mark your answer sheet carefully

Blacken ovals completely; erase answers completely. If you skip a question, put a check next to it in your answer *booklet* — NOT your answer sheet because marks on there might confuse the automated machine scoring. The check mark will help you find the question easily if you have time to come back to it.

Use your test booklet for scratch paper

You may not be able to bring scratch paper, but you can mark all over your test booklet if you need to try out an

idea or work out a problem. The answers on the answer sheet are the only answers that count, so scribble in your booklet to your heart's content if it helps you get through the test.

Take an educated guess

If an answer doesn't come to mind immediately but you do know something about the content of the question, eliminate one or two answer choices you know probably aren't right. While it's true that on some tests, like the SAT, wrong answers can result in quarter-point deductions, you would have to miss four questions to lose a full point. Just one correct answer gets you a full point.

Pace yourself

Write out a pacing schedule in your test booklet if you need to.

If you have to write an essay, remember that it's quality, not quantity, which counts

A simple strategy is to devise a five-paragraph essay — an introduction that sets up your idea, three body paragraphs to support it, and a concluding paragraph that sums it all up.

PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!

Source: www.studentedge.com



Scholarships Now Available

The "Walter R. Sylvester Memorial Scholarship" is an \$8,000.00 scholarship available to all Central Valley seniors. The \$8,000 scholarship is payable in four annual \$2,000.00 installments. In order to qualify for the "Walter R. Sylvester Memorial Scholarship" the applicant must have a minimum 3.0 high school GPA, a 1000 SAT minimum score (Math & English sections only), and a plan to attend an accredited four-year college or university. In the selection process, emphasis will be given to the extracurricular activities of applicants. In order to qualify for the renewal of the scholarship the applicant must maintain a 2.5 college GPA and earn sufficient credits for normal progression to obtain a college degree.

Questeq is pleased to announce the availability of one (1) five hundred dollar (\$500.00) technology award to each qualifying school district.

For those attending Robert Morris University, a one-time five hundred dollar (\$500.00) matching award from Robert Morris University will be awarded with a cap of two students per year receiving the matching award.

The application deadline is May 1, 2010.

First Commonwealth will award ten (10) \$1,000 scholarships to area student athletes. The contest is open to all area seniors who are participating in any athletic program. The scholarships will be awarded to those student athletes who best describe why it is their time to be first (i.e. first at college, first in community involvement, and first in athletics).

A committee of First Commonwealth executives and community members will select the ten (10) "Time To Be First" Scholarship winners. All applications will be judged on creativity, originality, and the overall story, as described by the student in a 500-word essay. Deadline is April 2, 2010.

The Central Valley Education Foundation will award a \$6,000.00 scholarship to a Central Valley School District student. This \$6,000.00 scholarship is payable annually in the amount of \$1,500.00 and is renewable for four years. The requirements to apply for The Central Valley Education Foundation Scholarship are as follows:

1. The applicant must attend Central Valley School District and have a 3.0 GPA to qualify for the scholarship.
2. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2010, and we will present the scholarship near the end of the school year.
3. The winner must attend an accredited four year college or university.
4. The requirements for scholarship renewal will be a 2.8 college GPA and a minimum of 30 college credits per year.