

Seniors and Parents:

I have compiled this planner to aid you with the transition toward post-secondary education. This planner will not guarantee that you will have a successful future, but it does provide vital information in taking the step toward opportunities, and the valuable information needed with a college choice and financial aid.

The materials will be discussed with students here at the high school during their senior year. Post high school opportunities are a three way street between parents-students-counselor. For this reason I feel it is very important that your senior agenda is followed up at home.

Please feel free to contact me at school 785-673-4223 or at home 785-673-4675 with any questions you might have.

Partners in Education,

Charles Packard  
Counselor  
Wheatland High School

As the school counselor I am very interested in you and your future after high school. Although the school year is just starting, it will be over before you know it. It is very important that all seniors explore all of their post secondary opportunities by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester and know what they plan to do upon graduation in May. A change in this decision after March 1<sup>st</sup> can cause problems with financial aid that you may be applying for. **The best advice I can give any senior is: A plan of this magnitude deserves careful consideration. It involves a lot of time, thought, talk, and decision making. Parents need to be an intricate part of this process and we all must be aware that the decisions arrived at will directly affect your future forever.**

Statistics show that 90% of all graduating seniors get but one opportunity for post secondary training or education. In essence, this means that if we don't take advantage of the opportunity to further our education when leaving high school we don't get a second chance. Decisions poorly selected during our senior year will most likely come back to **"haunt you the rest of your life."** We must all plan carefully now to succeed later.

Seniors must realize that a high school diploma qualifies you for absolutely nothing, except more training or education. For those students who think they are going to graduate one day and have their dream job the next month—guess again. It doesn't happen that way. You must be willing to take advantage of a post high school opportunity if you expect to succeed.

**As a high school senior, you must take the initiative to see me.** I am not going to run you down in the hall to put pressure on you to do something that you don't want to do. A good agenda to follow your senior year:

1. Visit with your counselor regarding your future plans during September-November, at least twice. Appointments can be set up.
2. Parents should feel free to call or come in and visit with me about their child's future goals.
3. Seniors can take the ACT on October 25, 2008 or December 13, 2008. Hopefully seniors have taken the ACT in April or June of their junior year. Retesting should occur in October. If this is not possible December is an alternative. Although other test dates are available, test results will not be back in time to apply for some academic scholarships. Unless you have a composite ACT score of at least 25 for a 4 year school you will probably not qualify for an academic scholarship. Students planning to attend a 2 year college may receive a scholarship with a composite ACT score of 21 or higher.
4. Students should be aware that talent in the "3 A's", Academics, Athletics, or the Arts are the only areas where scholarship funds are available. You must be well above average in any of these areas to receive a scholarship. The most difficult of these areas to receive a scholarship is in Athletics, then in

Academics, and third comes the Arts. **Most scholarships are not based on financial need; they are based strictly on ability.** You potentially could qualify for one or two of these scholarships regardless of family income. Colleges look at 3 things in awarding Academic Scholarships: (1) Composite ACT, (2) Cumulative Grade Point Average, GPA, (3) involvement in high school extra curricular activities. They want well rounded students.

5. Applications for scholarships must be filled out and sent in to respective colleges and universities during the months of November to February, depending on the college you plan to attend, it does vary.
6. Almost any student who plans to attend college, a vocational college, or a business school can qualify for a student loan. A Perkins, Stafford, or a "PLUS Loan." All loans are based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) which is to be completed by June.
7. Federal Grant monies are also available to students who can show financial need. Such grants as the Pell and the S.E.O.G, (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant), are available if you qualify for Federal Student Aid. This is based on the adjusted Gross Income of the parents. Federal Grant money is given on a first come first served basis. Completing the FAFSA form early is to your advantage. A financial aid night will be scheduled for questions about this form or pertaining to financial aid. Attendance would be of valuable importance to the student and parent.
8. All seniors have 2 college visit days during the school year. These visits are of great importance when determining the atmosphere you feel best suits your learning and lifestyle, (small college setting, large campus, or vocational college). All students must set these up through the school counselor and a form must be taken to the college to have an admissions counselor sign saying you were in attendance.
9. A lot of written correspondence occurs between the student and the institution selected by the student. Often times I am not informed of things until it is too late. When you receive correspondence that you think I need to know about please bring it to school so I know what is transpiring between you and the institution. I am not a mind reader.
10. Once you have selected a post secondary institution three things must be sent to the institution. (1) An application for admission, which usually requires a fee, (2) A high school transcript, and (3) a dormitory room and board form which usually requires money as well. Make sure you take care of these things by May 15. I will see that a final 8 semester transcript is sent at the end of May or beginning of June to the college you plan to attend.

11. Have a great senior year and think positively about all of this. Your efforts could be well rewarded in the end. **There is no guarantee with financial aid, but if you don't go after it, you won't get it.** There are numerous deadlines you will have to meet with college materials this year. The responsibility is yours. Be prompt and consistent. **Colleges will not accept late Scholarship Application Forms. If they are late—forget it. Excuses don't work.**

## Senior Calendar

- August          Enrollment. Check to see if the Regents Recommended Curriculum has changed. If so, you may want to change your class schedule. **Start a “college file” and put all papers into it. Develop a resume with all of your high school activities listed, any employer’s names, addresses, and phone numbers, awards, and accomplishments.**
- September      Sign up for the October ACT.  
Meet with the counselor to go over your senior plans.  
Write to colleges and request applications, they may be in the library, or you may be able to get them online. Photocopy applications and fill out a draft.  
Attend college rep visits in school. If you cannot attend and would like some information we can request a packet of information for you.
- October          Attend the College/Career Fair at Colby Community College.  
Take the ACT.  
Send in applications for early decisions.  
Arrange for teacher recommendations.
- November       Check for scholarship opportunities.  
Send one application in by Thanksgiving.  
Keep organizer up to date.
- December       Last chance for ACT to count for scholarships.  
Study for finals in your classes. This is the last set of grades to count for scholarships.  
Complete all applications for admission.
- January          Attend Financial Aid Night for seniors and their parents to learn how to apply for federal and state financial aid (FAFSA). The time and date will be announced later.
- February        Deadline for FHSU, KSU, and KU scholarships.  
Check that colleges have received your ACT results.  
Check that colleges have all necessary financial aid papers.

- March Admission deadline for FHSU, KSU, and KU.  
Priority deadline for the FAFSA.
- April Final deadline for the FAFSA application.  
Make sure that you have contacted colleges concerning scholarships that you either accept them or decline them.
- May Fill out graduations forms, list of all your scholarships, write thank you notes for all of your local scholarships, and make a request for your final transcript to be sent to the college you have selected to attend.  
Enjoy your graduation and summer.
- June Make final decision of the school you will attend and notify all other schools that you have selected another school.  
Good luck, you have now started on an exciting and rewarding time of your life.

**This is but a partial list of scholarships that the seniors will get information about this year. Other information will be given to all students in the senior class when I receive it. It is up to the students to see that the information is brought home to show their parents. Should you want to set up a different arrangement you will need to contact me. I feel that it is my responsibility to see that the students are informed. It is up to the student to see that the information is put to good use.**

### **September, October, & November Scholarship Calendar**

**1. Hansen Foundation Scholarships.** Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5. Must take a required test, the scholarship is based on your performance on this test. Notify me if you are eligible and willing to take the test. I must write a letter to the Hansen Foundation for you to take the required test. A list of eligible students is due by September 8. I do have an old study guide to prepare for the Dane G. Hansen testing. If you are interested ask about it.

Dane G. Hansen Vocational Education Scholarships are also available. No test is required, just fill out the application. You will be required to have 3 references. One of the references must be your high school counselor or principal. The application is due by October 3, the references by November 3.

**2. Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship.** The test will be early in November on a Saturday. The closest test site is at Hays at North Central Kansas Vocational College. A registration fee is required. This scholarship is based on the performance of the test and you must attend a vocational college. The deadline is early in October for the November test. There is also a test later in the year, February or March.

### **January Scholarship Calendar**

**1. Elks Organization Scholarships.** Deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Sam Walton Scholarship Program (Wal-Mart).** Each Wal-Mart store will give 1-\$1000 scholarship to a qualifying student. It is based on academic and scholastic achievement, with financial need being considered. Deadline will be January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **February Scholarship Calendar**

**1. American Legion Scholarships.** These have deadlines of February 15<sup>th</sup>, a few have July 15 deadlines. There are many different scholarships available if a parent or grandparent was a member or associated with the American Legion.

**2. Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship.** Deadline February 1 this award is based on a test given late February or early March on a Saturday at North Central Vocational College in Hays.

**3. KACRAO Scholarship.** (Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers). You must provide evidence of leadership experience during your high school years, have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or above, have a minimum composite of 22 on the ACT, and submit a completed application to the KACRAO scholarship committee. The application includes a two page typed essay relating to leadership, also two letters of reference.

**4. FRED Scholarship (Rural Telephone).** This scholarship is designed for students entering a telecommunications field. There are 4 different scholarships available. Check to see which one suits you the best.

**5. Epsilon Sigma Alpha International (ESA Foundation) Scholarship.** There are numerous scholarships available to specific majors and geographic regions. There are certain criteria for each scholarship. The smallest scholarship is \$500. Deadline February 1.

**6. College Goal Sunday.** A \$250 scholarship will be given away every 30 minutes on a Sunday in February. Must be present to win. This is for college bound students to gather valuable information about financial aid from professionals at area colleges. For information call 1-866-897-8111. Closest locations are Garden City, Dodge City, and Salina.

### **March Scholarship Calendar**

**1. American Petroleum Institute.** 2 \$1,000 scholarships renewable for 4 years. Available to Western Kansas students whose parents are associated with the oil industry and are in the upper 50% of their class. Deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2. Sigma Phi Epsilon-Balanced Man Scholarship (KSU).** You must be an incoming male freshman attending Kansas State University. No fraternity requirement. Deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## April & May Scholarship Calendar

- 1. Delta Chi Education Foundation Scholarship (KSU).** 2 one time awards on \$250. You must be an incoming male freshman attending Kansas State University. No fraternity requirement. April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- 2. Merle Moore Scholarship.** First consideration is for a student attending a vocational college. This is a one time \$300 scholarship with an April deadline.
- 3. Layton & Jerry Kaiser Scholarship.** This is a one time \$500 scholarship with an April deadline. Applicants must be involved with activities supported by the school district and represent the school with honesty, responsibility, and integrity.
- 4. Larry McFarland Scholarship.** This is a one time \$500 scholarship with an April deadline. First consideration will be given to a student that will attend Kansas State University in Manhattan.
- 5. IOOF Gove City Lodge #474 Scholarship.** There are 2 one time \$500 scholarships with an April deadline. First consideration is given to a student interested in attending a vocational college.
- 6. Wheatland Education Foundation Scholarship.** There have been 3-5 \$300 scholarships given the two and three years ago, 5 \$400 scholarships last year. A short 250-500 word essay about your goals and how this scholarship will help you fulfill your ambitions is required. Deadline is May 1.
- 7. WGGP Teacher's Scholarship for Seniors.** This is a one time \$200 scholarship with a May 1 deadline. The scholarship is based on the applicant's: (1) Character, (2) Academic Standing, (3) Activities and Honors, and (4) Attendance.
- 8. WGGP Teacher's Scholarship for Alumni.** This is a \$250 scholarship that the applicant can reapply for each year. Any Wheatland High School alumni that is a full time college student and who is pursuing a post-secondary degree in the field of education is eligible.
- 9. Pauline M. Lubbers Memorial Scholarship.** This is a one time \$500 scholarship with an April 20 deadline. A resume of activities and an essay are required. Emphasis is based on activities; desire to advance your education, and financial need.
- 10. Marne J. Karlin Scholarship.** This is a one time \$500 scholarship with an April 21 deadline. Emphasis is based on being in band and vocal, involvement in school and community activities, prefer a student that may have difficulty in getting other grants or scholarships.

**11. Naon Turner/Helen Hennigar Scholarship.** This is a one time \$150 scholarship with a May 2 deadline available to USD 291 students. Application form, resume, and a letter stating why you feel you should receive the scholarship are required.

**12. Charles Bartlett Scholarship.** This is a renewable scholarship of a variable amount with a deadline of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in April. Application form, resume, and a letter stating why you feel you should receive the scholarship are required.

**13. Presidential Freedom Scholarship.** Each school in the United States can give 2 \$1,000 scholarships for 100 or more hours of community service. \$500 comes from the government and \$500 comes from the Wheatland Education Foundation. You must document the 100 hours of community service and can not be paid for the work. Contact me for a form to record your work hours. The 100 hours must be in this school year.

**14. Richard & Florence Roemer Scholarship.** All Gove or Trego county graduates or residents are eligible. You must be attending Fort Hays State University.

**15. Mike & Peggy Moore Scholarship.** You must attend Fort Hays State University, be a graduate of Grinnell, Maize, or Wheatland High School. First consideration will go to a student going into math, then science.

### **College Scholarship Deadlines**

1. **Kansas State University.** Deadline for general university scholarships is **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. Department and college scholarship priority deadline in **February 1<sup>st</sup>**.
2. **Kansas University.** Scholarship deadline is **January 15<sup>th</sup>**.
3. **Fort Hays State University.** Scholarship deadline is **February 15<sup>th</sup>**.
4. **Emporia State University.** Scholarship deadline for ACT based awards is **February 15<sup>th</sup>**.
5. **Washburn University in Topeka.** Scholarship deadline is **March 1<sup>st</sup>**.
6. **Wichita State University.** General scholarship applications will be accepted between **December 1<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>**.
7. **Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.** Scholarship deadline is **April 15<sup>th</sup>**.
8. **Kansas State University Technical in Salina.** Scholarship deadline is **February 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**If you need the deadlines for any of the other institutions in Kansas let me know. It is very important to get your applications in before the deadlines.**

## **Grants and Loans      Federal and State**

### **Federal Pell Grants**

- \* Available to undergraduates pursuing their first baccalaureate or professional degree.
- \* The “Foundation” of the financial aid package.
- \* Aid administrator determines the actual award based on cost of attendance (COA), enrollment status, and expected family contribution (EFC).

### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**

- \* Available to undergraduates pursuing their first baccalaureate or professional degree.
- \* Awarded first to students with exceptional financial need.
- \* Priority is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients.
- \* Annual award amounts range from \$100 to \$4,000.

### **Federal Work-Study (FWS)**

- \* Available to undergraduate or graduate students.
- \* Eligible employers:
  - The institution itself
  - Federal, state, or local public agencies
  - Private non-profit organizations
  - For-profit organizations in academically relevant jobs

### **Federal Perkins Loan**

- \* Available to undergraduate and graduate students.
- \* Priority is given to those with exceptional need.
- \* Determination of Federal Pell Grant eligibility.

### **Federal PLUS (Parent) Loan**

- \* Borrowers are parents of dependent undergraduate children.
- \* Loan limits are the cost of attendance less other aid with no aggregate limit.
- \* Interest rate is variable.
- \* Repayment begins 60 days after disbursement, only principal is deferred, but interest may be capitalized.

### **Federal Stafford Loan (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)**

- \* Determination of Federal Pell Grant eligibility.
- \* Must display need for subsidized loan.
- \* No need necessary for unsubsidized loan.
- \* Variable interest rate.
- \* Delayed repayment and deferment provisions
- \* Maximum aggregate loan limits.

### **William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan)**

- \* Enables students and parents to borrow from the US department of Education instead of a bank or guarantee agency.
- \* 1,500 participating schools.

### **Kansas Tuition Grant**

- \* For private schools
- \* April 1 deadline

### **Regents Supplemental Grant**

- \* For Regents Institutions
- \* April 1 deadline