



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1800 W. Lincoln Highway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • (815) 485-2136 • www.providencecatholic.org

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Dear Parents of Seniors,

January 2018

It's hard to believe that we are already three weeks into the third quarter! Your seniors have only a few months of their high school career left to enjoy. There is much work left for them to do and many life choices to make.

At this time of the year it seems finances become a common focus. We're paying Christmas bills, gathering tax information, etc. With this in mind, we have included some general information about financial aid we thought you might find helpful. Additional resources may be downloaded at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/resources>.

APPLICATIONS AND COLLEGE DAYS

Now is the time when seniors should be completing the application process to schools and arranging their visits to campuses in order to make a final decision if they have not done so already. Seniors planning to take a college day to visit a college or university of their choice must do so **before May 1**. A note or email from a parent must be given to Mr. Murphy or Mr. Palmasani **one week** prior to the planned visit for approval. Please keep in mind that students are only allowed **one** excused college day.

If a college you applied to has asked to see 1st semester grades (also called a 7th semester transcript or mid-year report,) students should please notify Mr. Murphy or Mr. Palmasani as soon as possible.

FAFSA (Financial Aid Forms)

The first day to complete the FAFSA was October 1. If you have not already done so, you may complete the online application at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This new filing date will allow families to receive their award letters earlier which in turn will give families more time to make their admissions decision. In addition to being able to file earlier, you are also allowed to use tax information from your 2016 tax return instead of estimating or waiting for your 2017 tax return to be completed. If you have any questions about filing the FAFSA or financial aid in general, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Palmasani at 815-717-3148.

The FSA ID – the username and password a student needs for signing the FAFSA and for various other uses on Federal Student Aid websites – replaced the Federal Student Aid PIN in May 2015. Visit <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> to learn about and create a FSA ID.

As of January 2016, The Department of Education has stopped giving colleges information from the federal form about students' college preferences. Critics have said that sharing the "FAFSA position" information with colleges has disadvantaged some students during the admissions and financial aid process.

The Federal Student Aid Information Center may be called for technical questions about submitting an electronic FAFSA, general questions about information requested on the FAFSA or to correct up to six processing errors and for questions about the status of your student's application. Additional information can be found at the U.S. Department of Education's web site at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/>.

Currently in addition to federal student aid, you may also be eligible for a tax credit which you claim when you file your taxes. For more information on these tax credits and the U.S. Department of Education's student aid programs, go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/tax-benefits> or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight EST or on Saturday between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm EST.

The FAFSA may not be the only application or form needed to receive a loan or grant although it must first be completed to determine any financial eligibility. Financial Aid offices at individual colleges and universities may require additional forms.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Murphy or Mr. Palmasani if you have any questions about the financial aid or scholarship process.

Don't forget to keep a copy of your completed FAFSA for your records.

After you file the FAFSA, you may want to develop an appeal strategy. There are a number of variables worthy of an appeal, but here is a common example. If you are currently paying tuition to a grade school or high school for other children in your family, you may want to send a letter to the financial aid offices to each of the colleges explaining this additional expense that the FAFSA did not take into account. If you have a question regarding appeals, please don't hesitate to call Mr. Palmasani at 815-717-3148.

CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE SERVICE

A service of the College Scholarship Service is the CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE SERVICE. The PROFILE, separate and distinct from the federal system, was developed to address the needs of colleges, universities and scholarship programs that award their own non-federal student aid funds. Although this form will not be used by all schools, there will be some schools requiring it (i.e. Northwestern, Notre Dame). The school your student has applied to will notify you if it is required. PROFILE applications may also be completed online at www.collegeboard.com.

SELECTIVE SERVICE AND FINANCIAL AID

For many years now, there has been a requirement in the State of Illinois that young men are to be registered with Selective Service to be eligible to receive state student financial aid or to seek employment in Illinois. These laws are similar to federal legislation which links registration to federal student aid and federal employment. Young men must register within 30 days of turning 18. The two most common ways to register are online at www.sss.gov or by answering the question on the FAFSA form. They can also sign up at the post office and fill out a simple card. Failure to register is a felony punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

UPCOMING TEST DATES

<u>TEST</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>REGULAR DEADLINE</u>	<u>LATE DEADLINE</u> (additional fee required)
ACT	April 14*	March 9	March 23
ACT	June 9	May 4	May 18

***Providence is a Test Center for this date.**

SAT	March 10 (SAT I only)	February 9	February 28
SAT	May 5	April 6	April 25
SAT	June 2	May 3	May 23

SCHOLARSHIPS

Information and/or applications for the following scholarships may be found in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or by clicking on the links below. Paper applications for scholarships that are not “apply online only” may also be obtained from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office.

Chicago Roofing Contractors Association Scholarship – (2) \$4000 - Open to students who plan to major in liberal arts and sciences, engineering, architecture or business. Based on academic performance, extra-curricular activities and employment experience. Minimum ACT of 29. Two letters of recommendation with evaluation forms required (teacher or counselor and non-related adult outside of school community.) Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Must be postmarked by March 2.**

Community Services Council of Will County Scholarship – (2) \$500 - Based on community service, extra-curricular activities, and work experience. Essay and two references required. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline March 19.**

General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) Scholarships – Seven separate scholarships offered. All scholarships are **open to male or female students** who will be attending a college in Illinois. **(1) GFWC Lorado Taft Art Scholarship (\$1000)** - Must include statement of goals and ambitions and list of volunteer and extracurricular activities. Three color photos of original works of art and two letters of recommendation are required. **(2/3) GFWC Performing Arts Scholarship (\$500 for Drama; \$1000 for Music)** - Must include statement of goals and ambitions and list of volunteer and extracurricular activities. (See application for details.) Two letters of recommendation are required. **(4) GFWC Vina A. Miller Memorial Scholarship (\$1000)** - Must include statement describing your field of study in Public Issues (i.e. Political Science, Fire & Police, Safety & Crime Prevention, Law, etc.) and a statement of goals and ambitions and list of volunteer and extracurricular activities. Two letters of recommendation required. **(5/6) GFWC Illinois Cottage Park Ridge Vocational Scholarships for Girls and Lincoln Lodge Vocational Scholarship for boys (\$1000)** - Open to male or female students planning on taking classes in ANY vocational field at an Illinois college, trade or vocational school. Must include statement of goals and ambitions and list of volunteer and extracurricular activities. Two letters of recommendation required. **(7) GFWC Illinois Cultural Exchange Scholarship (\$1000)** – Must include statement describing why you want to study in a foreign country (see application for details,) goals and ambitions and two letters of recommendation required. All seven applications are available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **All applications with supplemental**

material must be mailed in the same envelope and have a postmark deadline of February 15.
George M. Pullman Educational Foundation Scholarship - \$10,000 renewable for four years - Must be a resident of Cook County. Open to students who are committed to their academic goals. Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and strong financial need. A strong applicant is involved in his/her school and community and is driven, goal-oriented, and responsible. Essay and two recommendations required. Apply online only at <https://www.pullmanfoundation.org/apply/>. **Deadline February 2.**
Golden Apple Scholars - \$2500/yr. for freshman and sophomore year; \$5000/yr. for junior and senior year plus \$2000/summer stipend for attending (4) summer workshops. (Total financial package is \$23,000.00) Open to students who are planning to pursue a teaching career. Must attend one of (52) participating Illinois colleges. Must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and ACT 22+ composite score with minimum of 16 on the writing portion. (This is a State requirement.) You may self-nominate or be nominated by a teacher. Apply online only at <https://www.goldenapple.org/apply>. **Regular deadline is February 15. (decision in Feb/March 2018)**

Greater Joliet Area Alliance of Youth (JAY) Patricia Johnson Scholarship - \$250 - Must be a resident of Joliet. Based on extra-curricular activities, leadership contributions, educational/career goals, personal circumstances, academics and ACT scores. One appraisal from a teacher, counselor or school administrator required. Applications available in the "Scholarship List" on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline March 1.**

Holly Club Barbara J. Rakoski Volunteerism College Scholarship – (3) \$500 - Open to male or female students. Based on volunteer activities over and above those required by school, extracurricular activities and out of school involvement. Essay and one letter of recommendation required. Application must only be entered on the writable electronic form found in the "Scholarship List" on Naviance Family Connection. **Deadline February 15.**

IACAC Scholarship – (10) \$1000 – Based on demonstrated involvement in school, community and/or service to others with a motivation to achieve personal goals and minimum GPA of 3.0. Essay on specific topic, resume and counselor letter of recommendation required. Apply online only at www.iacac.org/scholarship. **Deadline to submit student materials is January 31.** You MUST notify your counselor after you have submitted your online application in order to give them time to submit the counselor portion of the application. **All materials from your counselor must be submitted online or postmarked by February 7.**

Illinois Amvets Scholarships - Four scholarships available. Students may apply for more than one scholarship, but must complete separate applications. **(1) Service Foundation Scholarship (\$1000)** – Must be the child or grandchild of a veteran or in active duty. Based on financial need and community service. **(2) Junior ROTC Scholarship (\$1000)** – Must be a child or grandchild of veteran or in active duty. Must submit copy of participation letter from ROTC instructor. Based on financial need and community service. **(3) Sad Sacks Nursing Scholarship (Amount to be determined at time of award)** - Must have been accepted into a pre-approved nursing program (A copy of an acceptance letter must accompany the application.) Based on academic record, character, interest and activity record, and financial need. Priority will be given to the dependent of a deceased or disabled Veteran. **(4) Trade School Scholarship (\$1000)** - Must be a child or grandchild of a veteran or in active duty. Based on financial need and community service. Must submit a copy of acceptance from trade school. Applications available at <http://ilamvets.org/WhatWeDo/Programs/Scholarships/tabid/120/Default.aspx>, in the "Scholarship List" on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **All scholarships have a postmarked deadline of March 1.**

Illinois Amvets Ladies Auxiliary Scholarships - Two scholarships available. Student may only

apply for one scholarship. **(1) Memorial Scholarship (\$500)** - Must be a child or grandchild of a Veteran who served after September 15, 1940 and was Honorably Discharged or who is presently serving in the military. **(2) Worchid Scholarship (\$500)** - Must be a child of a deceased parent who was a Veteran of the United States of America who served after September 15, 1940, and was Honorably Discharged. They need not be killed in action or died as a result of a service-connected disability. Applications available at <http://ilamvets.org/WhatWeDo/Programs/Scholarships/tabid/120/Default.aspx>, in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Both scholarships have a postmark deadline of March 1.**

Illinois Elks Children’s Care Program College Scholarship (for PT & OT Majors only) - \$500 for FR & SO yrs; \$800-\$3000 for JR yr up to 2 yrs of graduate school - Must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Evaluation basis - Academics 40%, Financial need 30% and Personality/Desire 30%. Tax forms for 2016 or 2017 tax year required. Statement describing your short and long term goals pertaining to PT or OT field required. Three letters of recommendations from teachers or counselors and three letters of recommendation from non-school related people. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline March 9.**

Illinois Odd Fellow-Rebekah Scholarship – (10-15) \$1000 – Based on financial need and scholastic ability. Statement of goals (150 words or less) and (3) recommendations required (counselor, teacher and non-school community member.) Copy of most recent Federal Form 1040 required showing only pages referring to dependents and adjusted gross income also required. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline March 1.**

Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver (SETTW) program – full tuition - Must teach full time in the field of special education at a nonprofit public, private or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school in Illinois within one year of graduation and continue to teach for at least 2 of the 5 years following. More information at www.isac.org. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline March 1.**

Joliet Civic Committee of Italian Americans Frank Vigilante Scholarship - \$2000 - Open to MALE students of full or 50% Italian ancestry planning to major in journalism or media communications. Essay on specific topic required. Must be available to accept the award in person at the annual Dante Award Luncheon on May 24, 2018 in Chicago. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline March 14.**

Joliet Civic Committee of Italian Americans Women’s Division Scholarship - \$2000 - Open to female students only with at least one parent of Italian decent. Must have minimum GPA of 3.0. Based on academics, extra-curricular activities, community service and financial need. Essay and two letters of recommendation are required. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline April 9.**

Leopold Education Project Scholarship Program – several \$1000 – Open to students who plan to study a natural resource field such as fish or wildlife biology, conservation or management, air quality, botany, forestry, pollution control. Must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Three letters of recommendation and statement of goals is required. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline February 15.**

Lincoln Way Area Business Women’s Organization Scholarship - \$1000 for 4-year college; \$500 for 2-year college or trade school – Must be a female resident of New Lenox, Manhattan, Frankfort or

Mokena. Essay on future educational plans, desires and career goals, list of extracurricular activities and community service and two letters of recommendation required. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office.

Deadline February 16.

Lockport Township Government College Scholarship – up to (4) \$1000 – Must be a resident of Lockport Township. May NOT be a Lockport Government employee or close relative to a Lockport Government employee or official. Based on work experience, school and extra-curricular activities, awards and recognitions. Essay on specific topic and two letters of recommendation required. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline February 6.**

Lockport Woman’s Club College Scholarship – (6) \$2000 - Open to female students who live in District 205 planning to attend a 4-year college or university. Resume listing school & extra-curricular involvement, volunteer activities, work experience, recognitions/awards, hobbies/interests. Essay and two letters of recommendation required. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline February 28.**

Lockport Woman’s Club Community College/Vocational/Trade School Scholarship – (6) \$1000 – Open to female students who live in District 205 planning to attend a community college, vocational or trade school. Resume listing school & extra-curricular involvement, volunteer activities, work experience, recognitions/awards, hobbies/interests. Essay and two letters of recommendation required. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline February 28.**

Manhattan Lions Club Scholarship – (2) \$1000 - Must be a resident of Manhattan Township or have a mailing address with a Manhattan zip code. Letter of application and two letters of recommendation required. Applications must be returned to Mr. Murphy or Mr. Palmasani by May 7. Do not mail. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline March 7.**

Marianjoy Scholarship - \$2500 - Open to students with a permanent physical disability which may include: brain injury, musculoskeletal impairments, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, spinal cord injury or stroke. Student may plan to attend a full-time or half-time course of study at a 2-year or 4-year college or university. Based on academics, financial need, impact of disability on the educational process, educational and career goals, leadership and school or community involvement. Two or more letters of recommendation required. **Deadline March 30.**

Mokena Woman’s Club Scholarship - The number of scholarships varies each year. Last year five scholarships ranging from \$500 - \$10000 were awarded. - Open to MALE AND FEMALE students who are residents of Mokena School District #159. Based on extra-curricular activities, leadership, community service, work experience. Letter describing your career goals and how your intended major will contribute to your success and one letter of recommendation required. Applications available in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline March 15.**

Paramount Tall Club of Chicago Scholarship - \$750 – Students must meet the minimum height requirements of 6’2” for males and 5’10” for females. Based on academics, school activities, and volunteer work. Two letters of recommendation required (teacher, counselor or coach and non-school community member.) Applications available at <http://tallclubchicago.org/scholarship/>, in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline February 12.**

Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation Education Scholarship – (3) \$1000 – Must plan to major in agricultural or natural resources related field of study and live within the boundaries of the district (i.e. in Will County or in South Cook County, south of 22nd St.) Short essay (250 words) and two letters of recommendation required. Applications available at <http://www.will-scookswcd.org/scholarships.php>, in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. **Deadline February 1.**

The following scholarships are set up specifically for the benefit of Providence students: Information and/or applications for the following scholarships may be found in the “Scholarship List” on Naviance Family Connection or from Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. All applications must be returned to Mr. Murphy, Mr. Palmasani or Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office.

A.J. Felman Scholarship – \$1000 per year for two years – The Albert J. Felman Scholarship is awarded to a Providence Catholic senior planning to attend an accredited college or university. Applicants should meet the following criteria: be in good academic standing, demonstrate financial need, have an indicated potential in science/math. Students wishing to apply must submit letters of application from their parents and themselves detailing why the student fulfills the above criteria.

Deadline May 1. (This is the final year this scholarship will be offered.)

Berman & Sons Accounting Scholarship - \$1000 - The Berman and Sons Accounting Scholarship is awarded annually to a Providence Catholic High School graduating senior who has excelled in accounting. Applicants must be accepted at and enrolled at a college or university and take at least one accounting class freshman year in college. **Deadline May 1.**

Celtic Football Alumni Club New Alumni Scholarship - \$500 - Student must have participated in the PCHS football program. Based on good disciplinary standing, citizenship and service in school and the community. Letter from student explaining why he deserves consideration for this scholarship and why he chose to attend PCHS. **Deadline March 1.**

The Cleveland Family Scholarship – approximately \$1100 - Open to students who have been a multi-sport athlete while in high school and plan to participate in athletics at the college level. Student must submit a letter explaining how he/she benefited from participating in athletics and why they deserve consideration. A letter of recommendation from an adult (not a parent) is also required.

Deadline April 1.

Ed Karnas Memorial Scholarship - \$1000 – The Ed Karnas Memorial Scholarship is awarded to one Providence Catholic senior who is or has been a member of the Providence Catholic Bass Fishing team or has a love of fishing. Applicants must also demonstrate financial need. Students wishing to apply for this scholarship must submit a letter from themselves describing how they demonstrate these qualities and why they deserve consideration for this scholarship. **Deadline May 1.**

Dr. Kelly Ludwig Memorial Scholarship - \$500 – This scholarship is in memory of Dr. Kelly Ludwig, a Providence Catholic parent, alumnus and high school administrator. Applicants should meet the following criteria: minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher, recognized for good moral character in the daily living of Christian life, demonstrate financial need, and plan to attend a four year college or university. Student should submit a letter from themselves demonstrating the above qualities and explaining why they deserve this scholarship. A letter of recommendation from an adult (not a parent) is also required. **Deadline May 1.**

Charles E. Murphy Scholarship to DePaul University - \$2,300 - The Charles E. Murphy Scholarship is provided by an area benefactor to assist a Providence Catholic graduating senior. All majors are eligible, but priority will be given to students who plan to attend the College of Commerce at DePaul

University, which includes the School of Accountancy and Management Information Systems (SOA-MIS), Department of Economics, Department of Finance, School of Hospitality Leadership, Department of Management, Department of Marketing, Department of Real Estate. The student must be in good standing and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50. **Deadline May 1.**

Loretta Murphy Scholarship to Joliet Junior College– Amount to be determined by JJC in March or April. - The Loretta Murphy Scholarship to Joliet Junior College is provided by an area benefactor to encourage students to continue their education after high school at Joliet Junior College. The following criteria must be met: residence in the Joliet Junior College school district #525; meet the Joliet Junior College entrance requirements; have a minimum 2.50 cumulative GPA. **Deadline May 1.**

Matt “Laz” Lulinski Memorial Scholarship - \$1000 – This scholarship is a memorial scholarship named for Matt “Laz” Lulinski from the Providence Catholic Class of 2012. Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5, be in good academic standing, demonstrate service to the community above and beyond the school requirement and show financial need. Must have applied for financial aid through Facts Grant and Aid Assessment. Student must submit one paragraph on each of the following: ways you have shown service to school, community, and/or parish, ways you have shown leadership in and out of school and how this scholarship will benefit your family. **Deadline May 1.**

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Schmidt, Sr. and Mynne Kuhn Scholarship – (3) \$1,750 - The Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Schmidt, Sr., and Mynne Kuhn Scholarship is a memorial scholarship and is awarded to three Providence Catholic students who have excelled academically. Applicants should meet the following criteria: minimum cumulative GPA of 4.0 or higher and demonstrate financial need. **Deadline May 1.**

Ronald Rob Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000 – The Ronald Rob Memorial Scholarship is awarded to one Providence Catholic High School senior each year. The scholarship is awarded in honor of an alumni parent and respected local businessman. Applicants must live in Will county, have demonstrated financial need, obtain admission to a two or four year college or university and be in good standing at Providence Catholic. Students wishing to apply for the scholarship must submit letters of application from their parents and themselves detailing why the student fulfills the above criteria. **Deadline May 1.**

Kristen Zastro Scholarship - \$1,700 - The Kristen Zastro Scholarship is awarded in honor of a Providence Catholic graduate who was outstanding for her service to others. Students, both male and female, who are graduating seniors of Providence Catholic High School may apply for the scholarship. Applicants must demonstrate a similar ability to serve others. They must possess the following qualifications: 2.75 or higher cumulative GPA; good moral character in the daily living of the Christian life; service to the community and/or financial need. **Deadline May 1.**

IMPORTANT: As your students learn of scholarships they have been awarded, please have them bring the award letter they received to Mrs. Brassil in the Counseling Office. We will then make a copy of the letter so that we may keep track of **all** scholarships that are awarded to our seniors. **We ask that you notify us of every scholarship that your student is offered even if you are not sure if they will be accepting them.** These letters are used for tracking purposes and for verification for the graduation program. **Due to our printing deadline, all documentation must be received by Friday, May 4 in order to be included in this program.**

Please note: Only accepted scholarships will be listed in this program.

In addition, we are tracking **all** college acceptances of our seniors. Because we are not notified by most colleges of your student's admission, **please have your student bring in a copy of their acceptance letters to our Counseling Office as well even if you are not sure where your son/daughter will be attending school.** Please also indicate on your Naviance account the colleges from which you have been accepted or denied acceptance.

Mr. Murphy will be available to parents by appointment Monday through Friday from 7:30 am until 3:00 pm. If you are interested in meeting about particular college questions, Mr. Murphy can be reached at kmurphy@providencecatholic.org or at 815-717-3187.

Mr. Palmasani will be available to parents by appointment Monday through Friday from 7:30 am until 3:00 pm. If you are interested in meeting about particular college questions, Mr. Palmasani can be reached at fpalmasani@providencecatholic.org or at 815-717-3148.

On behalf of the Counseling Department, we wish you the Lord's blessings in 2018.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Ryan
Director of Counseling



Kyle M. Murphy
Junior/Senior/College Counselor



Frank Palmasani
Junior/Senior/College Counselor

PJR/KM/FP:lb

NUMBER OF TRANSCRIPTS SENT: 1074

Types of Aid

There are many different types of financial aid available from federal and state government, college and private sources. The major types of financial aid include:

Grants are awards typically based on financial need that do not need to be repaid. An example is the Federal Pell Grant. Eligibility often depends on your EFC and/or financial need. For example, the Federal Pell Grant is based on your EFC.

Scholarships are awards usually based on achievement or talent that also do not need to be paid back. You can search for scholarships for free at www.fastweb.com. Fastweb adds and updates scholarships every single day, and will send you email notification when there's a new scholarship that matches your personal background profile. Also, your prospective college(s) may offer scholarships based on academic merit and/or financial need. Call the financial aid office to find out which scholarships are available to you and how you can apply.

Federal Work-Study (FWS) provides part-time jobs for students with financial need. The jobs are usually available on or near campus. A list of available jobs can be found at the college's financial aid office or student employment office. Students who don't qualify for a work-study job may be able to find student employment to help pay for college bills or get a little spending money.

Loans are funds that must be paid back, usually with interest. There are federal student loans, federal parent loans, and private or alternative loans. The good news is that interest rates for education loans are currently at historic lows. However, you must demonstrate financial need for some loans, like the Federal Perkins Loan or the Federal subsidized Stafford Loan. Other loans, such as the Federal unsubsidized Stafford loan and the Federal Parent PLUS loan, do not depend on financial need. Private student loans may depend on your credit history. To find out more about loans, visit www.finaid.org/loans.

Education Tax Benefits are available to you and your parents when you file your federal income tax returns based on amounts you paid for college. The most popular education tax benefits are the Hope Scholarship tax credit, Lifetime Learning tax credit and the student loan interest deduction.

American Opportunity Tax Credit provides a federal income tax credit of up to \$2,500 (40% refundable) per student based on the first \$4,000 in postsecondary tuition, fees and course materials paid by the taxpayer during the tax year. The full \$2,500 credit is available to individuals with modified adjusted gross income of \$80,000 or less and to married couples filing a joint return with modified AGI of \$160,000 or less. For more information about the Hope Scholarship tax credit and other education tax benefits, visit www.finaid.org/otheraid.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). Students who work full-time in a public service job for 10 years may qualify to have their remaining debt forgiven. Public service loan forgiveness works in conjunction with income-based repayment. Public service jobs include public school teachers, police, fire, EMT, members of the military, public defenders, prosecutors and others who work for the city, state and federal government, as well as people working for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organizations. Public service loan forgiveness is available only for federal student loans. Private student loans and Federal Parent PLUS loans are not eligible. To find out more about public service loan forgiveness, visit www.finaid.org/publicservice.

Key Loan Terms

Federal education loans, including both student loans and parent loans, are available direct from the federal government and are administered by your college. Private student loans, sometimes called alternative loans, are available from a private lender (like a bank) and have interest rates and repayment terms set by the lender and not the government. Here are loan terms you need to know:

Annual Percentage Rate (APR): The APR is the overall cost of borrowing money, expressed as an annual percentage of the loan balance. The APR calculates the combined impact of the interest rate, loan fees, capitalization of interest (the addition of unpaid interest to the principal) and other repayment terms.

Cancellation: Some loan programs provide for cancellation (forgiveness) of the loan under certain circumstances, such as death or total and permanent disability of the borrower.

Capitalization: Capitalization is the practice of adding unpaid interest charges to the principal balance of an education loan, thereby increasing the size and cost of the loan. Interest is then charged on the new balance, including both the unpaid principal and the accrued interest. Interest can be capitalized monthly, quarterly, annually or when the loan enters repayment. Capitalization causes interest to be charged on top of interest.

Consolidation: A consolidation loan combines one or more eligible federal educational loans into a single new loan.

Default: Default is the failure to repay your loan according to the terms. It may lead to legal action to recover the money and can negatively affect your credit rating. Private student loans are considered to be in default after 120 days of nonpayment, while federal education loans are considered to be in default after 360 days of nonpayment.

Deferment: A deferment is a postponement of payment on a federal loan that is allowed under certain conditions and during which the government pays the interest on any subsidized loans. The borrower is responsible for the interest on any unsubsidized loans during a deferment. The economic hardship deferment has a three-year limit. Deferments during the in-school period are unlimited.

Forbearance: A forbearance is a period during which your monthly loan payments are temporarily suspended or reduced. Interest continues to accrue and will be capitalized if unpaid by the borrower. You may qualify for a forbearance if you are willing but unable to make loan payments due to certain types of financial hardships. Federal loans have a five-year limit on forbearances. Private student loans typically have a one-year limit.

Interest: Interest is a periodic fee for borrowing money, expressed as a percentage of the loan balance. Interest rates are either variable (the rate can change) or fixed (the rate will not change). The interest rate on a variable rate loan can reset (change) annually, quarterly or monthly.

Loan Fees: Loan fees are one-time charges to originate or guarantee a loan, expressed as a percentage of the loan balance.

Principal: The principal is the full amount borrowed. During repayment, it refers to the portion of the original loan amount still owed (not including interest or fees).

Promissory Note: A promissory note is a binding legal document you sign when you get a student loan. It contains the loan terms and conditions under which you're borrowing and the terms under which you agree to pay back the loan. It may also mention deferment and cancellation provisions available to the borrower.

Subsidized: The government pays the interest on subsidized loans while the student is in school, during the six-month grace period and during any deferment periods. Subsidized loans are awarded based on demonstrated financial need. Note: The government will not pay interest on subsidized loans awarded in 2012-13 and 2013-14 during the six-month grace period. The government will continue to pay interest on these loans during the in-school and other deferment periods.

Unsubsidized: An unsubsidized loan is a loan for which the government does not pay the interest. The borrower is responsible for the interest on an unsubsidized loan from the date the loan is disbursed, even while the student is still in school. Students may avoid paying the interest while they are in school by capitalizing the interest, which adds the interest to the loan balance. Examples of unsubsidized loans include the unsubsidized Stafford loan and the Parent PLUS loans. These loans are not based on financial need or income and may be used to pay for the family share of college costs.