

Catonsville High School
FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE
SENIOR YEAR – FALL SEMESTER



Obtain a *Senior Newsletter* in homeroom or in the guidance office. It is updated every two weeks and lists scholarship opportunities throughout your senior year.

Research financial aid information at each school where you are planning to apply.

Check the college websites to find out what applications are required to apply for financial aid; keep track of deadlines.

Learn about possible scholarships and grants at your schools, the criteria and application process for merit aid, not need-based aid.

Early Decision Applicants – do you need to complete the PROFILE for financial aid or does your school require its own form? Be sure to meet all deadlines.

Investigate private sources of financial aid for college. Check websites such as www.finaid.org, or www.fastweb.com. Google anything unique about your family to find out if there are scholarships available for your situation – health problems, military service, organizations, employers, activities, ethnic background, church groups.

Attend the College Planning Workshop on December 4, at 7:30, in the school library. Zhanna Goltser, the Director of Financial Aid at the College of Notre Dame, will talk about the FAFSA form and the application process for federal student aid.

Obtain a Federal Personal Identification Number (PIN) to electronically sign the FAFSA application. The student and parent will each need one. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to obtain your PIN.

Start working on the FAFSA, online (www.fafsa.ed.gov) or by paper, available at the high school guidance office, college financial aid office or public libraries. It cannot be sent until January 1, 2009, but it should be filed as soon as possible after that date. Use estimated family income and taxes.

Do not go to www.fafsa.com. It is a private company and will charge you a fee to complete the form at their site. FAFSA means Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Questions? Contact Mrs. Barbara Vogel, College Counselor, bvogel@bcps.org
Catonsvillehs.bcps.org

10/31/2008