**9/15/2017**

**Pomona Post-Secondary Newsletter**

**2017-18 Edition Two**

There’s lots of new information dealing with post-graduate options so this newsletter is jam-packed. Please take the time to read it. College fairs are coming up, many college reps are scheduling with the counseling office, and some of the most prestigious scholarships are either available now or will be shortly. Students should be checking in the counseling office on a regular basis to see new college and scholarship information posted on our bulletin boards. Parents are always welcome as well to stop in the counseling office and see what is posted.

* **College Application Process/Prepared Panther Guide**

The process and timetable for the college application process can be found in the Prepared Panther Guide which is located on the Pomona website under the Counseling tab in the College category. This 35 page guide has answers for almost all questions relating to everything from selecting colleges, test dates, college nights, the application process, paying for college, to research resources. Please review this guide then contact your student’s counselor for specific questions. Generally, right now seniors should be selecting the colleges where they want to apply and starting to fill out applications on the college’s website. Juniors should be starting the process of investigating colleges either through visits to the college, going to college fairs, or coming to the counseling office to visit with college reps.

* **Post High School Certificates and 2-Year Degrees**

Recent research shows that by 2020, nearly 75% of jobs in Colorado will require some education beyond high school, yet currently, only 55% of Colorado adults have a degree or certificate. So the state is launching “Colorado Rises”, an effort at getting more residents into post-secondary courses. One great area for this is in the Community College System in Colorado. These schools offer hundreds of certificates and degrees that can take from a few months to 2-years to complete that will lead to good paying jobs in many industries. See your counselor for more information about the certificates available

* **Raise Me**

We know that many of you have concerns about how to make a college education more affordable. Through a new program called Raise.me, students can guarantee scholarships from 200+ colleges as early as 9th grade, making it easier to plan financially for school. Raise.me has proven to be a great tool to motivate students in high schools throughout the U.S., as the site immediately rewards students with scholarships for their hard work in and outside of high school.

As an example:

● Get an A in a course ($100 - $1,000)

● Get a B in a course ($50 - $600)

● Participate in a school club or sport ($25 - $250)

● And much more!

Pomona students can take advantage of this opportunity, which was launched with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and U.S. colleges. Here are a couple of easy ways to support your students in using this unique tool:

1) Encourage your student to create an account at [https://www.raise.me/join/pomona-high-school](https://webmail.jeffco.k12.co.us/owa/redir.aspx?C=MA-N9jMqme2qwo0qo1Z0c0WdZH6_inU_xkj6zp0eR9HkQrexfPvUCA..&URL=http%3a%2f%2fl.raise.me%2fwf%2fclick%3fupn%3dSPNJTcz4lxjU2-2Bg1dQawMygzHxqQX1FgeLT9jQnOZxL-2B97MXXp4AVx8uGAQDhW1jMMkGkeBktj3ApyVgFHzTA5l9MvI2N3JHgxg2nwPFmni0sFidNnRWqZhfboBLKux-2FeLHQE-2FPYqm3XJwQYT34oqeHnrlk0Y7wLaRYgLplEewg-3D_bKczr8nTxgWHzbciBpPX2jl-2BxG8-2FvLl-2F7DU5rGhKq6KMcINfCuQxzvyXeB1XAVFNihbfWJ8MQBZbruivCHF0-2FyfjqbwicClLX-2BQagF0lOowJK7nXNCCxLkm2lGOBEVjRrAU53Ruyegt2L0lModWtxbjlDl0sL7g-2BNOO98gcbCQTihFusXiXqidW2ZAqrPdb8k-2F0EDChb38aUV1VbbVh0C4pisJ-2FdrgHNbqEEfr9KHvSzHi6N-2BsByVwt38ZdjGn5P2Kuu5fKjfO3MqXlKAdoM1THIlvr7aUrRc-2FkY1K823VQ-3D)

2) Encourage your student to regularly add good grades, community service, extracurricular activities, and other achievements to his or her raise.me “Portfolio” to earn “Micro-Scholarships” from colleges.

3) Visit www.raise.me/parents for more information. We hope using Raise.me will make your student’s path to college both more fun and affordable. If you have questions, I encourage you to send an email to [support@raise.me](mailto:support@raise.me).

Colleges in Colorado participating in Raise Me are: Regis, Metro, DU, CSU-Pueblo, and Western State. Plus, there are hundreds of other colleges around the country.

* **College Visits**

We send an email to students and parents each Friday listing the colleges that will be visiting the counseling office during the following week. We post these visits both inside and outside of the counseling department door as well. If a student wants to attend a visit, they can see Ms. Jones or Ms. Peterson for a pass to come to the visit.

* **College Fairs**

Mark your calendars for some upcoming college nights. These allow families to talk with several colleges in a short amount of time. It’s also important for students to talk with college representatives at schools where they are interested in attending. Colleges look at whether a student has shown interest in their school when they are making admission decisions.

* Standley Lake HS- Wed. October 4th, 6:30-7:30 pm. SLHS is the host school this year for the north area of Jeffco college night. Some Pomona teachers will be giving class credit for students attending one of the fairs. If you can’t make it to this one, there are some other options. Mostly in-state colleges.
* Alameda HS- Tue. October 10th, 6:00-7:30 pm, in-state
* Columbine HS- Wed. October 11th, 6:00-7:30 pm, in-state
* National College Fair- Denver Merchandise Mart- Sun. September 24th, 1:00- 4:00 pm. Students can pre-register at <https://www.gotomyncf.com/Registration/EventSelectForState?stateName=colorado>
* Monarch HS (Louisville)- Wed. September 27th, 6:00-8:00 pm, out of state
* Lakewood HS- Thu. September 28th, 6:30-8:00 pm, this is the largest of the Jeffco fairs with out-of-state colleges attending
* Mountain Vista HS (Highlands Ranch)- Sat. September 30th, 10:00 am- 12:00 pm. In state and out of state colleges
* Christian College Fair of Colorado will happen at Denver Christian School, 3898 S. Teller St. in Lakewood on Wednesday, October 4th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Christian colleges from around the country will be in attendance. For more details, visit yfcdenver.org/events/college\_fair
* **Evening Programs with Counselors**

The first Counselor Program this year will be Paying for College, presented on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:00 pm. We will talk about all types of aid, federal (filling out the FAFSA), merit scholarships, and private scholarships. We will also discuss how your college choice affects cost. Please rsvp to Chuck Runge if you plan on attending. The next program will be an NCAA Information Night on Wednesday, October 11th at 6:00 pm. These are open to all grade levels. More evening programs will be scheduled during the year.

* **College Visit Days**

Many colleges host special visit days or evening presentations. The ones we know of so far are:

* UNC Discovery Days- 10/13/17, 11/17/17, and 3/30/18. For non-admitted high school juniors or seniors to experience UNC for a day and hear from current Bears about academics, campus life, and other opportunities. Please register online to attend one of these days at unco.edu/visit, or call Admissions at 970-351-2881.
* Coast to Coast College Tour- Tuesday October 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Double Tree Hotel at Denver Stapleton North. Representatives of Dartmouth, Northwestern, Princeton, Cal Berkeley and Vanderbilt will present information.
* University of Virginia and Yale University will be at the Kent Denver School on October 2nd at 6:30 pm.
* CU Denver Preview Days- meet with students and faculty, tour campus, and fill out a free application. Breakfast and lunch provided. Drawing for $1000 tuition award. Register at ucdenver-uga.edu.185r.net/event

Sept. 29th, Oct. 13th, Nov. 10th.

* **SAT/ PSAT/ PSAT 9**

This year, 9th, 10th and 11th graders will be taking a grade level appropriate College Board college readiness test in April. Juniors will take the SAT which most students will use as their test score for college admissions and scholarships. This score will become part of their permanent record on their transcript. Sophomores will be taking the PSAT which is a good measure of how they might do on the SAT as juniors. And freshmen this year will be taking the PSAT 8/9, also as a gauge for how they are progressing towards college readiness. These tests are state mandated for all Colorado students and there is no cost to the student. We will be providing a practice SAT for interested juniors on a Saturday in the winter sometime and we will again host an SAT Prep Seminar which students can register to take before the April testing date. Please stay tuned for more information and sign-ups for these practice opportunities.

* **Boettcher and Daniel’s Fund Scholarships**
* Boettcher- Any student can apply as long as they are a graduating senior of a Colorado high school, and they are a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Even though any student can apply, those students with the highest of academic performance as shown by their GPA and SAT scores will be likely candidates. If you are interested in applying for the Boettcher, please contact your counselor because you ***must*** be invited by them to apply. Applications are lengthy and are due to your counselor by October 25th.
* Daniel’s Fund- Any student can apply as long as they are a citizen or permanent resident of Colorado, they are a graduating senior from a Colorado high school, and they have scored at least a 470 on the Reading/Writing and a 450 on the Math sections of the SAT. Like the Boettcher, this scholarship is highly competitive academically and also has a financial need element to it. Any interested student must first go the DanielsFund.org website and complete an Eligibility Questionnaire to determine if they are eligible to apply. Applications open on September 29th and are due by November 30th.
* **New Scholarships**

To research possible scholarships, we recommend using a database such as Naviance, Fast Web, or The College Board. Private scholarship research and application are the responsibility of the student and parent. There are thousands of available scholarships that can be narrowed down by category to find ones that match a student’s skills, abilities or interests. In each issue of the College Newsletter, we will highlight certain new scholarships that are received in the counseling office. Here are a couple we have already received.

* Wendy’s High School Heisman- 2 winners from every state, must be a high school athlete with a 3.0 minimum GPA. Go to [www.wendysheisman.com](http://www.wendysheisman.com) to apply. Deadline is 10/2/2017
* Horatio Alger Association Scholarship- Must show community service involvement, perseverance in overcoming adversity, have financial need ($55,000 or lower gross family income), have a 2.0 or better GPA. Scholarships range from $6000-$25,000.To apply, go to [www.scholars.horatioalger.org](http://www.scholars.horatioalger.org) Deadline is October 25th.
* Coca Cola Scholars- ***15*** $20,000 scholarships will be awarded in the Colorado district. Applicants must show accomplishment in academics, arts, student media, research, sports, and more. They should be able to show impact in their community through leadership and/or service. There are no minimum GPA or SAT requirements. Applications are due by October 30th. Apply at [www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply](http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply)
* White Rose Scholarship- White Rose Scholarship recipients are chosen on the basis of academic achievement, community service, and financial need; without regard for a person's gender, age, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, race, color, creed, lifestyle, or background. Applications due by 1/15/2018. [www.whiterosescholarship.com](http://www.whiterosescholarship.com)
* Greenhouse Scholars- Possess excellent leadership skills, an ability to persevere through difficult circumstances, and a strong interest and commitment to their community. Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above. Demonstrate financial need (annual household income no greater than $70,000). Applications due December 1st. Go to <https://greenhousescholars.fluidreview.com/>
* **NCAA**
* Any junior or senior hoping to play a sport at the Division I or Division II level of college competition should have created an account with the NCAA Clearinghouse. This allows us to send transcripts when the schools or students request them. For more information, see your student’s counselor or Mr. Runge, the Pomona NCAA representative. For more detailed information about NCAA Eligibility, plan on attending the information night on Wednesday, October 11th at 6:00 pm.
* **FAFSA**

For families of seniors, remember that the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) can be filed as early as October 1st. You should plan on filling out the FAFSA even if you think you will not qualify for federal aid. Most colleges require the FAFSA be filed to qualify for state grants and school based scholarships. By filing early, you will have a better idea of aid available from the different colleges at an earlier date.

**5 Things to Know About the 2018–19 FAFSA® Form**

* 1.       The 2018–19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form will be available at fafsa.gov on Oct. 1, 2017. Tell students to fill out the form as soon as possible to maximize their financial aid.
* 2.       The 2018–19 FAFSA form will require 2016 tax and income information.
* 3.       The IRS DRT (Data Retrieval Tool) will be available for the 2018–19 FAFSA cycle.
* 4.       Beginning with the 2018–19 FAFSA cycle, tax return information transferred from the IRS into fafsa.gov will have stronger security and privacy protections.
* -          As a result, the tax information transferred from the IRS will not display on the DRT web page or in the FAFSA form.
* -          Instead of the user's tax information being displayed, the phrase "Transferred from the IRS" will appear in the appropriate fields on fafsa.gov.
* 5.       You can find updates, forms, worksheets, guides, and other FAFSA-related information on the FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov site, which provides federal student aid resources specifically for school counselors and other mentors to use in their work with college-bound students.
* ·         Try this resource: [*Creating and Using the FSA ID fact sheet*](https://webmail.jeffco.k12.co.us/owa/redir.aspx?C=3WhHZH6b8vzoVkW0XQPpEqPCFcc8Hu0-BOWKq0xqkQffmKk4yujUCA..&URL=https%3a%2f%2furldefense.proofpoint.com%2fv2%2furl%3fu%3dhttp-3A__click.icptrack.com_icp_relay.php-3Fr-3D24831226-26msgid-3D89359-26act-3DPSE7-26c-3D1640915-26destination-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Fstudentaid.ed.gov-252Fsa-252Fsites-252Fdefault-252Ffiles-252Fcreating-2Dusing-2Dfsaid.pdf%26d%3dDwMGaQ%26c%3d5lx1ZzcfXa-bLvuqJP7laBQ2kX8-JKYTXQswZIymiVE%26r%3dhqbeRTVfoDY3hiKkhXRoZt_0UlbrDQz3be2nDnwz_Is%26m%3d4shyYl8rJ8_U7EKm4BLi6WSuclUHvUeMrnvebL2C0tY%26s%3duBq75JsK8mzh1REIob0Gk-c1Zb16t4eELUeEe4RM2LU%26e%3d)—it explains what an FSA ID is, how to get one, and where it can be used.
* **College Opportunity Fund**

We strongly suggest that you register for the College Opportunity Fund (COF) whether you plan on attending a college in Colorado or not. Go to [www.cof.college-assist.org](http://www.cof.college-assist.org) This plan is funded by the Colorado legislature and awards Colorado students the lowest possible tuition rate at Colorado state colleges. It’s like giving yourself a scholarship, this year worth over $2000 for the year for a full-time student. It’s free to register and you only need to register once.

* **Resource Books**

The counseling office has the newest resource books from the College Board. There are 4 books; ***The College Handbook***- description and demographics for every college in the country, ***The Book of Majors***- listing of all colleges that offer particular areas of major study, ***Scholarship Handbook***- a listing and description of thousands of scholarships broken down by eligibility index and alphabetical, and ***Getting Financial Aid***- a descriptive listing of types of financial aid and how to access it. We also have 2 resource books for men and women athletes that show which sports are offered at each college in the country, and a sport by sport breakdown of measurements and skills typically needed in order to play that sport at a given level of competition.

We only get 1 copy of each of these books so they must be kept in the counseling office. Parents or students can come in anytime and use the books at one of our tables. They are stored behind the reception desk in the counseling office so just ask Crystal Jones or Karen Peterson to check out the books you want to use.

***If you have questions concerning any of these topics, please contact your counselor.***