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Important Dates to Remember

August 23: Registration deadline for September 21 **ACT**

September 6: Late registration deadline for September 21 **ACT**

September 6: Registration deadline for October 5 **SAT**

Returning College Students

- The deadline for eligible **Access Missouri** students to add a school to their record is **September 30**.
- If you receive the **Bright Flight Scholarship**, keep in mind that as a renewal student you must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA to continue receiving the award. The most up-to-date **information regarding award amounts for the 2013-2014 academic year is available on the MDHE's website**.
- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placement exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Check out the MDHE's **student portal**, where you can access information about how to prepare and pay for college. If the MDHE has received your FAFSA and/or ACT or SAT information, you may also be able to review your eligibility for several state student financial aid programs, as well as your payment history for those programs. You will need a Microsoft Live ID to sign in to the portal.
- If you are a **Bright Flight student** who took the ACT in June 2013 and missed the July 31 preferred deadline, you must submit any required eligibility information by **September 30, 2013**. If you do not provide all the necessary information to the MDHE by September 30, you will be considered a late applicant and your award will be subject to funding availability, even if you have previously received an approval letter. Additionally, the deadline for eligible Access Missouri students to add a school to their record is September 30.

If you have questions about your eligibility status, please log on to the MDHE's **student portal** or contact the MDHE at 800-473-6757, option 4.

New College Students

- If you will be borrowing a student loan, you may be required to complete entrance counseling before you can receive those funds. Many schools offer entrance counseling through online sources while other schools may require you to attend entrance counseling in person. Check with your school's financial aid office to verify what you need to do to satisfy this requirement.
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- Are you ready to live like a college student? Traditional wisdom advises you to “**live like a college student now, so you don't have to later.**” There are some simple steps you can take now to help ease future financial burdens.
 - o Keep track of everything running through your student account, so small purchases don't unexpectedly add up and leave you with less money in your account than you were counting on.
 - o Be smart with credit cards. Understand that any time you use a credit card, you are borrowing money. If you don't pay off your balance each month, interest will be added to the total amount you owe. (Do you really feel like paying interest on a pizza you ate three months ago?)
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High School Seniors

- Meet with your counselor early in the year to verify that everything is in order for you to graduate with what you need to meet college admission requirements. Inquire about classes you can take for college credit and research taking Advanced Placement or College-Level Examination Program exams.
- Visit the MDHE's website to learn more about the **Advanced Placement Incentive Grant**, a new program created for students who score well on advanced placements exams in math and science while attending a Missouri public high school.
- Check out the MDHE's *Journey to College* page on Facebook. *Journey to College* offers scholarship opportunities, helpful advice about planning and preparing for college, financial aid information and so much more. “Like” *Journey to College* at www.facebook.com/journeytocollege.

If you prefer to tweet, the MDHE has a Twitter account to assist students just like you. Receive short updates via Twitter by following *Journey to College* at <http://twitter.com/#!/Journey2College>.

- Don't quit extracurricular activities like sports, drama, or newspaper. Seniors usually take over leadership

roles in activities like these, and continued involvement just might provide you with valuable experience and leadership skills that will serve you in college.

- Make note of registration deadlines and prepare for upcoming **ACT** and **SAT** exams. Taking the exam now may help you during the college decision process. You may also want to check with your high school counselor to see if there is still time to take the **PSAT**. Taken during the junior year, the PSAT is used to award scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and the National Hispanic Recognition Program.
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- Now is a great time to prepare for your future. Consider pursuing extracurricular activities, such as sports, performing arts, or volunteer work, and start thinking about different career possibilities. Talk to your guidance counselor or teachers for help as you explore a variety of occupations.

Middle School Students

- Start the year off right by laying the ground work that will get you through middle school, high school, and eventually college. Pay attention in class, be ready when test time rolls around, and remember what

you're working for:

- o College graduates have more choices than those without a college education.
- o Continuing your education after high school increases your chances to make more money.
- o College graduates usually enjoy a better quality of life, higher savings and more consumer power.

Parents

- Encourage your child to take college classes, if they are available at your local high school. Courses are usually offered at a reduced rate to high school students and can help your son or daughter earn a few credits toward a college degree.
- If your child is preparing for his or her senior year of high school, don't overlook all the mail from various colleges. Encourage them to look through the materials to evaluate which schools are best suited for their future plans. In addition, the MDHE's **Institution, Program, and Degree Search** allows you to search for Missouri schools based on school type, type of degree, type of program and location. Information about **tuition and fees** can also be found on the MDHE's website.

Scholarship Opportunity

- "A Place for Mom" recently announced a plan to give five \$1000 scholarships to students studying in the field of gerontology. The "Senior Care Scholarship" is available to students enrolled in a bachelor's degree or graduate level program in any field related to gerontology, medicine, nursing, social work, or sociology at an accredited four-year university. Recipients will be awarded based on a introduction letter and a 500-word essay. For more information, please visit <http://www.aplaceformom.com/scholarship/>.