



THOMAS STONE HIGH SCHOOL

CAREER CENTER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

The following is presented for your information. The staff of Charles County Public Schools and Thomas Stone High School does not rate the quality or value of any of these. We do not endorse these programs, nor can we provide financial assistance for any of these. For more information on any of these programs or scholarships, please see Mrs. Bilmanis in the Career Center.

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to a new school year at Thomas Stone High School. This is going to be an exciting year for our students. All of our students need to be thinking not only about what they will be doing this year with their studies and activities, but also about what they will be doing after they graduate from high school. It's not too soon!

The Career Center is a resource room that can help students organize their thoughts and make plans for the future. The Center is located directly off the cafeteria and is available to students before and after school, during their lunch shifts, and by appointment during the rest of the school day. Appointments must be approved by the classroom teacher. We have information on colleges and universities, careers, the military, financial aid, scholarships, standardized tests, NCAA athletic eligibility, and much more. Please feel free to come in and browse through our materials. The College and Career Advisor is available to help with research.

Please check the bulletin board outside room 909, read the monthly newsletter, listen to morning announcements, watch the monitors, and check in the Career Center to keep well informed about career and college opportunities that are being offered. The Career Center newsletter is available on our website, www.ccboe.com/stone. Click on the Career Center link. Career exploration and planning take time and should be ongoing. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL JUNE TO DECIDE ABOUT NEXT YEAR.** Junior and senior years are very busy times for students, so they need a little extra prodding.

All students and parents are welcome to attend *Financial Aid Night* on Thursday, Nov. 19.

This is my tenth year as College & Career Advisor at Thomas Stone. I came here from the College of Southern Maryland, where I was an academic advisor and a member of the math department faculty. I have three children who have graduated from Thomas Stone and gone on to success in college and careers. I look forward to working with all our students.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Bilmanis

\$ SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS \$

There are thousands of scholarships available to students offered by many organizations and individuals. The question is, "How can I get some of that money?" You could pay a search firm to find scholarship money, but check out these companies carefully. Look for membership in the Independent Education Consultants Association (IECA), National Association for College Admission Counseling, some other accreditation organization, or the Better Business Bureau. Companies such as these can charge up to \$1000 for research that you can do on your own for free, but it does take time. There are resources available in the Career Center to assist you with your research. There are directories of scholarships and grants, several websites (some are listed below), and listings in each monthly Career Center newsletter.

www.finaid.com
www.fastweb.com
www.studentaid.ed.gov
www.going2college.com
www.fastweb.com
www.marylandmentor.com
www.weeklyscholarshipalert.org
www.princetonreview.com
www.meritaid.com
www.MDgo4it.org
www.salliemafund.org
www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

Selective Service

The Selective Service Administration has asked us to remind all young men who are 18 years of age that they must register with the Selective Service. You can pick up a form at your local post office and most libraries. You can also register on-line at www.sss.gov. Failure to register for the selective service can affect your ability to get a job, receive financial aid, or get into college.

See Mrs. Bilmanis
if you wish to attend the



COLLEGE FAIR

September 23, 2009
North Point High School
10:00 AM – 1 PM for high school juniors and seniors
6 PM – 8 PM for the general public

Financial Aid Workshops at 6:15 and 7:15



Maryland Higher Education Center's Junior / Senior MDgo4it Calendar

is available on-line at www.MDgo4it.org
click on Preparing for College
click on Calendar to Assist High School Juniors and Seniors.

This calendar includes deadline dates for State student financial assistance, SAT test dates, important tips on preparing for postsecondary education, college admission information, and resources on careers.

Taken from the MDgo4it Calendar, Maryland Higher Education Commission

August

Check them out. **Check them off.**

- It's better to act late than not at all. If I ignored the monthly checklists, go back and read them.
- Type a personal profile so my counselor can have a guide when writing my recommendations. I'll list my goals, academic interests, achievements, volunteer and extracurricular activities, work experience, and problems I've overcome.
- Update my resume to include summer employment & volunteer activities.
- Study my college wish-list. What are my goals? What's the best fit for me? What colleges have the right majors, size, and balance of challenge & support?
- Early decision & early action--talk to my counselor & check college information to see if these application options make sense for me. They might help me get in--but my limit my college choices.
- Read college comparison guides--these can be obtained from counselors and in libraries.
- Get serious about my financial aid search! Check out <http://StudentAid.ed.gov> and Student Financial Assistance at MHEC's www.MDgo4it.org, plus other **FREE** sites.
- Continue planning college visits--research dates, costs, etc. Be sure to inform the college of dates I plan to visit.
- Get organized. Make separate files for each college and scholarship program.
- Practice writing online applications: fill out rough drafts don't submit them.
- Accreditation matters! Colleges and technical schools approved by the U.S. Department of Education can be found at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>

September

Check them out. **Check them off.**

- Mark the calendar with admission & financial aid deadlines.
- Visit colleges--and don't just take the tour. Schedule an admissions interview if possible (Prepare for it!)
- Send thank-you notes to interviewers.
- Take on leadership roles in my school or community.
- SAT Language Tests with Listening are only offered in November--register at www.CollegeBoard.com.
- Fee and application waivers are available to some students for tests and college applications. Ask a guidance counselor for information.
- Begin drafting college application essays. (Yes, really.)
- Work on my financial plan for college. Start with [Student Financial Assistance](http://www.MDgo4it.org) at www.MDgo4it.org
- Review my transcript--check for errors & make sure it shows any high school credits I earned in middle school.
- Submit transcript requests to counselors by mid-month for service academy admissions and early decision and early action applications.
- For application easy advice, go to the "For Students and Parents section of www.NACACnet.org and click on "Steps to College Online Newsletter."
- Pace myself--don't be a slacker but don't exhaust myself till I can't function.
- Mark scholarship and Grant deadlines
- Register for SAT and ACT tests

Grade Level Orientations

Beginning the third week in September the Career Center and guidance counselors will be doing grade level orientations. During your English class you will have the opportunity to visit the Career Center and be introduced to the resources available there. Your guidance counselors will be discussing a variety of issues with you.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- RLK Educational Services offers an SAT prep course. Brochures are available in the Career Center.
- The Career Center has information about Student Exchange/Study Abroad programs.

☞ PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING

- **A variety of Youth Summits and Seminars will be held this Fall; topics will include Law, Medicine, Intelligence, Diplomacy, and Leadership. Sign up in the Career Center to receive further information.**
- **National College Fairs:**
 - Baltimore Convention Center Sept. 21 9 – 12 and 6 – 8**
 - Sept. 22 9 – 12**
 - Washington Convention Center Sept. 29 9 – 1:30 and 6 – 8**
- **ASVAB Testing will take place at Thomas Stone on Oct. 9. If you are at least 16 years old and still undecided about your career future, you should sign up in the Career Center to take this assessment.**
- **Seniors — Would you like to take a gigantic step into the World of Politics? Become a page in the Maryland State Legislature. See Mr. Lloyd (Rm. G-10) or Mrs. Bilmanis for details.**

SCHOOL VISITS BY COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES:

- Sign up in the Career Center to attend.
- All visits will be in the Career Center or the cafeteria unless otherwise noted.
- Be sure to listen for TV announcements about late additions to this schedule.
- There will be no sign-ups allowed on Sept. 23**, so be sure to sign up by Sept. 21.

Albright College (PA)	Methodist College (NC)
Bryn Athyn College (PA)	Salisbury Univ. (MD)
Christopher Newport Univ. (VA)	Univ. of the Arts (PA)
Frostburg State Univ. (MD)	UMBC
High Point Univ. (NC)	West Virginia Wesleyan College
Johns Hopkins Univ. (MD)	Washington College (MD)

COLLEGE OPEN HOUSES and INFORMATION SESSIONS

- See bulletin board or Mrs. Bilmanis for further information.
- You are advised to call the college before attending an Open House.

College	Date	Time	Location
Bridgewater College (VA)	9/26, 11/14		campus
University of Connecticut	9/13	8:30 am	campus
Duke University (NC)	9/22	7:00 pm	Bethesda
University of Georgia	9/20	2:00 pm	Washington, DC
Lebanon Valley College (PA)	9/25, 10/21		campus
University of Maryland Eastern Shore UMES	10/3, 11/10		campus
MIT (MA)	9/13	2:00 pm	Bethesda
Quinnipiac University (CT)	9/26, 10/24, 11/14		campus
Tulane University (LA)	10/21	7:00 pm	Bethesda

\$\$\$\$ SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS \$\$\$\$

Emory University – Goizueta Scholars

Eligibility: senior, planning to attend Emory University and major in business

Award: up to full tuition

Deadline: provide a copy of your resume to Mrs. Bilmanis by Oct. 15

Emory University Scholars

Eligibility: senior, planning to attend Emory University

Award: up to full tuition

Deadline: provide a copy of your resume to Mrs. Bilmanis by Oct. 15

Principal's Leadership Award

Eligibility: senior, leadership skills, participation in extra curricular activities

Award: up to \$12,000

Deadline: provide a copy of your resume to Mrs. Bilmanis by Nov. 3

2009 Prudential Spirit of the Community Award

Eligibility: all students, award recognizes outstanding community service and volunteerism

Award: up to \$6000

Deadline: provide a copy of your resume outlining volunteer activities to Mrs. Bilmanis no later than Oct. 15

Jacqueline Harrison Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility: senior, attend a degree granting institution of higher learning

Award: varies

Deadline: Oct. 1

Create a Greeting Card Scholarship Contest

Eligibility: high school student

Award: up to \$10,000

Deadline: Jan. 15, apply online at www.gallerycollection.com/greetingcardscontests.htm

Coca-Cola Scholarship

Eligibility: senior, GPA \geq 3.0

Award: up to \$20,000

Deadline: Oct. 31, apply online at www.coca-colascholars.org

Junior Achievement Essay Competition

Eligibility: high school student

Award: up to \$20,000

Deadline: received by Oct. 1

Clare & Robert Moore Scholarship Fund

Eligibility: senior, attend College of Notre Dame, major in English and / or theater

Award: \$1000

Deadline: received by March 15

Oh, The Places You'll Go! Essay Competition Scholarship

Eligibility: senior

Award: \$5000

Deadline: Feb. 15

QuestBridge

Eligibility: senior

Award: varies

Deadline: information available at www.questbridge.org