



Dates to Remember:

SAT Tests:

Test Date: Jan. 28
Register by: Dec. 30

Test Date: Mar. 10
Register by: Feb. 10

ACT Tests:

Test Date: Feb. 11
Register by: Jan. 13

Test Date: Apr. 14
Register by: Mar. 9

FAFSA 2011- 2012 Application

Start After Jan. 2
Finish Before Mar. 1

College Goal Sunday
Druid Hill Y Family Center
1/22/12, 11a.m.— 5p.m.

**Baltimore Community
Foundation Scholarship**
Deadline: 4/1/2012

**CollegeBound's
Last Dollar Grant &
Competitive Scholarship
Online Application**
Deadline: 3/1/2012

Central Scholarship Bureau
No Interest Loan /
Scholarship
Deadline: 4/1/2012

NCAA Workshop
12/10/2011, 9a.m. - 1p.m.
Notre Dame University of
Maryland

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College Connection

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY

WINTER 2012

A message from your CAPS

I give kudos to all the seniors who are applying to college; keep up the great work. Remember, the Thanksgiving break is our priority deadline to submit four college applications. Students have had the opportunity to participate in a few college representative visits as well as visit college campuses. These are both great ways for students to become more familiar with college life. As seniors continue to complete the college application process, we will begin to promote financial aid awareness. Receiving college acceptances is one small piece of the puzzle, but the key to college enrollment has everything to do with affordability. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) allows students to apply for all aid (scholarships, grants, loans and work-study) to help cover college costs. Seniors are to complete the FAFSA starting January 2012. In the months ahead, there will be financial aid workshops to help educate students and parents about Federal Student Aid. Students and their families are encouraged to participate so that they can be better prepared to complete the FAFSA successfully by February 15, 2012. Scholarships are also an important piece to paying for post-secondary education. There are numerous websites providing students the opportunity to apply for national and local scholarships. Seniors are encouraged to apply for all available aid to help finance a college education.



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Social Networking and College Admission

You've been working hard trying to get into college—researching schools, refining your essay, collecting glowing recommendations, studying on nights and weekends for the SATs or ACTs, maybe even preparing for a campus interview. Throughout all of this process, you've made a great impression as a serious, promising college student. Wait, though. Before you can relax on the couch to watch your favorite TV show, there's one more detail to take care of—your Facebook profile.

Social Networking Profiles: Private or Public Information?

Whether it's through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr or another social media service, students are online—online sharing details with friends, online for everyone to see. These sites help you keep in touch with friends and allow you meet new people. Many students spend hours each day updating their profiles, messaging their friends and clicking through photo albums. It's harmless fun, right? Now, how would you feel if your teachers saw your profile? A college admission officer?

You might not like it, but you should know that adults—from your schools, families and even law enforcement—are looking at your pages. Whatever you post, it never goes away. Once your information is online—even if you take it down—it becomes public information, as your page can be saved on anyone's computer.

What You Can Do

First, be safe! Never post personal information such as your address, daily schedule, phone number, etc. Check out these safety guidelines from the [Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use](#) and [Wired Safety](#).

- Make your profile private so that strangers can't look at your information, and be cautious about adding new friends who you do not personally know.
- Take down any questionable photos or exchanges between you and your friends. Give it the "Grandma Test." If you wouldn't want your grandmother to see it, then you don't want other adults to either. Remember, pictures and references of you on your friends' pages can be damaging too. You can ask them to take down this kind of information.

Student Athletes



If you are a senior who plans to participate in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I or II sports as a college freshman, you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp.

You can also download the most recent copy of “The Guide for College-Bound Student-Athlete” at www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA.pdf. The guide provides a summary of the rules and regulations in an easy-to-read format. Guidelines relate to recruiting, eligibility, financial aid and college freshman eligibility requirements for Divisions I and II.

If you are interested in playing collegiate sports at a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) institution, NAIA eligibility is separate from NCAA eligibility certification and has different sets of rules and certification processes. Register online with the NAIA Eligibility Center at www.playnaia.org.

If you are interested in participating in National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) sports, there are great opportunities in over 20 sports.

Students and parents—do you need help sorting through the varying collegiate sports requirements and opportunities available through the NCAA, NAIA or NJCAA? CollegeBound Foundation can help! You are invited to attend our NCAA Eligibility Workshop on Saturday, December 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Notre Dame of Maryland University, Knott Auditorium.

Register for this free seminar online at <http://www.collegeboundfoundation.org/whatsnew/events.html> by November 18th.

Show Me the Money

Need money for college? There are a number of free resources locally that will help you:

- ◆ Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- ◆ Find scholarship and financial aid resources and how to apply

These resources include:

- ◆ High school Counselors or CollegeBound Specialists
- ◆ Financial Aid Counselors at your nearest college or university
- ◆ College Goal Sunday Volunteers —locate a date and site near you at <http://collegegoalsundaymd.org/register.cfm>.



In order to complete the FAFSA this season, you and your parents will need the following:

- ◆ Social Security number (can be found on Social Security card)
- ◆ Driver's license (if any)
- ◆ 2011 income tax return (if completed)
- ◆ 2011 W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
- ◆ 2011 untaxed income records - Social Security, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, welfare, or veterans benefits records
- ◆ Your 2011 bank statements
- ◆ 2011 business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond, and other investment records
- ◆ Your alien registration card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

CollegeBound's Grants

The CollegeBound Foundation Last Dollar Grant is a need-based award for Baltimore City Public High School graduates whose expected family contribution and financial aid package total less than the cost to attend college. Students who are awarded a CollegeBound Foundation Last Dollar Grant are eligible to receive a grant of up to \$3,000 per year, renewable for up to five (5) years of college or the maximum amount of \$15,000. This money is gift money which does not have to be repaid.

Eligibility:

- ◆ Family income must not exceed \$75,000. If unmet need is greater than \$5,000, the student must provide documentation detailing how the gap will be financed.
- ◆ Student must contribute at least 15% through self-help (student loans or work study).
- ◆ Attend a Maryland four-year college or university.
- ◆ Applications will be available online on December 1st at <http://scholarships.mycbf.net/stars>

