

**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
Deadline: 4/1/2012

NCAA Workshop

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

Western's Financial Aid Night

12/7/2011, 6:30p.m. - 8p.m.

CollegeBound Foundation

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College Connection

WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

WINTER 2012

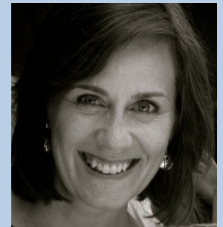
A message from your CAPS

Dear Western Senior Doves,

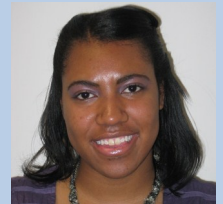
Some of you have expressed feelings of pressure, being overwhelmed and stressed. This is a natural reaction to what you are going through, trying to balance your rigorous school work and completing numerous college applications. Remember, there is a light at the end of the tunnel and all of your hard work will pay off!!

As the peak of the application season quickly approaches, keep in mind the following: only apply to schools that you are seriously interested in. Know the deadlines for the applications, and plan to have gathered all documents needed, at least one week before the deadline. Carefully read the directions of ALL applications and correctly answer all questions required. Make sure you are aware of ALL the documents (i.e. essay, resume, letter of recommendation, secondary school report, etc) needed to submit a COMPLETE application. Therefore do not ask teachers for letters of recommendations at the last minute; nor request a last minute transcript. Also remember, you are responsible for sending your SAT scores from COLLEGEBOARD. Applying to college may seem like a lot of work, but our advice to you is: Take a Deep Breath, Get Organized, Create a Schedule, and Remain Steadfast Towards your Goals.

In addition, keep in mind that our focus will soon be turning towards financial aid. We will be providing guidance with completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Aid) and applying for scholarships. The guidance department will be hosting a Financial Aid Night on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 6:30-8pm. Please mark your calendars, for this informative event.



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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>

