

## **PTA Counseling Update, March 2017**

Parents and students should be finished with the process of filing for financial aid. Parents needing assistance in filling in the federal financial need form (FAFSA) can schedule individual sessions with the College Planning Center (1-877-272-4692) on Boysen Rd. Pay attention to financial aid priority deadlines for each college. Families will start receiving financial aid packages very soon. Do not hesitate to ask questions of the financial aid offices at each college from which you receive a financial aid letter. Family circumstances can change dramatically in the current financial climate. Communicate these changes to the financial aid offices at your college so they can consider adjustments. Scholarships are found through colleges and our web site.

We are still trying to round up a few students to get their requests in for next year. Once that is done Dr. Nyberg will start working on the master schedule. We hope to offer teacher choice for next year to students sometime around the third week in April.

Remember that the April ACT is the most common date for juniors across the nation to take the ACT. The registration deadline was March 3<sup>rd</sup> for the April 8<sup>th</sup> test. You can register for the June 10<sup>th</sup> ACT test up to midnight on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The May 6<sup>th</sup> SAT test has a registration deadline of April 7<sup>th</sup>.

We will begin the selection process with sophomores for the Youth Leadership for Five Seasons sometime during the last couple of weeks in March. This is a leadership opportunity hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and consists of a series of programs highlighting various careers and programs in the Cedar Rapids area. It begins with a mandatory weekend retreat in August. Interested sophomores will sign up in the Counseling Office. We will invite the students who sign up to an informational meeting in early April. Students who are still interested will receive an application at the meeting. We are restricted to selecting six students (3 males and 3 females) and two alternates. Applications are evaluated through a blind essay read and that process is the core of the selection process.

The counselors are nearly finished with senior college applications and they have now combined to process 362 transcripts to colleges in 34 different states. We are contacting seniors that have not sent a transcript anywhere, to offer assistance.

The counselors have combined for 94 junior conferences. This spring, juniors should be developing their lists of prospective colleges and making visits.