

**BBCHS**

# Counseling Department Senior Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

2nd Quarter 2011-2012



## COUNSELING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December

12/19-12/21 - Final Exams

### January

1/4 - 2nd semester begins

1/4-1/6- Final Exam make-ups

1/6 - Class Meetings

1/13 - Reg deadline for Feb. ACT

1/16 - No School

1/20 - Late reg. for Feb ACT

1/25 - Early Dismissal

### Final Exams

Seniors who qualify as exempt- it is the student's responsibility to talk with each teacher to ensure his or her attendance met the criteria for 1st semester.

For those seniors who must take final exams - *remember there are no early finals during the 1st semester.* Make-up finals need to be pre-arranged and will be taken on January 4th, 5th, and 6th

### Counselors

Mr. Wunder	A-Col
Mr. Lamie	Com-Goo
Mrs. Howard	Gor-K
Mrs. Kashanitz	L-N
Mr. Luhrsen	O-SI
Mrs. Stover	Sm-Z

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid

It's important for parents and students seeking financial assistance for college expenses to apply as early as possible starting January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 using the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (commonly called the FAFSA) as need based financial assistance is distributed on a first come first served basis and can run out before the spring. The FAFSA is a free application and the standard document created by the federal government for use nationwide for determining the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

based on the family's financial need in conjunction with the Cost of Attendance (COA) at a college or university. The preferred way to file a FAFSA is online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

This method allows for the quickest processing as well as easy corrections to your information. Using the online FAFSA you can enter estimated or actual earnings and tax information from 2011 that will be used by the government and colleges to deter-

mine your EFC and actual college expenses after financial assistance is considered. Parents and students are highly encouraged to go online to apply for their own digital signature Pin number right now at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) and then put your number in a safe place so you know where it is when you need it to fill out your FAFSA in January.



### Technology Corner

- Have you signed up for Infinite Campus yet? Please see the instructions under the "for Parents" section of the BBCHS website
- Many of the departments post their final exam study guides on the BBCHS website.

# Understanding College Admission Terminology

As your son or daughter is doing research on the college application and financial aid processes you may come across some terminology that you may not be familiar with. Let's take some time to clear up the confusion, so that you and your child can make the most informed decision about their future.

**Early Decision:** This is a binding agreement between the institution and the student that they will attend the college if they are granted admission through early decision. It guarantees that the student will receive a decision to admit or deny earlier than those who apply via regular applicants. The student must withdraw their applications from other colleges if they are accepted to the school they have applied early decision to. Students should only apply early decision if they believe that the college is their #1 choice.

**Rolling Admissions:** Students may apply at any time during the application period and are notified of an admission decision as soon as all documents are received and reviewed.

**Priority Deadline:** The date by which the student may apply and be given preference for admission over other applicants who are applying during the regular admission period.

**Wait List:** An admission decision that indicates that the student has not been accepted and has not been denied, but rather deferred a decision until the university has deemed if/when they will admit students on the list. An eventual denied notification will be made if the student is not granted admission.

**Common Application:** A universal application that is used by about 200 independent colleges in the US. It allows the student to fill out standardized information that may be sent to any of the colleges that utilize the form.



If you applied to a college that requires mid-year transcripts, be sure to request transcripts when you return from Winter Break!

## Scholarships

Remember to keep checking our website at <http://www.bbchs.org> and click on Counseling Office and Financial Aid to find local scholarships. Updates to the website will also be mentioned in announcements and posted outside the counseling office. For those with paper applications, stop by the counseling office and ask for them by the number posted.

### KCC FAFSA Completion Workshops

- Free Workshops are available to help students and their parents navigate through the FAFSA form.
- All students in KCC's district are eligible to attend.
- Reserve a seat by calling (815) 802-8550

Jan. 18, 2012 7:00-8:00pm

Feb 21, 2012 7:00-8:00pm