

Senior Parent News

ORHS PTSO

September 2017

Upcoming events for senior students and parents-

SENIOR SEMINARS

Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017, during English classes

This meeting will have a lot of information, including graduation requirements, college/career options, applying to college, the Common Application, using Naviance for college applications, deadlines, testing, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other topics related to their senior year. Students will receive a folder containing forms that need to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned.

SENIOR PARENT SEMINARS

Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017, 6:00-7:30pm in the ORHS Auditorium

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017, 2:30-4:00pm in the ORHS Auditorium

The same information given to seniors will be repeated at meetings for parents. The information will be the same at both meeting so parents can come to the one that is most convenient for them. Students can also attend. These are being held so that ALL are on the same page and parents hear what was shared with their senior(s). Counselors will answer any questions parents may have.

COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID SEMINAR

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017, 6:00 p.m-7:30 p.m. in the ORHS Amphitheater.

(Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend; all grades welcome.)

Get information about all kinds of financial aid, including the **TN Promise**, completing the **FAFSA**, and obtaining an **FSA ID**. Federal changes allow students to now complete the FAFSA starting October 1. TN Promise application deadline is November 1.

Senior Year - Class of 2018

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EVENING

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the ORHS Amphitheater.

(Senior and junior parents and students are encouraged to attend; all grades welcome.)

ORHS Counseling Dept. will hold a **College Admissions Evening** to present information regarding admissions to 2-year community colleges, 4-year public colleges and universities, and 4-year private colleges and universities.

Admission counselors from Roane State Community College, the University of Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University will attend.

Monday, October 2, 2017

5:30-7:00 p.m.

ORHS Wildcat Arena

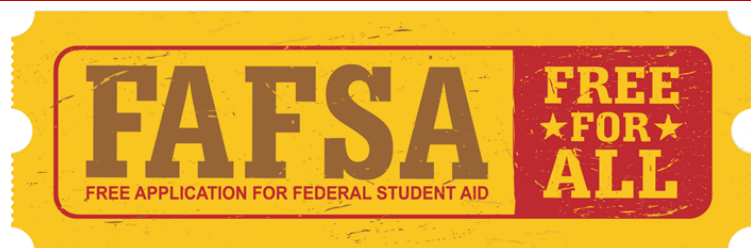
(Note: During Fall Break)



More than 100 college representatives from 2- and 4-year public and private schools, career technical schools, and representatives from all branches of the military attend.

All students and parents are encouraged to attend. Information and questions relating to admissions and financial aid at private and public institutions can be obtained at the College Fair by speaking to individual college representatives.

To save time at the College Fair, students can go to the www.gotocollegefairs.com website and register for the ORHS College Fair. Then, print the registration sheet containing the student's name and barcode. Take this to the College Fair on October 2 or to any other college fair you choose to attend. This will keep you from having to fill out so many "interest" cards at the recruiters' tables at the fair. They will simply scan your barcode.



FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHTS

Oct. 17 & Oct. 24, 2017, 5:30-7pm,
ORHS Library computer room

Bring your 2016 tax information and your FSA ID.

Applying for the Tennessee Promise, FAFSA, and Hope lottery scholarship is FREE, with NO credit card required. Beware of websites, email, and phone calls that request a credit card # for help in applying.

TENNESSEE PROMISE

The Tennessee Promise (TN Promise) scholarship provides two years of tuition-free attendance at a community or technical college in Tennessee. **Students must sign up by Nov. 1.** The goal at ORHS is to get most seniors signed up for TN Promise. Go to www.tnpromise.gov for more information.

Note that a student must create a TSAC student portal prior to completing the application. Simply creating a TSAC student portal and not completing an application will not register a student for TN Promise. Keep in mind that many dual-enrolled students already have a TSAC student portal created. A dual-enrolled student must log in with his/her username and password and submit the TN Promise scholarship application.

FAFSA & FSA ID

Filing the Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA) is required to get the Hope lottery scholarship, TN Promise, government student loans, and by many colleges. **FAFSA filing opens on Oct. 1** this year, a major change from past years in which filing opened Jan. 1. Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov> to apply.

The student and one parent must each have an **FSA ID** before filing (see fafsa.ed.gov). It is recommended that the FAFSA be filed as soon as possible after Oct. 1. The Hope and other lottery scholarships have limited funds and are given out based on when your FAFSA is filed. **For the TN Promise, the FAFSA must be filed by Jan. 16, 2018.** Colleges have their own FAFSA deadlines, so check college websites.



NOTE: The FAFSA must be filed **EACH YEAR** that the student is in college, including for advanced degrees. The same can be true for scholarships that a student receives. It is important to check if a scholarship needs to be applied for each year or is good for four years.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Students automatically apply for the **Hope** and other **Tennessee Lottery scholarships** by filing a FAFSA. There are GPA and ACT requirements (see www.tn.gov/collegepays).

Student seminar packets will include a **Local Scholarship Form**. Students who fill out the form and return it to the Counseling Office (priority date Dec. 1) will be considered for 30 or more local scholarships. All students are encouraged to fill out and return the form. The Counseling Office has extra forms.

Scholarship notices are on the ORHS web site, ortn.edu/highschool/. Click on "School Counseling" under the Academics tab. Scroll to the bottom of the page for the link to Scholarship announcements. If you have any questions, see Mrs. Morris in the Counseling Office.

ACT SENIOR RETAKE

Tuesday, October 17, 2017, during school at ORHS

There are NO vouchers for the free ACT Senior Retake opportunity. All seniors will take the ACT on Tuesday, October 17th AT SCHOOL. It is a retake for those who took it in junior year. Those who did not take it during their junior year will take it October 17 for free as well.

Upcoming Testing Dates

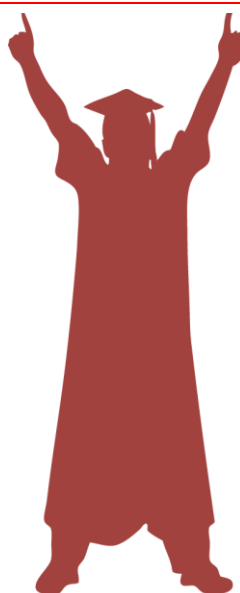
<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Registration</u>	<u>Late Registration</u>
ACT:			
October 28, 2017	ORHS	Sept. 22, 2017	Sept. 23-Oct. 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	ORHS	Nov. 3, 2017	Nov. 4-17, 2017
SAT & SUBJECT TESTS:			
October 7, 2017	ORHS	Sept. 8, 2017	Sept. 27, 2017
November 4, 2017	Knoxville	Oct. 5, 2017	Oct. 25, 2017
December 2, 2017	Knoxville	Nov. 2, 2017	Nov. 21, 2017
Register for the ACT at www.actstudent.org . Register for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com .			

Senior Events Oct. 18

After school in Wildcat Arena

Signing Party: Seniors will sign a poster that will be copied onto ORHS Class of 2018 shirts and sweats. Ordering info will be given out.

Graduation Supplies: Jostens will be handing out packets to order graduation supplies (cap & gown, invitations, etc.). Orders will be taken beginning Oct. 25.

**Yearbook**

The deadline to purchase dedications and salutations to seniors for the end of the yearbook is Oct. 23. Create the ads online at www.balfour.com or mail in pictures and a check and allow us to create the ad. This is your child's senior year—let us help you remember all the years between! Becky Byrd, rbyrd@ortn.edu

Make-up yearbook photos will be on Oct. 18, 10:45am-3:30pm in the auditorium. A \$35 sitting fee is required to receive the proof package.

Senior Packet Help Needed

Senior packets are handed out to students on their last day of school right after graduation practice. The packets contain graduation tickets (six per student in case of rain) and other information for the student.

A parent coordinator is needed to supervise putting together and handing out the packets with other parent volunteers. If interested, email Jutta Bangs at juttabangs@gmail.com.

Letters of Recommendation

Teachers and counselors require three weeks' notice, taking into account breaks and holidays.

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Requests Due</u>
October 1	September 8
October 15	September 8
November 1	September 27
November 15	October 25
December 1	November 6
December 15	November 20

Community College Events

- Sept. 14** Roane State will be at ORHS helping students complete the TN Promise and apply to community college. They will be visiting the English 12 CP and English 12 classes.
- Oct. 24, 2pm** Fall TN Promise meeting at ORHS (handbooks delivered)
- April 5, 5:30pm** Spring TN Promise meeting at ORHS (mentor meeting)

**Counselors**

Students can make an appointment with their counselor to discuss post-high school plans (and bring their parents), or email any questions. Students' last name determines their counselor.

A-C Paige Redman	hpredman@ortn.edu
D-H David Morrow	djmorrow@ortn.edu
I-M Brianna Ottinger	bottinger@ortn.edu
N-R Kelly Rowland	ksrowland@ortn.edu
S-Z Heidi Foster	hafoster@ortn.edu



EXPLORING COLLEGES

Sunday, October 1, 2017

Admissions counselors from Duke University, Harvard University, Georgetown, U of Penn and Stanford will be in Knoxville Sunday night, October 1st to meet with prospective students. You must register at this link provided in order to attend. <http://exploringcollegeoptions.org/> As a reminder, that is the first weekend of fall break. But if you are interested in any of these schools, register and plan to attend.

VANDERBILT VISIT

Deadline September 15, 2017

Would you like to be considered for a nomination to participate in Vanderbilt's Vandy Fan for a Day program? If you fall into one of the following categories, see Mrs. Morris in the Counseling Office:

- *Students who will be first-generation college attendees
- *Students participating in free or reduced lunch programs
- *Students receiving significant financial aid or need-based scholarships

GRADUATION HAZARDS – SENIORITIS!

Attendance, Grades, Behavior

Don't let these jeopardize your senior's graduation! Motivation for high school decreases quickly throughout senior year, especially after they turn 18. Parents are encouraged to regularly check Skyward for attendance and grade information. Take advantage of fall and spring break intercession grade recovery options. Inappropriate behavior has consequences and can affect graduation and college acceptance. Students have even been arrested in the past for senior pranks.

IMPORTANT DATES 2017-2018

AUGUST

1 Open for applications: TN Promise, Common App, UT Knoxville

SEPTEMBER

7 Senior Seminars, Senior Parent Seminar 6pm
 10 Senior Parent Seminar 2:30pm
 14 Community College Day at ORHS
 15 Deadline for Vandy Fan for a Day
 21 College Financial Aid Seminar 6pm
 27 College Admissions Evening 6pm

OCTOBER

1 FAFSA applications open, Exploring Colleges
 2-13 Fall Break
 2 ORHS College Fair 5:30-7pm
 17 Senior ACT retake during school
 17 FAFSA Completion Night 5:30-7pm
 18 Yearbook retakes, senior signing party
 23 Yearbook salutation deadline
 24 TN Promise Fall Meeting 2pm
 24 FAFSA Completion Night 5:30-7pm

NOVEMBER

1 Deadline for TN Promise, UTK honors and scholarships

DECEMBER

1 Local scholarship form priority deadline
 15 Deadline for UTK regular admission

JANUARY

TBD Send mid-year transcript to colleges
 16 FAFSA application due for TN Promise

APRIL

1 College acceptance letters go out (or online)
 5 TN Promise Spring Meeting 5:30pm
 TBD Senior Tea

MAY

1 College decisions are due (accept or reject)
 25 Senior packets handed out
 31 Graduation, Graduation Celebration

June 1 Graduation rain date

Senior Tea 2018

Senior Tea is the start of the Graduation Season, usually in April.

All students in Senior English Studies are invited to dress up as their favorite character or author and attend a traditional afternoon tea featuring scones, sandwiches, strawberries etc. Senior parents are needed to provide home-made food or financial support for decorations, plates and drinks.

Please contact us if you are interested:

Yvonne Dalschen yvonedalschen@gmail.com, Angie Palau, Miriam Pitz



Graduation celebration



GRADUATION CELEBRATION 2018

May 31, 2018, 10pm–5am, Oak Ridge Civic Center

Graduating Seniors! Save the Date!

Join your classmates for a free, all-night celebration of your success. Come enjoy games, activities, food, and fun, and the chance to win prizes and scholarships valued at over \$13,000.

We party rain or shine on Thursday, May 31, so don't plan other parties that night! And remember you must graduate on time to attend.

Visit graduationcelebration.org for more information.

