

# Senior Newsletter-All Things Seniors Want To Know

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Welcome to your senior year-From Your Counselor , Mrs. Denton

Congratulations-you have made it to your Senior Year!!!

Now, before you kick back there is a lot to be done. Things like college applications, college visits, financial aid, scholarships, retaking or taking the SAT/ACT, and a host of other things are all

looming before most seniors.

The senior year can be scary with all that has to be done, but never fear- your friendly guidance counselor is near or just a phone call or email away. I strongly encourage every senior to get to know me, your guid-

ance counselor.

I can help with applications, visits, financial aid, career choice, scholarships and really almost anything else you need help with- all you have to do is ask.

My email is: dentona@bronsonschools.org and my direct line is 517-369-3342



Mrs. Denton is here to help.

## Important Dates:

- |                                                                               |                                                              |                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ◆ October 2<br>6:00-7:30<br>College<br>Night at the<br>BACC-Free<br>Admission | ◆ 2019-2020<br>FAFSA<br>Opening<br>Date Octo-<br>ber 1, 2018 | March 19<br>May 4, June 1                                               |
| ◆ October 11<br>5:00 Financial<br>Aid Meeting                                 | ◆ SAT Test<br>Dates:<br>Oct.6, Nov.<br>3, Dec. 1,            | ◆ ACT Test<br>Dates: Oct.<br>27, Dec. 8,<br>Apr. 13, June<br>8, July 13 |

## Senior Newsletter-All Things Seniors Want To Know

### Applying To College



Well, the first thing you need to do is decide where you want to apply. I recommend you apply to six schools. Apply to two stretch schools, two you are pretty sure you will get into schools, and two slam dunk you are in schools. Applying to college can be both difficult and expensive but it does not have to be. Many schools have free applications or will waive the application fee if you come and listen to their representative when they visit your high school. If you qualify for

free and /or reduced lunch you can request a fee waiver. See your guidance counselor if you need a waiver. Applications are usually available on college's websites. Some schools also use something called the common application. Check to see what your college is using and if you need help, see Mrs Denton. Many college applications are very easy to complete-so easy that they can be finished in fifteen minutes or less. Some applications are more difficult and require an essay.

Don't panic and if you need help see Mrs. Denton.

One more thing-if you complete an application on line and it tells you to send your transcript make sure you notify Mrs. Denton or Mrs. Fee. We will send your transcript out right away, but you have to tell us where you want it sent.

Remember, ask for help if you need it, Mrs. Denton has completed hundreds of applications with students!

*"This is the one time in your life when it is good not to have a lot of money."*

### Paying For College

As you know, college can be very expensive. It is important that every student planning to go to college completes the FAFSA or free application for federal student aid. This application can be filed starting October 1, 2018. You go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to find this application. Prospective college stu-

dents complete this and the federal government sends the figures to the college and then the college financial aid offices put together a package based on what the federal government estimates a family can contribute to their child's education. In many cases, students will receive enough financial aid to cover most costs. This is the one

time in your life when it is good to not have a lot of money. Poorer students receive more financial aid! If you need help with the FAFSA see Mrs. Denton. Financial Aid Night is @ 5:00 P.M. on October 11, 2018. Additionally, students should apply for as many scholarships as they can. See the next article.

### Scholarships

There are a fair amount of local scholarships available to Bronson students. The most important thing to remember is to complete as many applications as you can! If a student does not apply he or she will not win any scholarships. I encourage students to finish their college applications by November so that they can focus on scholarships in December and after. All seniors

receive a scholarship packet from Mrs. Denton as soon as we return from Christmas Break. Additionally, Mrs. Denton places potential scholarships on the announcements. Finally, Mrs. Denton will always help a student with a scholarship application as long as the student does not ask for help the day it is due.

There are also several

scholarship search services. [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) is a good one. There are a lot of scholarship opportunities out there and you just never know so APPLY, APPLY, APPLY. A wise parent once told his son, "If you spend two hours on this application and win \$500 this will be the last time in your life you earn \$250 an hour."



## Volume 4, Issue 1

### Testing

Should a student retake the SAT? This is a very popular question. Generally speaking, if a student is not happy with his or her scores, or was incredibly nervous on test day AND has done something to improve, he or she should retake. Unfortunately, simply retaking the test usually does not result in improved scores. Students who spend time studying on websites like [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) can expect to see improvement.

Khan Academy is a free

website that offers SAT Test Prep. Students who want to improve their scores should spend time working in this website. Students can register to retake the SAT at: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

This year's test dates can be found on page one of this newsletter.

Some students choose to take the ACT test. This test is similar to the SAT test but has a few different subject areas. To

sign up for the ACT go to: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/register.html>

If you need help with registering, see Mrs. Denton. Most of these tests have deadlines and late registration can be even more costly than regular registration so be sure to register early.



### The True Cost Of College

Cost should not be a factor in deciding where to apply to college. What colleges charge and what students pay can be two very different things. Think about it as if you were buying a car. The price on the sticker is rarely what a car buyer pays. College is the same way.

The college scorecard, <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>, is

a cool website that shows users exactly how much the average student pays. Users can see what the average financial aid amount is and how many students receive aid. And what is really cool about this site is it tells users the percentage of students who graduated from a school and are actually paying back their loans-which means they are employed.

It is important to consider the whole picture when choosing a college.

Students do not usually know how much a college is going to cost them until the spring after they get their financial aid awards. Students should apply and then in the spring actually choose the school they want to attend AFTER they get their award package.

*What colleges charge and what students pay can be two very different things.*

### Help, I don't know what I want to do...

Many seniors are not sure about what they want to do. [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) is a great website to help students who are not quite sure about what is next. This website has information about careers and colleges.

If a student is not sure about what he or she wants to do Community College is a great way to try out some classes for less money than a four year college.

Many of the community college credits will transfer so they provide a cheaper way for a student to try different subjects in order to see which one is the best fit.

Don't hesitate to see Mrs. Denton if you need help researching potential careers.

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# Bronson Jr. Sr. High Guidance Office

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## **COLLEGE FAIR**

The Branch County College Fair is October 2, 2018 from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. This event is held at the Branch Area Careers Center. Most of the Michigan college representatives and many of the out of state representatives attend this event. If you are not sure about where you want to go and want to get a lot of information from a lot of colleges in a short period of time this event is for you. The event is free of charge.