

Senior News Class of 2021



Horry County Schools

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Upcoming Dates:

- *November 10*—
FAFSA Meeting (Virtual)
- *November 10-11*—
**WIN TESTING
MAKE-UP**
- *November 10*—
End of Quarter 1
- *November 10-13*—
Senior Supply Orders
- *November 26-29*—
**Thanksgiving Break
(NO SCHOOL)**
- *December 10*—
ASVAB Test
- *December 18*—
2nd Qtr Interim
- *December 23—January 3*—
Winter Break Begins
- *January 18*—
NO SCHOOL
- *January 28*—
End of 1st Semester

End of First Quarter

Seniors and Parents,

Next Tuesday is the end of the first quarter. For the January graduates, that means you only have 9 weeks until your wrap up your time in high school and move on to whatever is next.

For those of you sticking around for the full year, you're that much closer to graduation date. Make sure your plan is in place for what you want to do after high school. That means completing those college applications, applying for scholarships, meeting with recruiters, or making arrangements for your careers. That also means that we need to schedule your final IGP. This has been a tough year to complete IGP meetings, but we still want to take a few minutes to make sure everything is in place. Send me an e-mail and we'll set up something

during the months of November or December. We can have an online meeting, meet in person (student only), or talk by phone, whatever works best for you.

The rest of the school year is a crucial time to make sure everything is in place prior to graduation. Reach out if you have questions or concerns. Just remember that I have a lot of you, so I appreciate your patience as I get back to everyone.

Keep up the great work this school year. Get your assignments in and don't put yourself in jeopardy from anything as you end your time in high school.

Robb Urbaniak
Counselor for Class of 2021
(843) 293-9043
RUrbaniak@horrycountyschools.net

Transcript Requests

Many of you are submitting your applications to college and you are asking for your transcripts to be sent to those colleges.

ALL Transcript requests must be processed online using the link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRM-U_aIT7ue56XQDXBZ8Nv8eeTqqFzPJ7deGttf6es8_ccQ/viewform

Please use this link for every college you apply to. Fill out a new form for each school.

This link should be used whether you are in school or in the Virtual

Program. I'll use this form to track when you apply to a school and when your transcript is processed and sent.

If you do not submit your request using this form then there is no way for me to know what schools you are applying to.

This link can always be found on our Google Classroom page. Join Google Classroom if you haven't done so already using the code:

ugrzpzv

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January Graduates

Some of you are weighing your option on completing high school in January and there is still time for you to do this, but you must speak with me first. As a January Graduate you must have completed all of your graduation re-

quirements by the end of the first semester. January Graduates are allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony at the end of the year, but you are unable to join us for any other senior events such as senior week or

prom. January Graduates will not receive a class rank, so this decision may have an impact on your scholarship offers that require class rank. Schedule your IGP soon so we can discuss this option for you.

FAFSA

Some of you are actively working on completing your FAFSA and some of you are totally lost in that process. FAFSA is your Free Application for Federal Student Aid, basically how much money your family can contribute for you to go to college. The good news is that I have made ar-

rangements with the Financial Aid office at Coastal Carolina University to host an evening to assist parents with the FAFSA process.

Tuesday, November 10 at 6 PM we will host a virtual meeting with the Financial Aid Office

from Coastal Carolina to get assistance with the FAFSA. All are welcome and you do not have to apply to Coastal to join. A link will be shared via e-mail as we get closer to that date but please clear your calendar and plan to join us.

College Applications

I have met with a lot of you about completing your college applications and I keep hearing the same thing over and over again, that you are waiting to submit your applications until you retake SAT or ACT or until a teacher submits your recommendation letter. DO NOT wait to submit

your college applications. Colleges will accept your applications in pieces, but the most important part of it is your application. Remember, you have a deadline to submit that application but colleges understand that a letter of recommendation, a transcript, or a test score may come at a later

time. If you wait to submit your applications then you may be missing important deadlines, or missing out on things like priority for housing to certain colleges. You take care of your application, and then we can work on getting the rest of it completed and sent to the college.

Scholarships

Starting in the month of October, we published a scholarship newsletter with monthly information on how to search and apply for scholarships. Expect this newsletter to come out mid-month for the remainder of the year. This is a valuable resource for you as you look for money for college. It's a good idea to use your free time to search for scholarships and grants that you may be eligible to use when you go to college. Outside of the scholarship news-

letter, students may also be eligible for the HOPE, LIFE, or Palmetto Fellows Scholarships. This is money that is awarded to students through the Lottery Tuition Assistance Program. Students may only be eligible for one of these scholarships, and your eligibility is based primarily on your overall GPA. I'll work with you during your IGP meetings to discuss which one is right for you.

You are always welcome to complete searches for scholarships on

your own. The helpful websites linked in the scholarship newsletter will take you even further in your search for money. Be sure to use your time looking for more opportunities. If you need a copy of your transcript, or if I can help in any way please let me know. And, when you receive a scholarship offer, make a copy of the letter and bring it to me in guidance. We need to have a record of all scholarship offers for our seniors.

Teaching Fellows

Students interested in pursuing a career in education in the state of South Carolina should consider applying for the Teaching Fellows Scholarship. The mission of the Program is to recruit talented high school seniors into the teaching profession and help them develop leadership qualities. Teaching Fellows is a valuable opportunity for students who are passionate about furthering their knowledge of the teaching profession. Many of our former Brave students have been awarded the Teaching Fellows Scholarship and it covers up to \$24,000 toward college tuition.

Each year, the program provides Fellowships for up to 200 high school seniors who have exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to their school and community, and a desire to teach in South Carolina.

Teaching Fellows participate in advanced enrichment programs at Teaching Fellows Institutions, have additional professional development opportunities, and are involved with communities and businesses throughout the state.

Since this is such a competitive scholarship opportunity, we can make arrangements for past re-

cipients to assist with your application and interview. Please let me know right away if you are interested in this opportunity. Deadline to apply is December 1, and the application is rather lengthy so you'll want to start it right away.

For more information and to start your application for Teaching Fellows please visit the website

<https://www.cerra.org/teaching-fellows.html>

All interested students should communicate with Mr. Urbaniak so I can make arrangements for someone to come to our school to assist with the process.

Holiday Assistance

If you need assistance this holiday season (either Thanksgiving meals or Christmas presents) please contact me to let me know. Everyone's situation is different and COVID has affected all of us differently this year. You may be in a position where someone has lost an income or a family member is sick and you could just use some help. I have resources that could help you through this difficult time. We typically provide

Thanksgiving meals to families in need and can provide Christmas presents, but I may also be able to help you pay electric or water bills, grocery bills, or other assistance. Please don't be afraid to talk with me about your situation to see if we can help. Everything will be confidential. I will do all that I can to help each and every family that needs it. Likewise, if you are doing very well and you are in a generous and giving spirit, you may want

to be the person to help us out with funds, gift cards, or donations this holiday season. We are always accepting any type of donations through the school. Talk to me to let me know how you want to help. 100% of all donations that we take go directly to the families in need at our school. All donations stay in the school community and we have no overhead operating costs, so you can be confident that your donations are put to good use.

Senior Supplies

Herff Jones is work with us again this year on ordering senior supplies. This is all the stuff you need for graduation at the end of the year. EVERYONE should place at least a minimum order for your cap and gown, tassel and diploma cover. There are other supplies on their website that you can order as well. If you need

help with ordering you can schedule an appointment with HJ on Tuesday, November 10, Wednesday, November 11 or Friday, November 13. Group A and Group B students, please schedule it for the day you are in school. Group E students can schedule any day. Everyone is welcome to schedule on Friday. See the at-

tached flyer for more information!

Schedule an appointment using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/HJ-Socastee2021>

Order supplies on your own using this link: www.hjcarolina.com

Need to Know Information

Below is all the information and dates that you need to know. Please read over all of this very carefully because it may apply to you!

IGP Meetings

We have to schedule your final IGP meeting of high school. Senior meetings are often brief because we know you are on track to graduate and just want to have one final check-in to cover any last minute topics. Thanks to those who have already scheduled your meeting. Parents, as always, I will work around your schedule. Since visitors are not permitted in the building yet all IGP meetings are done on Google Meet or by phone.

Second Semester Schedules

IGP meetings are good time to discuss second semester schedules, especially if you are a virtual student. Make sure you are on track to graduate this Spring!

WIN Testing Make Up

We have a handful of students who need to make up the WIN Testing. I have two make up dates, Tuesday, November 10 and Wednesday, November 11. You will receive an e-mail this week with more information.

SAT/ACT Dates

You have one more test date left in December for anyone retaking SAT and ACT. The deadline to register for SAT is November 24 (late registration) and the deadline to register for ACT is November 20. Please log into your accounts to sign up for those exams if you need to take them again. Just a reminder, I do not have access to your SAT or ACT accounts so you will need to contact those testing agencies directly.

Test Optional

Almost all SC colleges and universities have advertised that they are test optional this year. That may be a good thing if you do not want to retake the SAT or the ACT. Colleges will consider your test scores if you submit them, but they will not use them against you if you have poor scores. That's good to know. However, you may need to submit your test scores for scholarship purposes. If you took SAT or ACT I encourage you to go ahead and submit test scores so the colleges have them on file with your application.

Fee Waivers

If you were previously on Free/Reduced lunch then you may be eligible for a fee waiver for SAT or ACT. I have fee waivers available for both exams. You must use a testing fee waiver to earn eligibility for college application fee waivers.

Acceptance Letters

As you receive acceptance letters from colleges, please bring them to me in guidance, or e-mail a copy to me. We want to recognize you for your accomplishment and we like to keep track of all of the places are students are accepted.

Scholarship Offers

Throughout the year, you should also bring me copies of your scholarship offers. Every scholarship offer is recognized at our Senior Award Ceremony at the end of the year. Without the letter we are unable to recognize you for your award.

NCAA

If you will consider participating in athletics when you go to college you'll have to complete an

application with NCAA. The process is not difficult and can be done at NCAA.org. You'll need to let me know so I can submit your transcripts on your behalf.

ASVAB

Students interested in a career in the military, or students who are looking for a valuable career interest inventory should consider taking the ASVAB on **Thursday, December 10**. Sign ups will come later in November, but this is open to all seniors and a great opportunity for everyone.

College Visits

Reminder, you still get two days excused to visit colleges during your senior year. You must let me know in advance when you are going, and you'll have to get something from the college on the day of your visit. Return that letter to Mrs. Tucci in attendance and your day can be excused. Take advantage of the opportunity to visit colleges your senior year.

Letters of Recommendation

If you need a letter of recommendation, there is a proper way to go about asking. Asking in person is far preferable to sending a text or an e-mail, not matter how familiar you are with the teacher. You'll also want to provide a copy of your resume so that your recommender knows what you are involved in. Do not assume they know everything about it. Give the recommender at least two weeks notice prior to the deadline of the letter. And always follow it up with a thank you note for taking the time to assist you. Teachers greatly appreciate you politely following a few steps which makes them more likely to write you a solid recommendation.