

# The Senior Times

**Attention Parents:** This newsletter and other correspondence can be sent via email to you. If you are not on my email list, please email me at [hratcliff@martinsvilleisd.com](mailto:hratcliff@martinsvilleisd.com) to get signed up. Students will receive a copy during their activity periods each month.

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## What's been going on?

On November 16<sup>th</sup> we had Stacy Gee here from Panola College to administer the TSI. This test has three parts: reading, writing and math. It is required for students planning to attend college after graduation. There will be another opportunity here on our campus to take the TSI in April. Please let me know if you need to sign up!

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## There are still a few things to be working on throughout your senior year...

1. If you haven't already, prepare a list of activities, clubs, sports, volunteer work, etc. you have completed throughout your high school career. Make sure you to note the years you participated, your responsibilities, and any offices you may have held. Many applications in your senior year will ask for this information.
2. **VOLUNTEER!!!** There is always a need to help out in your community. Not only is this great for applications, but you will gain a lot through the experience. If you are on the recommended or distinguished graduation plan, there is an opportunity to graduate as a NOBLE Scholar. This requires 30 hours of community service. Keep track of the organizations you contribute to, as well as the dates and number of hours you work.
3. **Check into the colleges you are interested in attending.** Call and have information sent to you (it's free). Check admission requirements: GPA, class rank, ACT/SAT scores, etc. Find out if there are special events for you to visit the campus. See dates posted outside of Mrs. Ratcliff's office. Remember, you are allowed 2 college days during your senior year.
4. **Plan to retake the ACT or take the SAT.** If you haven't taken one of these tests yet, register as soon as possible. You may need to retake in order to meet admission requirements for your desired college or to exempt the TSI assessment. (Info on registration can be found in this newsletter.)
5. **Ask for letters of recommendation.** Applications and scholarships alike will ask for letters of reference/recommendation. You should be asking teachers, community members, church leaders, etc. to write you letters. Ask early, allowing plenty of time to meet the application deadlines and giving them time to write a good letter for you.
6. **Continue working on your essays.** You do not want your essay for college applications or scholarships to be last minute. Colleges want sincere, passionate essays that have proper

use of the English language and punctuation. Here are some topics from scholarships this past year:

- a. Write a 300-400 word essay about how this scholarship will help your education. Include your interests, info on your life, who influenced you, field of study for major/minor, and work experience and how it relates to your desired major.
- b. Provide a statement of your goals after high school graduation.
- c. Why should you be awarded this scholarship?
- d. List course of study/degree objectives and why you chose them.
- e. Discuss educational plans and why you feel you need/should be awarded this scholarship.
- f. In approx. 100 words write on this topic "My Plans for My Future."

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### College Days

You are allowed to take 2 college days throughout your senior year. Often times, these visits help solidify your choice of school. Please come by Mrs. Ratcliff's office to get a form prior to your scheduled college day. For the absence to be excused, the form must be complete, and you must bring back proof of your college visit (note from college, on their letterhead/stationery, the contact information of the advisor you met with, signed and dated).

Based on the senior class interests, here are some days to consider:

**Stephen F. Austin:** Spring Showcase Saturdays are on February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>. No RSVP is required. Speak with representatives from academic departments, take a campus tour, visit housing facilities, and learn about financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

**Baylor University:** Baylor Premiere is an all-day Saturday event for prospective freshmen offered on April 8, 2017. Register online for the event. You will take a campus tour, attend academic sessions to learn about majors, meet with admissions and financial aid representatives, visit residence halls, learn about study abroad and student life, and Enjoy a Dr. Pepper float (a Baylor tradition). Check in begins at 8:30 am.

**Texas A&M University:** Register for a tour of the campus by visiting [campusvisit.tamu.edu](http://campusvisit.tamu.edu). You can select a time to meet with an academic college or department as well.

**University of Texas:** Choose a day you would like to visit and register at <http://admissions.utexas.edu/visit>. Come on a weekday and you can experience a Prospective Freshman Session and Tour.

**Lamar University:** Walking tours of the campus begin at 10am and 2pm Monday-Friday and last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. You will visit the student center, recreational center, dining hall and residence halls. Afterwards, you may meet one-on-one with a recruiter to get more information. Complete the form at [forms.lamar.edu/beacardinal/tour-forms/schedule-a-visit.html](http://forms.lamar.edu/beacardinal/tour-forms/schedule-a-visit.html).

**University of Houston:** Cougar Preview day will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 on the UH Campus. Register online at [www.uh.edu/admissions/connect/schedule-visit/cougar-preview/](http://www.uh.edu/admissions/connect/schedule-visit/cougar-preview/). You will explore the campus, departments, and programs. This is an all-day program.

**Hardin-Simmons University:** Cowboy Fridays are held on January 13<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 3, and May 12<sup>th</sup>. You will tour the campus, meet with an admissions counselor and receive a complimentary lunch. Registration information will be available on the website 4-6 weeks before each event.

**University of Mary-Hardin Baylor:** Come to a Sader Day on January 27<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>, February 20<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, or April 17<sup>th</sup>. Register for any of these events online at [future.umhb.edu/visit-umhb](http://future.umhb.edu/visit-umhb).

**Tarleton State University:** Texan Tour Preview Day will be held on March 25, 2017. Speak with representatives from academic departments, admissions, financial aid, scholarships and residence life. You will get to tour the campus as well. Register online at [www.tarleton.edu/welcome/texantour.html](http://www.tarleton.edu/welcome/texantour.html).

**If you do not see your school of interest listed, please let me know and I will get any information to you.**

Some schools do not offer preview days, but you can just register for a campus visit anytime through their website. I suggest that you also make appointments to meet with academic advisors and financial aid staff if you do this to make the most of your visit.

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### Dates to Remember

**December 19<sup>th</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Christmas Break

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>:** Student Holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>:** Teacher workday – no school for students

**March 13<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>:** Spring Break

**Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>:** Teacher workday – no school for students

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>: Student Holiday – Good Friday

Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>: Stacy Gee from Panola will be here to administer the TSI Assessment for any students wanting to test.

Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>: Early Release

Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>: GRADUATION!!!

**ACT/SAT Testing  
School Code: 444-540**

**You need to take the ACT/SAT again this year if you were not satisfied with your scores or you were absent the day we tested. If you have not done so already, please sign up for one of the dates listed below. The earlier you take this test, the better. You want to have results back in time to meet deadlines. College applications and most scholarship applications require ACT/SAT scores. These tests are different and many students score better on one than the other, so you may want to take both.**

**\*\*\*If you are on free/reduced lunch, Mrs. Ratcliff has a fee waiver for you to take the ACT/SAT tests.**

**ACT : Cost for ACT (No Writing) is \$42.50 \*\*\*If you are unable to pay, please see me to find out if you qualify for a fee waiver.\*\*\*  
Cost for ACT Plus Writing is \$58.50**

Check the website <http://www.act.org/aap/writing/index.html> to see what colleges require writing. To be safe, I suggest you take the writing.

Visit <http://www.actstudent.org/> to register for the test. You will need to create a Student Web Account and upload a recent photo to complete registration. (If you have taken this before, your information may be saved. Please see Mrs. Ratcliff to help you with registration.) **A photo ID is required to check in on Test Day.** Study materials/Practice tests are available in Mrs. Ratcliff's office.

**\*\*\* The February date is the test that is offered here at Martinsville School.\*\*\***

<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>	<b>Late Registration Period (fee applies)</b>
February 11, 2017***	January 13, 2017	January 14-20, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017	March 4-17, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017	May 6-19, 2017

**SAT :** Cost is \$45 without essay and \$57 with essay. (If you are unable to pay, please see me to find out if you qualify for a fee waiver.)

Visit [sat.org/register](http://sat.org/register) to register for the test. You will need to create a College Board account and upload a recent photo to complete registration. **A photo ID is required** to check in on Test Day. Study materials/Practice tests are available in Mrs. Ratcliff's office.

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (\$28 fee)
January 21, 2017	December 29, 2016	January 13, 2017
March 11, 2017	February 10, 2017	February 28, 2017
May 6, 2017	April 7, 2017	April 25, 2017
June 3, 2017	May 9, 2017	May 24, 2017

### Apply Texas Application

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN as of September 1<sup>st</sup> for many colleges! Most four-year public universities and junior colleges use the Apply Texas Application for Freshman Admission. This allows you to apply to multiple universities in one application. Visit [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org) to apply online.

Most private universities and out-of-state universities use the Common Application for Freshman Admission found at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).

**\*\*\*Remember\*\*\*** Even if you have taken dual credit/concurrent courses in high school, you are still considered a first-time freshman to colleges.

**When you receive notification that you have been accepted to a college,  
please bring Mrs. Ratcliff your acceptance letter.**

### Attention Senior Males

It is required by law that all males register with the Selective Service within 30 days of your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday (30 days before or after). It is possible for a man who is at least 17 years and 3 months old to submit registration early. Selective Service will keep this information on file and process it automatically when the man is within 30 days of reaching his 18th birthday. Visit [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov) to register online, or stop by the post office to pick up a registration form.

## The TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE (TSI) Assessment

Before entering college, you will need to take the TSI Assessment. This test helps determine whether or not you will need to take any remediation courses. We will offer this test on our campus once or twice throughout the year.

We will have a representative from Panola come to Martinsville and administer the TSI Assessment in November and April.

### A Few TSI Exemptions (must meet one of the following):

**ACT:** composite score of 23 with:

-minimum of 19 on the English to exempt both the reading and writing sections of the TSI Assessment

-minimum of 19 on the mathematics test to exempt the mathematics section of the TSI Assessment

**SAT:** a combined critical reading and mathematics score of 1070 with:

-minimum of 500 on the critical reading test to exempt both reading and writing sections of the TSI Assessment

-minimum of 500 on the mathematics test to exempt the mathematics section of the TSI Assessment

For a complete list of exemptions, please visit the website, [www.theccb.state.tx.us/DE/TSI](http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/DE/TSI), see #1 and click on TSI/Exemptions.

Each college will require that you complete a pre-assessment activity before taking the TSI Assessment. Please call/visit the websites listed below for more information:

Angelina College (936-633-5495) – TSI Assessment cost \$29 for all or \$15 for each individual part.  
[http://www.angelina.edu/testing/texas\\_success\\_initiative.html](http://www.angelina.edu/testing/texas_success_initiative.html)

Panola College (903-693-2077) – TSI Assessment cost \$30  
<http://www.panola.edu/student-success/placement-testing/accuplacer.html>

SFA (936-468-3958) – TSI Assessment cost \$40 for all or \$25 for each individual part.  
<http://www.sfasu.edu/ccs/testing/TSI.asp>

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## Bacterial Meningitis

According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, “All entering students are required to show evidence of an initial bacterial meningitis vaccine or a booster dose during the five-year period preceding and at least 10 days prior to the first day of the first semester in which the student initially enrolls at an institution.” If you have questions about the date of your last vaccination, please contact your doctor, Mrs. Ratcliff or the school nurse. Proof will need to be provided to the college or university you plan to attend.

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## Transcripts

Transcript request forms are outside of Mrs. Ratcliff's office. Please make sure to fill this out in advance so there is time to prepare this information for you.

## Scholarship Information

The majority of scholarships come through the colleges you plan to attend. Contact your desired university/college to get information on their specific scholarship application and its due date. I have included information on the schools that the senior class has expressed an interest in. If you want additional information on other schools, just let me know.

**Remember this: Apply early and apply to more than one school.**

**Angelina College:** [www.angelina.edu](http://www.angelina.edu) – The General Scholarship Application can be found online or in Mrs. Ratcliff's office. Priority is given to students who complete and submit applications by February 1<sup>st</sup> (first round), March 1<sup>st</sup> (second round), and then June 15<sup>th</sup> (third round).

**Panola College:** [www.panola.edu](http://www.panola.edu) – The Endowed Scholarship Application is not yet available, but in the past has had a deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup>. You are required to turn in an official high school transcript, a one page letter of recommendation and a brief summary of why you are applying for scholarship with your application. You must also complete the FAFSA.

**Stephen F. Austin University:** [www.sfasu.edu](http://www.sfasu.edu) – The scholarship application should be available starting September 1, 2016 and has a deadline of February 1, 2017. SFA also has the Purple Promise Program which covers tuition and regular fees for up to 4 years for eligible students (see list of requirements on website). The Smith-Hutson Scholarship is also available through SFA. This scholarship could be worth upwards of \$70,000. The application can be found online at SFA's website and will be due in February as well.

**Baylor University:** [www.baylor.edu](http://www.baylor.edu) – Early action application deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Regular Admission is February 1<sup>st</sup>. Please check the website under Student Financial Services to find scholarship information. The Committee Scholarship applications will be available on February 1, 2017. March 1<sup>st</sup> is the priority date for FAFSA.

**Texas A&M University:** [www.tamu.edu](http://www.tamu.edu) – Scholarship application information can be found at [scholarships.tamu.edu](http://scholarships.tamu.edu). The application has a deadline of December 1, 2016. For Financial Aid, FAFSA needs to be submitted by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**University of Texas (Dallas):** [www.utdallas.edu](http://www.utdallas.edu) – Eugene McDermott Scholars Program covers all expenses of a four-year education at UT Dallas. (32+ on ACT, rank in top 5%, etc.) Priority deadline for the TEXAS Grant and Top 10 Percent Scholarship is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Must have been admitted to the university, submitted the FAFSA, and supplied any additional documentation required.

**Temple College:** [www.templejc.edu](http://www.templejc.edu) – Application for Endowed Scholarships will be available on January 1<sup>st</sup>. It is suggested that you complete your FAFSA as soon as possible.

**Tyler Junior College:** [www.tjc.edu](http://www.tjc.edu) – Scholarship application is online, but not yet available for 2017-18. It will be due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Lamar University:** [www.lamar.edu](http://www.lamar.edu) – The scholarship application can be found on the website and has a priority deadline of February 1<sup>st</sup>. You must attach a copy of your most recent transcript.

**University of Houston:** [www.uh.edu](http://www.uh.edu) – For most UH-funded scholarships, your application for admission serves as your scholarship application as well. You may be required to submit the FAFSA and provide additional documentation. Check the Scholarships Page online to get more information.

**Hardin-Simmons University:** [www.hsutx.edu](http://www.hsutx.edu) – Unless noted on the website, scholarship evaluation is based on the admission and financial aid applications. Must first apply for admission and pay application fee. Submit official high school transcripts/college transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, and 3 letters of recommendation. Check with department head in your related major for endowed or restricted scholarships.

**University of Mary-Hardin Baylor:** [www.umhb.edu](http://www.umhb.edu) – The FAFSA is used to determine the need for most financial aid. Valedictorian and Salutatorian scholarships of \$60,000 with a minimum ACT composite of 24 or old SAT score of 1090 (rdg/math) or new SAT score of 1160.

**Tarleton State University:** [www.tarleton.edu](http://www.tarleton.edu) – A date may be determined in the future for incoming freshmen to submit all documentation for admission. Please check website to see when/if this date is set. There is a general scholarship application that is completed on the website. Once applied, you will receive login information for the Tarleton website and be able to complete. February 15<sup>th</sup> is the priority deadline for the scholarship application.

**Arkansas State University:** [www.astate.edu](http://www.astate.edu) – Application for privately funded scholarships will be made available in December 2016, and likely due around February 1, 2017.

**Oklahoma State University:** [www.okstate.edu](http://www.okstate.edu) – All incoming freshman who are admitted are automatically considered for scholarships. Selection will be based on academic performance, standardized test scores, class rank, and a student essay in the application for admission. Apply for admission by February 1<sup>st</sup> to receive maximum scholarship consideration. No guarantee for students applying after this date.

**Tulsa Welding School:** [www.weldingschool.com](http://www.weldingschool.com) – Make application to TWS and complete your FAFSA. There are scholarships available, but each has its own requirements/deadlines. Please see Mrs. Ratcliff if you would like help applying for them.



Additional Scholarships:

**2016 GE – Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program** – Applicants must demonstrate leadership, drive, integrity and citizenship at school/work/community, as well as strong academic performance (min. GPA of 3.0). Must be a US citizen, a high school senior, and plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study toward bachelor’s degree. More info can be found at

<https://www.reaganfoundation.org/education/scholarship-programs/ge-reagan-foundation-scholarship-program/> Deadline is January 5, 2017.

**SAE Engineering/Foundation Scholarships** – Various scholarships available. Review the criteria for each scholarship, and if eligible, start the application process online. Must be typed. Requires completed application, high school transcript, copy of ACT/SAT scores, and additional documentation required for each scholarship. Deadline for all freshmen scholarships is January 15, 2017.

**Texas State Air Force Association Earle North Parker Essay Contest** – Entry form and essay must be postmarked by January 20, 2017 and received by January 30, 2017. A copy of this application can be found on the Martinsville ISD webpage on the School Counselor’s Scholarship page.

**Daughters of the Republic of Texas** – This is a \$1,000 scholarship given to a Nacogdoches County student who can prove his/her Texas lineage (3 generations: student, parent, and grandparent all born in Texas). A copy of the application can be found on the Martinsville ISD webpage on the School Counselor’s Scholarship page. Application is due to Mrs. Ratcliff by February 15, 2017.

**Nacogdoches County Republican Women Scholarship** – Essay Topic: List and discuss five threats to American National Security. Must be at least 300 words and not over two pages typed or printed. More information can be found on the Martinsville ISD webpage on the School Counselor’s Scholarship page.

Most local scholarships will be applied for in the spring semester. Make sure to have your letters of recommendation ready for scholarships as they come due.

Check out these websites:

<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

<http://www.etcf.org/scholarships.htm>

<http://www.scholarships.com/>

<http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Hazlewood-Act.aspx>

There are a lot of scams out there...DO NOT PAY for scholarship searches. Check out this website to know how to stay safe: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/scholarship/>

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## Senior Athletes

Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse website at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) if you would like to play college sports. You must send ACT/SAT scores directly to NCAA when you register for these tests.

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### Resources Available in the Counselor's Office

ACT Practice Book

SAT Practice Book

Book of Majors

College Handbook

Getting Financial Aid

How to Write a Winning College Application Essay

Texas H.O.T. Jobs (Health Opportunities in Texas)

Path to Scholarships

Scholarship Handbook

Fire Academy Directory

A Cool Guide to Health Careers

Occupational Outlook Handbook

Compendium of Texas Colleges

College Bound Hispanic Students Guide