

News from the Big Lake High School Counseling Office...



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SEPTEMBER, 2020

Welcome Back! We hope you have had a relaxing summer break. This is a year like no other and we will do our best to keep you informed. We will be starting the school year in a hybrid format, which will divide our high school students into two groups. “A” group will be in person on Mon-Tues and distance learning Wed-Fri. “B” group will be in person on Thurs-Fri and distance learning Mon-Wed. Please note the high school start time is now 7:15 am.

IMPORTANT DATES

PICTURE DAY A group is September 22 and make-up date is October 20.
B group is September 11 and make-up date is October 8.
BL Online will be by appointment. A sign up will be emailed.
Full time PSEO students will be by appointment. A sign up will be emailed.

TIDBITS

SCHEDULES

Students can view their schedules through their Infinite Campus portal. Students should print a copy at home if needed. If a student needs to request a schedule change, they **MUST** submit the request using the online Schedule Change Form. The link to this Google form was emailed to your BL student email account on Sept 2. Look for an email with the subject line: Schedules now live. You must access the link from your student email in order for the form to work. Please note, due to the complexity of scheduling this year, schedule changes will be **VERY LIMITED!**

PSEO STUDENTS

If you have not done so already, be sure to email your counselor your fall class schedule! Please continue checking your BL student email account as well to ensure you do not miss important information. We must be able to reach you!

COLLEGE INFO

The MN National College Fair

As a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, NACAC has made the decision to cancel all Fall 2020 in-person fairs and pivot to a virtual platform. Find out details about all 2020 Fall Virtual College Fairs and how to attend online at: www.nacacfairs.org/virtual

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

At this time, college reps will not be visiting high schools. However, many schools are offering virtual appointments with college reps, and many are also offering scheduled college tours! Just go to any college website of your choice and check out their Admissions section for more information.

TESTING

BLHS ASSESSMENT DAY

We had originally scheduled an Assessment Day on March 24th, 2020, when we planned to offer the ACT, Accuplacer, and ASVAB exams to our juniors. Due to COVID-19, and distance learning, the testing dates were delayed. After looking at the options given to schools by ACT, we have decided to move our Assessment Day to **October 6th**. We will plan to offer the ACT, Accuplacer, and ASVAB all on that day. For current seniors who signed up last spring for one of these tests, there is nothing more you need to do!

ACT - The Oct 6 date is for ONLY current seniors who were signed up to take it last March 24. No additional students can be added at this point. Our current juniors will be offered an ACT day in March 2021.

ACCUPLACER - If you were signed up to take the Accuplacer last March 24 you are automatically signed up to take it on Oct 6. Current 11th and 12th graders are also welcome to still sign up. You must sign up in the Counseling office ASAP if you are interested.

ASVAB – If you were signed up to take the ASVAB last March 24 you are automatically signed up to take it on Oct 6. Current 10th, 11th, and 12th graders are also welcome to still sign up. You must sign up in the counseling office ASAP if you are interested.

ACT/SAT PREPARATION

The best preparation is a solid high school curriculum. ACT includes four curriculum-based tests - English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. Become familiar with the test content and format by picking up a practice test in the counseling office. Learn appropriate test-taking strategies. See your counselor or media specialist for test preparation materials. Take free practice tests!

Go to www.ACT.org for ACT information and to register!

Big Lake is not one of these testing locations.

ACT:

Test Date	Registration Deadline
September 12	August 14
October 24	September 18
December 12	November 6
February 6	January 8
April 17	March 12
June 12	May 7
July 17	June 18

Go to www.collegeboard.com for SAT information.

SAT:

Test Dates	Registration Deadline
October 3	September 4
November 7	October 7
December 5	November 5
March 13	February 12
May 8	April 8
June 5	May 6

***A.S.V.A.B.**

The Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery will be given only to those Juniors who wish to take it. This test is typically given in December. Keep an eye on future newsletters for a specific date and more information. Students will need to sign-up in the counseling office 2 weeks prior to the test.

***P.S.A.T.**

The P.S.A.T. will be administered to interested Juniors in October. Specific date and details will be available soon. Juniors must sign-up in the Counseling Office if they are interested in taking the PSAT. There is a small fee (usually around \$20) to take the exam. The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test) is a practice test for the SAT. The PSAT contains verbal, reading, mathematical, and writing skills sections. Bring a calculator and pencil. Please see your counselor for more information.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

The Government Internet Service to register with the Selective Service System: <http://www.sss.gov>. Men 18 years+ may register online or at the Post Office.

CLASS OF 2021

CLASS OF 2021 INFORMATION REMINDERS:

Please bring in a graduation picture for our hallway bulletin board. GIVE PICTURES TO MS. FOLKENS in the counseling office. (The photos need to be hard copy, not digital, wallet size.) PLEASE put your name on the back of the picture.

FRESHMEN COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Most colleges accept applications online. Many also have downloadable versions for you to fill out and mail in. Be sure you let the guidance office know when you have sent your application so a transcript can be sent to the appropriate campus. The sooner you send the application in, the better your chances are for admission. The counselors are happy to help you with your application process.

9 STEPS TO GUIDE AND ADVISE YOUR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENT

1. Continue to monitor academic progress.
2. Continue to encourage your son or daughter to be involved in a wide variety of activities and to develop leadership skills.
3. Talk about college options.
4. Have your son/daughter register for the ACT (American College Test) and/or the SAT I (Scholastic Assessment Test) early in the spring.
5. Make college visits - Many campuses have special tour days for high school students. Find them online.
6. Carefully select courses for the senior year.
7. Start investigating scholarships.

8. Keep track of activities and awards your child has received for future scholarship applications.
9. Help your son or daughter choose meaningful activities for the summer months.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

You may need a letter of recommendation for certain college applications and scholarships. There is a form in the counseling office you can fill out which will highlight your specific accomplishments. When you need a recommendation from a staff person, you can give them a copy. The form gives the writers more information about you so that they can better personalize the letter. When asking for a recommendation, please be considerate and give the writer plenty of time to work it. Do not ask them the day before you need it.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Local Scholarship packets are not available until the end of January/beginning of February.

All colleges have scholarships for students who have done well in high school. These are generally called President's Scholarship, Dean's Scholarship, or something similar. Contact the specific school or see Ms. Fingarson as soon as possible if you rank in the upper ten percent of your class. See Ms. Fingarson if you have any questions regarding scholarships or financial aid.

Student of Integrity Scholarship - Better Business Bureau is once again, offering Student of Integrity Scholarships for **Minnesota and North Dakota high school students beginning their senior year**. These scholarships are designed to recognize and promote ethics and integrity among young people, and will be awarded to students who demonstrate high character in their personal choices and actions. Scholarships range from \$1,000 - \$2,500. Students are asked to **write an essay** that gives a personal example of how they were challenged or struggled through a difficult situation and how they overcame the situation by the application of integrity and personal ethics. This must be accompanied by the scholarship entry form, one letter of recommendation, a copy of their high school transcript, a list of extracurricular activities and any post-secondary education plans. **All entries must be received by January 1, 2021 by 10:59 pm CST.** The entry packet and further details are available at <https://www.bbb.org/minnesota/torch-awards-for-ethics/student-of-integrity-scholarship/>

Horatio Alger Scholarship Programs- specifically assist high school students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. While many programs are directed primarily to recognizing academic achievement or leadership potential, the Horatio Alger Association seeks students who have exhibited determination, integrity, and perseverance in overcoming adversity, as well as have critical financial need. Students must be a U.S. Citizen and have a GPA or 2.0 or higher. For more information go to: <https://scholars.horatioalger.org/scholarships/>

AES Engineers – is offering a scholarship of \$500. The information and essay question is available online at <http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm>. Application deadline is October 5, 2020.

COCA-COLA SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP - is an achievement-based scholarship awarded to graduating high school seniors each year. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, and their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities. Application deadline is October 31, 2020 by 5:00 pm EST. Application is available online at <http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/applicants/>.

ROTC Scholarships – Information can be found online. NAVY applications due Dec 31, 2020, visit www.public.navy.mil. ARMY applications due Feb 4, 2021, visit www.goarmy.com. AIR FORCE applications due Jan 14, 2021, visit www.AFROTC.com.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States - is offering scholarships to students in grades 9-12. Students can enter by submitting the required entry form, along with their essay and recording to a local VFW Post. Information is available online at <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarship>. Entry deadline is October 31, 2020.

SAE Engineering – is offering several scholarships to students who are enrolling in an engineering program. Applications are available online at www.sae.org. Application deadline is March 15, 2021.

Washington Crossing Foundation – is offering scholarships of \$500 to \$5,000 for students planning careers in government service, for study at the college of the recipient's choice. Competition open to all high school seniors who are U. S. citizens and are planning careers of service to the United States in local, state, or federal government. All awards are for one year. Application is available online at www.gwcf.org. Application deadline is January 15, 2021.

Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund – offers scholarships to seniors whose parents are disabled vets, were killed in action, or were classified at POW/MIA. Application information is available online at <https://www.fascholarship.com/apply/>.

Schoolhouse Connection Youth Scholarship Program- provides scholarships to youth who have experienced homelessness to ensure their completion of a post-secondary education program. \$2000 scholarship award – a minimum of 10 scholarships are awarded. Applicants must have been born on or after Oct 1, 2000, and entering college for the first time during the 2021-22 school year. Applicants who have experienced homelessness within the last six years are eligible to apply. Deadline is Oct 1, 2020, before 11:59 pm PST. Apply at <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org>.

Young American Creative Patriot Art Contest- The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$31,000. Any student in grades 9-12 who is enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States. Maximum student age of 18 at time of local entry. Student must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. Applicant does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate, but the student must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary. Deadline is March 31, 2021. For more information visit: www.vfwauxillary.com

SFM Foundation Scholarship- SFM Foundation is a non-profit organization created to administer a scholarship program to benefit children of workers injured or killed in workrelated accidents. SFM Foundation is an affiliate of SFM Companies, a regional workers' compensation insurance group with headquarters in Bloomington, Minnesota, and is also an affiliate of Kids' Chance of America in Iowa and Minnesota. More information about the SFM Foundation scholarship program is available at www.sfmfoundation.com, application deadline is March 31, 2021.

Minnesota School Counselors Association Scholarships - Minnesota School Counselors Association (MSCA) is a division of the American School Counseling Association. Its purpose is to serve its members and the public through programs that advance guidance and counseling in all school and work settings: elementary, middle/junior high, secondary, and post-secondary. Ten \$500 scholarships (one finalist per each of the ten MSCA divisions) will be awarded to individuals pursuing post-secondary education at an institution of their choice.

ELIGIBILITY: * Applicants must be a Minnesota public or private high school senior * Applicants must be able to articulate how a licensed school counselor impacted their life * The licensed school counselor written about MUST be a member of MSCA * **Applications must be submitted on the awards portal by FEBRUARY 14th**. For more information about MSCA visit: www.mnschoolcounselors.org.

Minnesota Athletes in Sports Medicine Scholarships - Sports and Orthopaedic Specialists, part of Allina Health is proud to continue its effort to advance sports medicine and orthopaedic care throughout Minnesota with the 13th Annual Minnesota Athletes in Sports Medicine scholarship for student athletes. Sports & Orthopaedic Specialists and in partnership with Allina Health, will be offering two \$2,500 scholarships, which will be awarded annually to one female and one male student athlete who intends to attend college to pursue a career in sports medicine. For more information go to: www.sportsandortho.com.

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation- provides scholarships to the children of Marines and Navy Corpsmen attending post-high school, undergraduate, and career technical education programs. Their scholarships are for students currently pursuing, or planning to pursue, an undergraduate degree or career-focused program. Scholarship awards are

need-based, and every eligible applicant receives a scholarship. The scholarship application for the 2021-22 academic year will open on January 1, 2021, and will close on **March 3, 2021**. For more information visit: www.mcsf.org.

Other Native American/Minority Scholarship Opportunities:

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Office of Indian Education - administers the Ethel Curry American Indian Leadership Scholarship (ECS), an annual award program that aids American Indian students in their pursuit of higher education opportunities. Awards generally range from \$1,000-\$4,000 per academic year, but may vary. Applications will be open March 1 – May 31, 2021. For more information visit: www.education.mn.gov

The Association of American Indian Affairs - The Association on American Indian Affairs has been providing Native American student scholarships since 1947 and provides scholarships to undergraduate and graduate Native American students who are citizens/ members of their Tribal Nation – whether or not their Nation is recognized by the federal government. For more information visit: www.indian-affairs.org.

American Indian Nurse Scholarship Awards- The American Indian Nurse Scholarship Award Program (AINS) was started by the NSCDA in 1928 to give students of American Indian descent the opportunity to pursue careers in nursing. The students are expected to return to work among their people to help improve health care. Some students work on reservations, and others find employment in hospitals in areas largely populated by American Indians. Intended originally to benefit females only, the program has expanded to include males and the career goals now include not only nursing careers, but jobs in health care and health education, as well. The current goal is to grant a \$1,500 scholarship each semester, as long as the student remains in academic good standing. For more information visit: www.nscda.org/student-resources/scholarship-opportunities/.

Actuarial Diversity Scholarship- The Actuarial Diversity Scholarship promotes diversity within the profession through an annual scholarship program for Black/African American, Hispanic, Native North American and Pacific Islander students. The scholarship award recognizes and encourages the academic achievements of full-time undergraduate students pursuing a degree that may lead to a career in the actuarial profession. Scholarships range from \$1,000-\$4,000. For more information visit: www.actuarialfoundation.org.

AMS Minority Scholarships - The AMS Minority Scholarships will award funding to minority students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the sciences, especially Hispanic, Native American, and Black/African American students. Funding for the scholarships is provided by industry and through donations made by members to the AMS 100th Anniversary Program. The American Meteorological Society (AMS) is committed to, and benefits from the full and equitable participation of a diverse community. AMS is committed to advancing core values of diversity, inclusion, and equity across all aspects of the atmospheric, oceanic, and hydrologic sciences. For more information visit: www.ametsoc.org.

American Indian College Fund - Eligibility for these scholarships includes being an enrolled tribal member or descendant (at least one grandparent tribally enrolled), enrolling full-time in a public or non-profit college/university, and a minimum 2.0 GPA. For more information visit: www.collegefund.org.

Be sure to check out the websites for additional scholarship information. There are scholarships from many different organizations and companies available to apply for. We will add more information about scholarships as they arrive .

College Transcript Request: Let Ms. Folkens in the Counseling Office know where to send your transcript.

WEB SITES TO RESEARCH:

Selective Service

www.sss.gov

NCAA Online - athletes

www.ncaa.org

MN Careers

www.mn.gov.deed

www.mncis.intocareers.org

www.studentaid.ed.gov/collprep

College Essay

www.myessay.com

Technical Careers

www.acteonline.org

www.t-ten.com

www.mncis.intocareers.org

General Career Information

www.mncis.intocareers.org

www.monster.com

www.careerbuilder.com

www.bestjobsusa.com

www.iseek.org

www.ziprecruiter.com/high-school-jobs

www.todaysmilitary.com

ACT/SAT Online

www.act.org

www.collegeboard.com

General College Information

www.mnprivatecolleges.com

www.collegenet.com

www.campustours.com

www.allaboutcollege.com

www.princetonreview.com

www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu

www.petersons.com

www.gocollege.com

www.collegeview.com

www.embarq.com

www.ohe.state.mn.us

Financial Aid

www.finaid.org

www.fastweb.com

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.finaidfacts.org

www.scholarships.com

www.careersandcolleges.com

www.studentscholarships.org

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



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Parents and students of the Class of 2021:

As this school year kicks off we all are extremely busy and the yearbook staff is already making plans for the best book for your senior year. The following information regarding submission of senior portraits is very important, so please read it carefully! **Photographs that do not meet yearbook specifications will not be published.**

The deadline for submitting senior pictures is **Monday, November 2nd, 2020**. Portraits received after this date may not be published in the yearbook. **Photos are required to be uploaded to images.jostens.com** (USER ID number is 415463776).

Plan ahead! Pictures should be taken by mid-September to give your photographer time to prepare your photo for the yearbook. Students may choose their own photographer to take their senior portrait for the yearbook. **A simple head and shoulders shot is required (see example). NO other images will be accepted.**



Please inform your photographer of the following criteria:

*Upload **ONE digital photo**. Full color image preferred.

Photo quality needs to be **300 DPI** or higher for wallet size photo. (Basically, a high-resolution image is needed for printing purposes)

Do **NOT** upload PNG or TIFF files. Very important - **JPEG file only!**

*Portraits should be **vertical**; we will NOT accept horizontal images.

*Simple, neutral backgrounds look best in the yearbook.

*No props are allowed! Examples include: no sports equipment, no animals, no cars, no weapons, no vehicles, etc. Very important!

Process for uploading senior photo:

1. Go to the **website images.jostens.com** OR go to the "Senior Portrait link" on the school's website
 - a. Enter the User ID: **415463776**
 - b. Or **click this direct link: <https://images.jostens.com/415463776>**
2. Choose the photo to be uploaded. REMEMBER, each student may only submit **ONE** photo!
3. Provide parent or photographer contact information.
 - a. (Person uploading the photo should enter his/her information.)
4. Provide **IMAGE** information.
 - a. **Type the student's first and last name as you would like it to appear in the yearbook.**
 - b. It is extremely important to spell the student's name correctly.
5. Select grade 12 from the dropdown menu.
6. In the description field, type **Senior Portrait**.
7. Click the box to agree to the terms and conditions.
8. Click on "upload chosen images" in the blue box to complete the process.
9. You will see a confirmation page and should receive a confirmation email shortly after your submission. NOTE: Photographers uploading their clients' photos may upload more than one student's photo at a time.

This year, Big Lake Schools has switched picture day photo companies. **Please make sure to get your picture taken on the designated picture day with JostensPix.** This ensures that you will have a current photo for your student ID and will allow Yearbook Staff to use the "school" picture as a "backup," should you not submit a custom option (described in this letter). If you choose to have JostensPix take your senior photo, you will NOT need to upload a photo to the site.

Questions or concerns can be directly sent to me via email! Congratulations on reaching your senior year!

Sincerely,
Kiana Pierson
Yearbook Adviser
k.pierson@biglakeschools.org