

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



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MARCH 2021

Hello March! We will begin the 3rd trimester on Thursday, March 18 and we will also return to full in person learning! We have been on quite a journey this past year, and we look forward to finishing the school year back together! Be sure to reach out to your counselor with any issues or concerns you may have. The district website is a great source of information and contains many helpful links. Check out: www.biglakeschools.org. There is a lot going on this month so be sure to take a look through this newsletter!

IMPORTANT DATES

There is NO SCHOOL on March 1
There is NO SCHOOL on March 15, 16, 17

Thursday, March 18 - The first day of the 3rd trimester and we are back to full in person learning!

Thursday, March 18 – Local scholarship applications for the Class of 2021 are due!

Tuesday, March 30 – BLHS Assessment day, the ACT and ASVAB will be offered.

Registration - the registration window for next school year will be open March 5 through March 17.
Be on the lookout for more information coming very soon!

TIDBITS

PSEO STUDENTS

Please continue checking your BL student email account to ensure you do not miss important information. We must be able to reach you!

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

Are you having problems with your Chromebook or experiencing other technical issues? Email our tech department for help. Email: Takeout@biglakeschools.org

COLLEGE INFO

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

At this time, college representatives will not be visiting high schools in person. However, many schools are offering virtual appointments, 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.

College Life in the Twin Ports and Northland Virtual Presentation

Admissions representatives from *The College of Saint Scholastica, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, Lake Superior College, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Northland College, University of Minnesota-Duluth, and University of Wisconsin-Superior* will be hosting a collaborative Zoom event for high school students to learn more about the Twin Ports and northland area colleges. **This event will be held on Tuesday, March 2 at 6 PM.** Register for the event using this link: <https://z.umn.edu/CollegeInTheNorthland>

A Virtual Visit with St. Cloud State University

Associate Director of Admissions, John E. Brown, will be hosting a zoom visit for BLHS students on **Thursday, April 15 at 10:00 AM**. All students are welcome to attend via zoom to answer any questions they might have about SCSU. In person students can come to the counseling office with their Chromebook and join in on the session! Just stop by the counseling office for a pass that morning. Here is the link to join the virtual visit: <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/96490685601>

TESTING

BLHS ASSESSMENT DAY is March 30, 2021

Juniors and Seniors who signed up by the Feb 5 deadline, will be taking the ACT during the school day on Tuesday, March 30th. The ACT exam will include the writing component, and generally takes about 4.5 hours to complete. Students who signed up to take the ACT will be excused from school that day. As the exam date gets closer, a list will be posted outside of the counseling office with your room assignment for testing day.

Practice Exam: We have practice booklets in the Counseling Office! We highly recommend preparing for the ACT by using the practice booklet to become familiar with the test. Especially since the exam will be a paper/pencil test rather than online. Remember to time yourself as you complete each section! Students can drop by the Counseling Office to pick up a booklet.

Online Test Prep – Online practice ACT questions are available in your Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS) account. To log into your MCIS account, go to the [MCIS website](#) and your username is *first.last21* and your password is *Blake00000#* (your student ID # - may need to use 0 before your ID number to make five digits). Once logged in, you can find the ACT prep under the “My Portfolio” tab and then select “Test Prep”.

THE ASVAB WILL ALSO BE OFFERED ON MARCH 30!

The Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) will also be offered on March 30 at Big Lake High School. This exam is typically given to juniors who wish to take it, but it is also open to sophomores and seniors. There is no cost to take this exam. Sign up in the counseling office if you are interested! Deadline to sign up is March 22.

Please do not hesitate to email Ms. Folch if you have any questions.

Email: a.folch@biglakeschools.org

National ACT/SAT Exams

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 for information, test dates, registration deadlines, and to register!

Go to www.collegeboard.com for SAT information, test dates, registration deadlines, and to register!

HOW DO I ACCESS MY ACT SCORE?

ACT recently launched a new online platform called MyACT that allows students to access their scores, register for future tests, and more. MyACT.org is a tool that allows students to register, schedule, and pay for future ACT tests, explore ACT test prep products, and access and send their scores to colleges and institutions of their choice. MyACT.org also contains free college and career planning tools to help students navigate their next steps and provides insight to their interests and how they align to their future goals. Once the scoring process is completed, students will receive their scores in the mail, if they provided their correct mailing address during testing. Their scores will also be available in MyACT. Their mailed score report will contain a supplement providing them with information on how to create a MyACT account that will successfully link to their state testing scores, using their uniquely assigned ACT ID number included on their mailed report.

ASVAB

The Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery is typically given to juniors who wish to take it, but is also open to sophomores and seniors.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

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

CLASS OF 2021

CLASS OF 2021 INFORMATION REMINDERS:

Seniors - 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

The Local Scholarship Packets for the Class of 2021 are now available!

Applications are due in the counseling office by 2:30 on Thursday, March 18!

The scholarship presentation was sent out via email to senior students and parents. A link to the scholarship presentation can also be found on the district website on the High School page – click on “Local Scholarship Form” We also have printed copies of the packets in the counseling office if you still need one! Stop by and grab one today!

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.

St. Cloud Rox Project S.A.V.E. Foundation – will be providing five individual scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,000. The Project S.A.V.E. scholarships are exclusive to senior students attending a Central Minnesota High School. **The deadline to apply is April 30, 2021.** Visit the scholarship page for more information!

<https://www.roxprojectsavefoundation.org/2021-program-1>

Art Engelbrecht Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Scholarship – a scholarship of approximately \$1,000 is awarded yearly to a Minnesota resident based on achievement, extracurricular activities, community involvement, leadership, service, and legacy. The scholarship is awarded to a student majoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Natural Resources shall include, but not limited to, course studies in natural resources management, natural resources law enforcement, and natural resources aviation. Applicants are screened by committee. Applicants must be high school graduates, scheduled to graduate, or enrolled full time in an accredited College/University. **Submitted applications must be received by March 19, 2021.** Please mail to Viking Sportsmen, Inc. PO Box 301 Alexandria, MN 56308. Recipients are announced at our annual banquet. For the application and more information visit: www.vikingsportsmen.org

Catch A Break Scholarship Program - The Catch a Break!® Scholarship Program was established to assist highly motivated Minnesota residents who have faced challenges in life and learned from them, and are now enrolling for the first time in post-secondary education. Renewable Scholarships are offered for full-time study at an accredited public four-year college or university in Minnesota for the entire academic year. **Applications are due on March 31, 2021.** For more information, eligibility requirements, and to apply please visit: <https://app.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarship/catchabreak>

Horatio Alger Scholarship Programs- specifically assists 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/>

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.**

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/>.

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.**

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.

Minnesota Association of Townships Scholarship Program- The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is proud to announce its 2021 Scholarship Program, which awards up to five \$2,000 scholarships to high school juniors. All students currently enrolled in the 11th grade and attending a Minnesota public, private, parochial high school, or a home-study program, are eligible for this program. Participants will submit a written essay on the topic of Land Use. **Applications for the scholarship must be submitted by May 1, 2021.** Winners will be chosen and notified by September 1 and invited to attend the Awards section of our Annual Conference in St. Cloud, Minnesota early September 2021. For more information, or to print off an application visit: www.mntownships.org and follow the MAT Scholarship link.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Central MN Chapter 290 Scholarship Program – This scholarship program will award two scholarships in the amount of \$750 each. It is intended for high school seniors who are descendants and/or relatives of veterans of the Vietnam War. The applicant or the veteran must be a permanent resident of the Central Minnesota geographic area. This is a paper scholarship and we have copies in the counseling office. Stop by and pick one up if interested! Or visit the website for more information: www.vvchapter290.org **Application deadline is April 15, 2021.**

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.

Even more Native American scholarship opportunities are available in the counseling office, stop by and inquire if interested!

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.

TRANSCRIPTS

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

Email: j.folkens@biglakeschools.org

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.embark.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>