

Illini West High School

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Scott Schneider, Principal

September 12, 2016

Dear Junior/Senior Parent(s):

I would like to update parents on some of our college application goals for seniors. Many of our seniors are working on our first semester goal of being accepted at the school(s) of their choice, some choosing to go into the military and some planning on going directly to the work force. The next step after applying is financial aid and that leads to the purpose of this letter.

In the past during second semester, college-bound students needed to work on financial assistance, scholarships and housing arrangements. Those things all remain unchanged, however, the timeline for filling out an application for federal student aid (FAFSA) has been accelerated and steps need to be taken in the fall. **On Wednesday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium**, Ellen Henderson-Gasser of Carl Sandburg College and an ISAC Corps team member will outline and explain the financial aid process, and discuss procedures to follow. We have done this in the past, and it has been very much appreciated by parents and students. In addition, seniors will receive a list of local scholarships and due dates for the scholarships. Scholarship applications will be made available in mid-January. Some will be or already have been posted on the IW website.

We will also be hosting a **Fill out the FAFSA** session on October 19 from 6:00-8:00pm. If you would like assistance in completing your son/daughter's FAFSA, representatives will be on hand to help you out. You will need to bring the following items: Student and parent social security numbers, 2015 W2 forms and tax returns, information about assets, driver's license number, dates of birth, and alien registration number (if applicable).

This is an informational meeting intended for both parents and students, and I hope you can make it on Wednesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the IW gymnasium. Juniors and their parents are welcome to attend as well. If you have any questions, please call me at 217-357-2136.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bliss
Counselor