**2020-2021The MASTERS Program**

**Senior Newsletter Class of 2021**

**Please read it carefully and meet with your counselor to address any additional questions.**

**KEEP THIS NEWSLETTER TO REFER TO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**Know Who To Contact**

Mr. Reid Wessels, Head of School 428-7320

Dr. Lori Miller, Director of Guidance 428-7320

Ms. Monica McSpadden, Office Manager 428-7320

**Grade Point Average and Class Rank**

Senior grade point average is first computed on seven semesters (9th, 10th, 11th, and Semester 1 of 12th) and will be available in mid-February from the Director of Guidance. Six semester GPAs will be available in September.

**Transcripts**

Most colleges and a few employers require a transcript with on application and a final transcript after graduation. Transcripts are not sent automatically. Students MUST request each transcript from the Director of Guidance by signing on the Transcript Request Log**(Print Legibly)**, located in the TMP office. Give the Director of Guidance ample time to process your request before the application deadline (typically 72 hours). TMP sends out Official High School Transcripts; however, you may request unofficial transcripts for your own information. Dual/Concurrent Enrollment transcripts must be requested by the student from the college, where you earned the credit.

**December Graduates**

Semester graduates must check with The Director of Guidance IMMEDIATELY. If this is your intentand you want to attend college 2nd semester, you must apply for financial aid and colleges NOW.

**Applying for Admission to College**

Seniors applying for admission to out-of-state colleges must request applications directly from the colleges, via the mail or online. Some out of state colleges have early deadlines. It is recommended that you look up your college of choice on the internet to acquire deadlines, addresses and other important information. Contact all prospective colleges early in the year. Many colleges require recommendation letters from your teachers and /or counselors – give at least two-week notice for letters of recommendation, and give the person recommending you a stamped, addressed envelope.

**Financial Aid**

Money to assist paying for college comes in many forms. Almost everyone can find funding these days. Never base your entire decision to attend college on personal/ family finances.

There are scholarships, federal grants, federal loans, state loans, co-op programs, and college work-study. Most financial aid forms are available from colleges around

December. Federal forms, specifically the FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid), are available in the

TMP Office in late November or online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If applying on line, you will and your parent will need to apply for a PIN number before filling out the application. The deadline for application is March 1st for most schools, in order to get funds in time for August.

Completing financial aid forms can be complicated as regulations and formulas change every year. For assistance, call or visit the college of your choice or the following:

NM Education Assistance Foundation . . 1-800-433-3243

UNM Financial Aid . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .1-505-277-2041

NM Student Loans . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .1-505-761-2074

All students are strongly encouraged to complete the FAFSA as some scholarships require this application process be completed. A workshop is offered in late January or early February, and TMP will be offering a workshop as well for hands on help with the FAFSA. Listen to the announcements for more details. In addition, parents can log on to [www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com) to estimate expected family contribution and other financial aid options. FAFSA help is online at [www.ed.gov/prog-info/sfa.fafsa](http://www.ed.gov/prog-info/sfa.fafsa). Please be cautious of financial aid scams requiring money upfront and Google the company or organization before investing your money.

**Scholarships**

Cash awards are given to students who illustrate excellence in specific fields or based on financial need. To be eligible for an academic scholarship, students should have a high GPA with college prep courses, outstanding scores on the PSAT, ACT, or SAT, and have participated in school and community activities. Colleges and universities award the majority of scholarships. Many scholarships are offered only to students going immediately to college, which is incentive to not “take a break.” Keep in mind, there are many scholarships that are not academic based. Zimmerman Library at UNM has over 100 books dedicated to grants, scholarships and other forms of financial aid. Just ask the Zimmerman Librarian for assistance. Students may find scholarship information online at numerous websites including: [www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), and many others.

The most reliable source to find scholarships is the college where the student applies. The Director of Guidance also receives and posts scholarship abstracts. There is a scholarship tab under the TMP Guidance Department.

Parents should also explore scholarship possibilities from their places of employment, church, and membership organizations. Many organizations post notices in the Santa Fe New Mexican.

Scholarships received by seniors will be announced at the awards assembly ONLY if students, themselves, notify The Director of Guidance that they have received such awards.

**Lottery Success Scholarships**

The Lottery Success Scholarship provides graduating high school seniors a scholarship sometimes equal to 100% of tuition at all New Mexico Public and State colleges and universities. The scholarship becomes available the second semester of college. To receive the scholarship students must be enrolled full-time, earn 12 credit and maintain a 2.5 GPA. The Bridge and Opportunity Scholarships are offered through state colleges and bridge the “gap” between the 1st semester and the 2nd semester until the Lottery Success Scholarship “kicks in” during the 2nd semester of the freshman year of college. State colleges typically require completing a FAFSA application to acquire the lottery scholarship.**Remember, if you lose the lottery scholarship, it is gone forever, and you cannot earn it back.**

**ASVAB**

The armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery is administered by recruiters. Sign up with the Directorof Guidance who will arrange the test with recruiters. The test is free and a useful tool in making career choices with no obligation to make a commitment to the military.

**Register for Selected Services**

If you are a male, you must register for Selected Services on your 18th birthday to be eligible for federal and stateFinancial aid. [**www.sss.gov/FSregist.htm**](http://www.sss.gov/FSregist.htm)

**Athletes**

If you intend to play college sports, you will need to register with the **National Collegiate Athletic Association** at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/NCAA/common/index.html](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/NCAA/common/index.html). It is an application process with regulations and costs $50.00.

**College Entrance Tests**

Most colleges/University (including UNM) generally require entering freshmen to take the ACT or SAT. Those that require the SAT may also require SAT II Subject Test. If you plan to go to college, you should schedule your test date as early as June of your Junior year. Registration packets for the ACT are available in the CareerCenter. Students are encouraged to register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for ACT and [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for SAT.

Sample questions are available at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) and [www.testpreview.com](http://www.testpreview.com). When registering for these tests you will use **320-622** as your high school code. Tests may be taken more than once to improve scores.

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| **ACT**  **Test Dates** | **Registration Deadlines**  **Regular Late** | |
| July 18, 2020 | June 19, 2020 |  |
| September 12, 2020 | August 14, 2020 | August 15-28, 2020 |
| October 24, 2020 | September 18, 2020 | Sept 19-October 2, 2020 |
| December 12, 2020 | November 6, 2020 | November 7-20, 2020 |
| February 6, 2021 | January 8, 2021 | January 9-15, 2021 |
| April 17, 2021 | March 12, 2021 | March 13-26, 2021 |
| June 12, 2021 | May 7, 2021 | May 8-21, 2021 |

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| **SAT**  **Test Dates** | **Registration Deadlines**  **Regular Late** | |
| August 29, 2020 | July 31, 2020 | August 14, 2020 |
| October 3, 2020 | September 4, 2020 | September 18, 2020 |
| November 7, 2020 | October 9, 2020 | October 23, 2020 |
| December 5, 2020 | November 6, 2020 | November 20, 2020 |
| March 13, 2021 | February 12, 2021 | February 26, 2021 |
| May 8, 2021 | April 9, 2021 | April 23, 2021 |
| June 5, 2021 | May 7, 2021 | May 21, 2021 |

**Senior Rings**

Senior memorabilia can be an important part of your senior year. If you intend to get a senior ring, please shop around and be careful of scams. TMP does not arrange senior rings for senior rings.