

ORANGE GROVE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 27, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Please find enclosed this scholarship newsletter that has been issued to all seniors this school year. I wanted to mail this to inform parents of the kinds of scholarships being made available to our seniors. This newsletter has been distributed to seniors in their government/economics classes. One of the most effective ways to research scholarships is on-line. Please call me at 361-384-2330 ext. 503 if you have any questions.

College bound seniors should have already tested on an ACT or SAT. If not, they need registration materials from the guidance office immediately to test. Please remember to include our school code #445265 when signing up for the SAT/ACT. The second step is the college application followed by the financial aid process. If applying to a four-year university, students should have applications into the colleges of their choice by Thanksgiving. Students can fill out the Texas Common Application for any four-year university in Texas. These applications are available in the counselor's office or online at www.applytexas.org. The timing of the application is important so that your child will be informed of his/her admission by Christmas. Students should apply to many universities with hopes of getting scholarships or financial aid from at least one. **Upon admission to the college(s) your son/daughter prefers, applications for scholarships need to be completed. The deadlines for scholarship applications are usually in early December.**

In February 2010, there will be a financial aid meeting held in our high school computer lab for all seniors and their parents or guardians. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the financial aid process and how to apply for need-based assistance.

In order to apply for need-based monies (including grants, college work study, and guaranteed student loans), parents or guardians need to complete their 2009 income tax return as soon as possible in 2010. This will enable them to file the FAFSA (Free Assistance for Federal student Aid) early. Remember to check application deadline for colleges. Most colleges require the student be accepted before they can be considered for financial aid or scholarships.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the students of Orange Grove, and I encourage parents to call whenever they have questions.

Sincerely,



Sandy Gallimore
Guidance Counselor