



Centennial High School Class of 2022

March 5, 2021



The Jungle Trek

Understanding Financial Aid—FAFSA

FAFSA is an acronym that stands for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Colleges and universities use this form to determine your eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans, and work-study programs.



FAFSA will open on October 1, 2021 for students that will be attending Universities/Colleges/Trade Schools in the Fall of 2022.

Today you can begin the process at looking at your financial aid by checking out the [FAFSA4caster](#) from The Department of Education. *FAFSA4caster will help you understand your options for paying for college.*

Provide some basic information and we'll estimate your eligibility for federal student aid. Your estimate will be shown in the "College Cost Worksheet" where you can also provide estimated amounts of other student aid and savings that can go towards your college education.

[Click on this Link Today to get started.](#)

Terms to Learn

Standardized Testing

A *standardized test* is a test that is given to students in a very consistent manner; *meaning* that the questions on the *test* are all similar, the time given to each student is the same, and the way in which the *test* is scored is the same for all students.

ACT/SAT Standardized Testing

Many students begin the college prep process by taking the ACT and/or SAT standardized tests. The [SAT](#) and [ACT](#) generally cover the same topics. Both ACT and SAT scores are used for college admissions decisions and awarding merit-based scholarships. Neither the SAT or ACT is harder than the other. Different students tend to do better on one test over the other. You should review your college(s) of interest to see which test they require. Many students schedule and take both the ACT and SAT in preparation for college.

The Peoria Unified School District and Centennial High School will be offering a free ACT test to all Juniors on Tuesday, April 6th during school hours.

ACT: [Centennial ACT Information](#)

To sign up for the SAT test please see the below link.

SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

Finally, we highly recommend to take time and study before testing. There are some amazing resources for education assistance before testing. Please check out the [ACT Academy](#) and [Khan Academy](#) (for SAT) for study materials and free practice testing.



Learn about Universities/Colleges/Trade Schools

10 ways to learn more about your schools of interest

1. Visit Centennial High School's Career Center – We have information on thousands of colleges available to review at your fingertips.
2. Begin with the obvious. Look at the materials that the school sends – mailings, viewbooks, catalogs, – as well as the college website.
3. Take advantage of the Virtual Tours or college fairs to have the opportunity to talk with a representative from the college.
4. Visit Campus - We recommend going in person with a tour and to spend time walking around the campus to get a feel for the community. See if there is a tour geared to the Major you are interested in.
5. Talk to students - Ask them about their experiences and get their perspective. Keep an open mind when listening and remember that some students want a different college experience.
6. If the school offers the opportunity for an interview, schedule an interview. Students often think of an interview as important as an admissions piece – to get *in* to the school, but it can be just as important as a tool to learn *about* the school. Plan your own questions to ask – but also pay attention to the questions that you are asked. What does the admissions office think is important?
7. Sit in on a class or two - coordinate with the admissions office to see if this is an option.
8. Shadow a student for a day - This is great to be able to
9. Find some alumni from the school in your area and talk to them about their experiences.
10. Finally attend Centennial High School's College Events—College/Career Nights, College Info Sessions etc. This will give you some great one on one time with a representative that works specifically with Centennial Students.



Tip Time: Managing College and Scholarship Information

You will notice that after you complete applications to colleges and scholarships, numerous emails will come your way. Discuss with your family the best process to stay on track with this email communication. Some students set up a new email that is specific for this information. It is important to check this email regularly in order to receive timely information and/or deadlines.

Find Scholarships

- * Your StudentVUE * [College Depot](#) * [Career One Stop](#)

Juniors, remember to Apply to 1 scholarship a week. Here are some great scholarships to start with.

E-waste Scholarship

This scholarship helps you understand the impact of e-waste and what can be done to reduce e-waste.

Deadline: April 30, 2021

Digital Privacy Scholarship

This scholarship helps you understand why you should be cautious about what you post on the Internet.

Deadline: June 30, 2021

Don't Text and Drive Scholarship

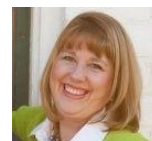
This scholarship helps you understand the risks of texting while driving.

Deadline: September 30, 2021

Technology Addiction Awareness Scholarship

This scholarship helps you understand the negative effects of too much screen time.

Deadline: January 30, 2022



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[Schedule an Apt today](#)