

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER – WINTER/SPRING 2019

### OPELOUSAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Greetings Parents & Students! For those of you who I've not yet had the pleasure of meeting, I am Cindy Lafleur, your new school counselor. I am new on board, and there is so much to learn! I feel so fortunate that Liz Meche, your former school counselor (now High school Assistant Principal), is still very close by (just down the hall!) and has been so helpful in guiding me through this learning process. With her help, I hope that I can come to be as efficient and knowledgeable as she was during her years in the counselor's office. I look forward to working with all of you and getting to know our students and parents much better in the future!*

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The 2018-2019 school year is already half over, and while much has been done, there is much more to do. **Below are some of the things that we've accomplished so far during this first half of the school year.**

- September 27<sup>th</sup> – ASVAB test (Armed Services Aptitude Battery) administered to 11<sup>th</sup> graders;
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – OC's Annual College/Career Day . We hosted several admissions representatives from various in and out of state colleges and universities. Juniors and seniors participated.;
- October 10<sup>th</sup> – PSAT test (Preliminary SAT) administered to all 11<sup>th</sup> graders;
- October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Anti-Bullying presentations -Trooper Thomas Gossen with the Louisiana State Police conducted (3) informative and age-appropriate presentations to students in grades 4 – 12;
- October 31<sup>st</sup> – St. Landry Parish Career Expo – 10<sup>th</sup> graders were transported to Northwest High School where they were able to walk through approximately 50 booths of

personnel from various local businesses, agencies, and community colleges, etc. to ask questions and explore many different jobs, career paths, and educational options.

-November 14<sup>th</sup> – FAFSA/Financial Aid Parent Workshop – Representatives from L.S.U.E.’s enrollment and financial aid offices hosted an informative “How To” workshop for parents of OC senior students. Parents were taken step-by-step through the FAFSA (Free Applic. For Federal Student Aid) completion process. The representatives provided valuable information to our parents and questions were answered as well.

-December 17<sup>th</sup> – L.S.U.E. College Presentation for Seniors – On a voluntary basis, senior students were invited to a presentation given by Mr. Chad Jones from L.S.U.E.’s Enrollment office. Students were provided with information about L.S.U.E., as well as general information about how/when to enroll at any college, completion of the FAFSA, TOPS, scholarships, college selection, career choices, and much more.

-January 14<sup>th</sup> -- “Girl Talk with Mrs. Lafleur” (Grades 6 and 7) - An anti-bullying dramatic video entitled “Stop It” was shown to the girls <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYVvE4tr2BI> . After watching, we discussed different types of bullying that all of us have experienced at one time or another. Emphasis was placed on eliminating exclusion, being kind to one another and causing no harm, viewing your individual class as your “family” and embracing each person in the group, acceptance of others, and doing a kind act each week for someone you don’t normally spend time with at school.

-January 15<sup>th</sup> -- “Girl Talk with Mrs. Lafleur” (Grades 8 and 9) - An anti-bullying dramatic video entitled “Stop It” was shown to the girls <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYVvE4tr2BI> . After watching, we discussed different types of bullying that all of us have experienced at one time or another. Emphasis was placed on eliminating exclusion, being kind to one another and causing no harm, viewing your individual class as your “family” and embracing each person in the group, acceptance of others, and doing a kind act each week for someone you don’t normally spend time with at school.

**ALSO FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**NEED HOMEWORK HELP??** Visit [www.HomeworkLA.org](http://www.HomeworkLA.org) for On-demand tutoring, online - Sunday - Thursday; 2:00 pm - Midnight.

**8TH GRADE SCHOLARSHIP!!!**

**Lt. Fr. Joseph Verbis Lafleur Memorial High School Freshman Scholarship** Will award \$1000 to a Roman Catholic 8th grade student who attends OCS. The award check will be payable to OCS and will be applied to the student's tuition for their 9th grade year. Applicants will be judged on an essay, church/school community involvement, pastor's testimony, and financial need. Application are being made available to 8th graders via their religion teacher, Mrs. Beth Stelly. Please encourage your 8th grader to participate!! **Deadline is April 1, 2019**

**\*\*\*SENIORS\*\*\* IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:**

**Individual senior college/career planning meetings have been taking place since September and are continuing. If you have not yet had a meeting with me, please see me immediately to schedule an appointment. This meeting is an opportunity to bring questions and to be provided with some useful information about the ACT, TOPS, the FAFSA, Scholarships, Applying to colleges, etc.**

**ACT** – Remaining ACT test dates for the 2018-19 school year are February 9, April 13th, June 8, and July 13, 2019. Students may apply to test at [www.act.org/student](http://www.act.org/student). Parents are encouraged to visit this website for FAQ's for parents, newsletters, preparation information, etc. There is also free ACT prep on the website, as well as a program available for purchase called "ACT Online Prep". Students may also obtain additional information about ACT prep courses offered in the area by stopping by my office. Students do not need the writing portion of the ACT for admission to any of the state colleges/universities, however, some college honors programs do require it. **Our ACT school code is 192-285.**

\*UL-Lafayette offers an “ACT Workshop” and 3 “Intensive ACT Preparation Courses” every semester. Forms can be obtained in my office. There is a fee required. Dates for the Winter/Fall Semester are as follows:

-ACT Workshop (1 class) -- Sat. March 16, 2019 (9am-12 noon) - \$34

-Intensive ACT Preparation (5- 6 classes each) -- \$225

Option 1: Meets Jan. 16th, 23rd, & 30th. Jan. 19th, 26th, & Feb. 2nd.

Option 2: Meets March 20th, 27th, & April 3rd. March 23rd, 30th, and April 6th.

Option 3: Meets June 3rd - 7th

**FASTWEB (Scholarship Search Engine)** – As I meet with seniors, I provide them with information on how to set up a profile on [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com). This site matches the student to various national scholarships and links them to the applications for these scholarships. It is a very thorough method of researching national scholarship opportunities. Parents can also set up an account and receive notifications of available scholarships.

**COLLEGE ATHLETICS** -- Just a reminder....Any student interested in participating in any form of college athletics, must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse by their senior year. The website is [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net). Contact me for more information.

**FAFSA** -- (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) –The FAFSA application is a comprehensive tool that is used to determine if the student is eligible for ALL types of financial aid, including grants, loans, campus work-study programs, and best of all....TOPS. As you recall, our annual FAFSA/Financial Aid Parent Workshop this past November here at OC provided those parents who attended with much valuable information about completion of the FAFSA. Remember that if you have not yet filled out the FAFSA for your college-bound child, this application is required by the Louisiana Office of Financial Assistance (LOSFA) to determine TOPS eligibility. The application is available online now at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for current senior parents to complete using your 2017 or 2018 tax returns. It is highly recommended that the application be completed by the end of the summer prior to the Fall semester which the student plans to attend. FAFSA completion guides are available in my office.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** -- Again, it is highly recommended that seniors register with a FREE scholarship search engine such as [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) or [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) so that they may have some exposure to what is available in regard to national scholarships and other great financial aid opportunities. There are also many local scholarships available, most of which become available in the Spring. Below is a list of the ones that have been made available to my office.

--**Lela's \$1000 Monthly FAFSA Completion Scholarship** You must complete the FAFSA application to register. Register to win at [www.lela.org/completed\\_fafsa](http://www.lela.org/completed_fafsa).

--**Louisiana State Knights of Columbus Catholic Youth Leadership Award (CYLA) Program** Use the interactive form available at <http://www.louisiana.org/programs/cyla/application/pdf>. They are looking for outstanding students who hold true Catholic values and excel as leaders among their peers. State winners will receive a \$5000 check; 2nd place state winners will receive \$3000 each; 3rd place state winners will receive \$2000 each and all Diocesan winners will receive \$500 each. See Mrs. Lafleur prior to deadline to turn in completed and signed application. **Deadline is January 25, 2019**

--**UL-Lafayette Scholarships** - General scholarships are awarded through the admissions process. Visit <http://scholarships.louisiana.edu/> to review this information. **Deadline for achieving the qualifying ACT/SAT scores and GPA is January 31, 2019.**

--**UL-Lafayette's Sertoma Club of Opelousas Endowed Scholarship** - Eligibility requirements include an ACT of 24 or higher, 3.0 cumulative GPA, must be admitted to UL-Lafayette, and must attend OCS or OHS. **Deadline is January 31, 2019**

--**LSU College of Agriculture "64 Parish Strong" Scholarship** - Offering a \$1000 scholarship to one eligible student from each parish. Must be accepted to LSU in the major of agriculture. **Deadline is February 1st**

--**Ross Granger Memorial Scholarship**. Will award up to 5 scholarships valued at \$2000 each to deserving high school seniors graduating in 2019. **Deadline is February 28, 2019**

--**2019 LHSAA Scholarships** - Through the financial assistance provided by the Allstate Sugar Bowl, Coca-Cola and the Fussy Brown Foundation, the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) is offering a total of 14 scholarships, each valued at \$1500, to graduating senior student athletes. Applications (3 separate applications) can be found on the website or see Mrs. Lafleur for a copy. **Postmark deadline is March 4, 2019**

--**Catholic Life Insurance's "All American Scholar Program"** Will award 35 non-renewable \$1000 scholarships to Senior students who have a life insurance policy with Catholic Life. **Deadline is March 1, 2019**

--**Louisiana Juvenile Officers Association Scholarship** -- This scholarship is to benefit college-bound seniors. If not accepted into college, award will be forfeited. A \$1000 scholarship will be awarded on the basis of academic performance, financial need, career goals, extracurricular activities and excellence of overall performance, regardless of race or gender. See Mrs. Lafleur for application. **Postmark Deadline is March 15, 2019.**

--**St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Scholarship** Will award one (1) scholarship in the amount of \$500 to one outstanding graduate in St. Landry Parish for the 2018-19 academic year.

**Deadline is April 1st, 2019**

--**LSU's Sigma Phi Epsilon "Balanced Man Scholarship"** - (For male students attending LSU in Fall of 2019) Three scholarships will be awarded to three applicants (\$2000, \$1000, \$1000). Selection focuses on achievement in four categories: Scholar, Leader, Athlete, & Gentleman. Interested applicants should apply through website [www.lsusigep.com](http://www.lsusigep.com). **Deadline is April 12, 2019**

--**Knights of Columbus "Charles Henry Lillie & Antonia Lafleur Lille Memorial Scholarship"** - A \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to a 2019 graduate from a St. Landry Parish high school who plans to attend college. Selection focuses on academic achievement, community & church involvement, extracurricular activities, athletic achievement, & pride/loyalty to family and community. **Deadline is April 15th**

--Slemco Scholarship - COMING SOON...in FEBRUARY!! For SLEMCO customers.....Scholarship applications will be mailed with your February electric bill. Applications may also be picked up in my office. Applications will be accepted from Feb. 1st through May 2, 2019.

**\*\*This list will be updated monthly and/or when new local/state scholarships begin to come in. So, check back often for the most up-to-date information!**