



October  
2020

# Stepping into Your Future

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*Education is the  
passport to the future,  
for tomorrow belongs to  
those who prepare for it  
today*

*~Malcolm X*

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## Upcoming Dates:

**October 1** FAFSFA

Opens

**October 13 & 14**

Alaska College &  
Career Fair

**October 13 & 15** All  
Alaska Military Service  
Academies Event

**October 14**

Princeton

University of Oregon

Duke

Oberlin

Carnegie Mellon

West/Frontier Webinar

**October 16** UAA

Application Day

**October 20** FAFSA

Alaska

**October 21**

Vanderbilt

Johns Hopkins

**October 22** College  
Admissions Panel



## COLLEGE VISITS AND CAREER EVENTS

### UAA College and Career VIRTUAL Fair

There is something for everyone at the 39th Annual Anchorage Alaska College and Career Fair. Whether you are looking at in state schools, out of state colleges, vocational and trade ideas or options to go straight into the workforce:

[Alaska College & Career Fair](#)

VIRTUAL EVENT

Oct 13th 4-7:45pm

College Exploration Panel

Oct 14th 12pm-3:45pm

6X6 Virtual Fair Session

### Colleges Visit West

Schools will be visiting (virtually) West regularly. Juniors and Seniors are encouraged to join. After you sign up, you will receive the zoom link a few days before the scheduled meeting. Sign up and find the most up to date list [HERE](#).

## **Seniors**

### **UAA APPLICATION DAY!!!**

UAA will be hosting West High (zoom) on Wednesday, OCT. 16, to host a free application day! Admissions counselors will assist students with starting and completing the UAA application for Spring, Summer, or Fall 2021 for free. However, please feel free to join the zoom if you have already applied or have questions about college.

Zoom information

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/81878065563>

Please have your social security number for the application!

## **College Admissions Panel Discussion**

October 22nd from 6 - 7:30 pm a panel of admission personnel will be discussing the admissions process for current seniors, as well as the merits of attending an out of state university. Representatives from University of MT, University of WI, DePaul, Denison, Dickinson, Hillsdale, Muhlenberg, Salve Regina, and Goldsmiths, University of London will field questions and give insights specifically for Alaska students. Register for the discussion [HERE](#).

## **All-Alaska Military Service Academies Event**

This year's All-Alaska Military Service Academies Event is being held virtually and it will take place on 2 nights - Tuesday, 13 October and Thursday, 15 October from 17:30 to 18:30. To participate you will need to send an RSVP to [Academy\\_Nominations@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:Academy_Nominations@murkowski.senate.gov) and you will receive a link to the meeting.

## **West HS/Frontier Tutoring webinar:**

11th & 12th Graders College Admissions Checklist

Wednesday, October 14 at 6:00 PM Alaska time

As an 11th or 12th grader, what should you be doing this fall to set yourself up for college admissions success? During our live webinar, the West High School counseling team and Kimberly Hewitt, director of Frontier Tutoring's college counseling practice, will walk through the following fall semester priorities for juniors and seniors:

For seniors, determine whether initial or additional SAT/ACT testing is necessary based on your scholarship and college admissions goals. For juniors, determine whether you should prepare for the PSAT this fall to potentially qualify for National Merit recognition and scholarships), and develop your SAT/ACT testing strategy.

Create and finalize your college list, which drives all of your academic, testing, and application priorities

For seniors, finalize essays and applicationsIdentify financial aid and scholarships

Maximize your GPA and manage virtual school

Manage extracurriculars in the COVID-19 era

At the end of the webinar, we'll have time for Q&A about all things testing and college admissions. Representatives from the West Anchorage High School counseling department will also be available to answer any West-specific questions.

[Register now to save your spot](#)

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*Before anything  
else,  
preparation is  
the key to  
success*

*~ Alexander  
Graham Bell*

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## FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

### REVIEW Alaska Performance Scholarship Information:

If you are interested in qualifying for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) you can see the qualification requirements [here](#), or more details [here](#). This scholarship is available to Alaska students who meet the qualifications and can be used at many Alaska post-secondary programs. Note: the ACT or SAT is still required for qualification purposes this year, so you should start registering now. Some tests are taking quite a long time to get registered for, and are filling quickly. Register for the SAT [here](#) or ACT [here](#).

### FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid-FAFSA: The window to complete the FAFSA is open (October 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>)! The FAFSA determines a student's eligibility for need-based federal financial aid for college, which may include grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans. If eligible, it can really help you pay for school! Everyone who wishes to pursue post-secondary education should complete the FAFSA, regardless of how much their parents make. Why?

- The FAFSA is how you qualify for Stafford Loans, which typically offer the lowest interest rates and best repayment deals.
  - The FAFSA is the application for the APS. The priority filing date for your FAFSA is June 30.
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- Schools want to see that you tried to get federal funding before they offer school specific scholarships.
- You might be pleasantly surprised 😊

Complete the FAFSA early! According to Ashley Boucher, a spokeswoman for Sallie Mae, the earlier families fill out the FAFSA, the better the chance to be in line for that aid. If you wait, there may be less money available so your financial aid may be more loans, less grants. Visit [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) today to start the process and keep a lookout for future West virtual FAFSA Night events to help families complete the application process

### **FAFSA Time Alaska!**

TUESDAY October 20, 2020; 6:00 PM-7:30 PM Utilizing ACPE resource guides, this event will provide virtual FSA ID and FAFSA completion assistance to parents and students pursuing postsecondary education and career training. To prepare for this event, please visit [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov) and follow the instructions for setting up your Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) for both parent and student. It will take a few days before you can use your FSA ID, so create yours a few days before you plan to attend this event. If you are struggling to set up your FSA ID, you may also use this time for assistance in setting up your FSA ID. Register in advance below.:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0pduCtrTwsEtFF21tYessgMIQZmrbM5iFU](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJ0pduCtrTwsEtFF21tYessgMIQZmrbM5iFU)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the event.

### **Scholarship Resources**

Finding scholarships requires some digging. COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA!

Local scholarships will pop up from time to time and will be posted on on the West counseling website and occasionally placed in the Monday News.

College/School specific scholarships can be found by searching the school or program that you plan to attend and applying directly with them following their guidance.

National Databases exist to make it easier for you to search based on your needs: [Unigo](https://unigo.com) and [College Board's Big Future](https://collegeboard.org/bigfuture) both have scholarships that you can be eligible for simply by working through the college search and application process. Many scholarship databases exist, here are some you can try:

[Scholarships.com](https://scholarships.com)

[ScholarshipOwl](https://scholarshipowl.com)

[Scholly](https://scholly.com)

[Scholarships360](https://scholarships360.com)

### **In Case You Missed it**

The Funding Your Future (FYF) Presentation for West Families was held virtually, via Zoom on September 24<sup>th</sup>. During this presentation, ACPE staff discussed how to access scholarships, the WUE exchange program, the FAFSA form, and Post-Secondary Financial Aid Process. If you missed it, you may view the recorded presentation [here](#). Passcode: w3KES5\$j

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### **Letter of Recommendation Seminar**

Informational sessions were held for seniors last month and in these sessions Mrs. Utterback and West High counselors talked about how to get a great letter of recommendation, what to include to get the best letter, and how and when to submit your request. They also covered some topics related to COLLEGE APPLICATIONS and COLLEGE ESSAYS. You may view a recording of one of these sessions [HERE](#).

## **THERE IS A TEST FOR THAT**

### **Practice SAT or ACT**

Sign up for a free practice SAT and ACT, brought to you by the West Anchorage High School counseling team. After taking a full-length proctored practice SAT/ACT released by the test maker, you will get a detailed score report with a roadmap to score improvement, plus guidance on whether to focus on the SAT or ACT. This semester, West Anchorage High School and Frontier Tutoring are co-hosting the following online practice tests:

- Online Practice SAT on Friday, October 16. Check-in will begin at 8:30 AM, with testing running 9:00 AM – 1:10 PM
- Online Practice ACT on Friday, October 23. Check-in will begin at 8:30 AM, with testing running 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Space is limited. View all practice SAT/ACT dates and reserve your seat for free at [www.frontiertutoring.com/practicetest](http://www.frontiertutoring.com/practicetest). After signing up, you will receive instructions on how to join the online event.

### **SAT**

The next chance for students to take the SAT is November 7 (register by 10/7). Register at [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org).

### **ACT**

The next chance for students to take the ACT is December 12 (register by 11/6). Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

## **DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN?**

### **Career Search Tool:**

AKCIS (Alaska Career Information System). This is a fantastic, free, tool students can use to create portfolios, assess interests, write resumes, search for post-secondary education and post-secondary scholarships, and much more. Follow this link or sign-on through the West Library webpage. Your FREE student login = ID: Wesths Password: 4Student

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You may also set up a portfolio and save your information. I encourage you to check it out!

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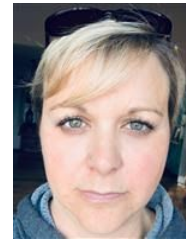
Johanna Utterback  
[utterback\\_johanna@asdk12.org](mailto:utterback_johanna@asdk12.org)  
 HG and A-Ba alpha  
 742-2575



Cindy Chaput  
[chaput\\_cindy@asdk12.org](mailto:chaput_cindy@asdk12.org)  
 Be-Fr alpha  
 742-2556



Troy Hodge  
[hodge\\_troy@asdk12.org](mailto:hodge_troy@asdk12.org)  
 Fs-L alpha  
 742-2539



April Christianson  
[christianson\\_april@asdk12.org](mailto:christianson_april@asdk12.org)  
 M-Ro alpha  
 742-2562



Chris Brehmer  
[brehmer\\_chris@asdk12.org](mailto:brehmer_chris@asdk12.org)  
 Ru-Z alpha  
 742-2552



Michelle Yoon  
[yoon\\_michelle@asdk12.org](mailto:yoon_michelle@asdk12.org)  
 ESL Counselor  
 742-2560



Elizabeth Howell  
[howell\\_elizabeth@asdk12.org](mailto:howell_elizabeth@asdk12.org)  
 Migrant Ed Counselor  
 742-2549



Brian Walker  
[walker\\_brian@asdk12.org](mailto:walker_brian@asdk12.org)  
 Indian Ed Counselor  
 742-2047