



TOGETHER WE WILL LEARN AND GROW

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Maria Bombace

This issue of the SEPTA STAR focuses on the upcoming event:

Jericho SEPTA Post-Secondary Transition Fair

Date: Wednesday November 16, 2016

Time: 6:30 – 9:00 P.M.

Location: Jericho High School

99 Cedar Swamp Road

Jericho, N.Y. 11753

Jericho Septa would like to invite everyone to join us for the annual transition fair.

It is a very informative event and will be a wonderful evening. The Transition Fair will have workshops

and information booths that cover Transitioning students with disabilities, Post-secondary options, all aspects of the college admission process, registering for accommodations in college and Post-secondary support services. There will also be representatives from over 20 colleges, agencies and organizations on hand to provide information and answer questions.

The Transition Fair is open to Parents and Students from all districts.

We hope to see you there.

Maria Bombace

Maria Bombace,

SEPTA President and SEPTA Executive Board.



Changes to the 2017-18 FAFSA
Overview of the Federal Student Aid and what you need to know.

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Questions to Ask to the Colleges
A compilation of questions to ask or consider when touring a college open house.

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2017-18 FAFSA

By FAFSA on the Web article 4/16

Starting with the 2017-18 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA), the following changes will be in effect:

You will be able to submit your FAFSA as early as October 1, 2016, rather than beginning on January 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change enabling you to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.

You'll use earlier income and tax information. Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, you (and your parent(s), as appropriate – will report your 2015 income and tax information, rather than your 2016

income and tax information.

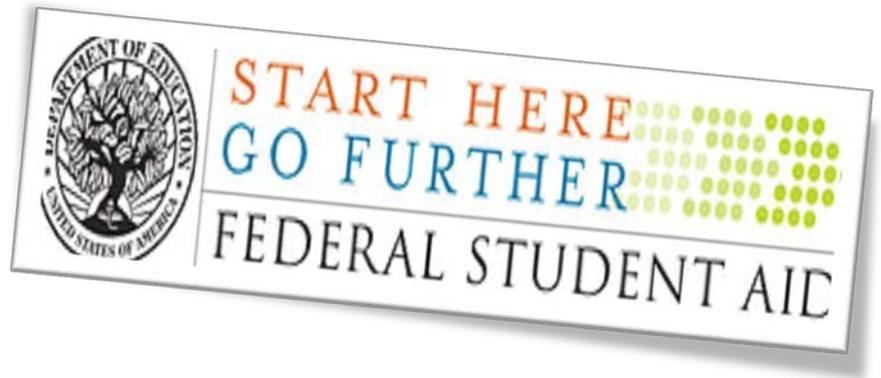
How will the changes benefit me?

- Because the FAFSA will ask for older income and tax information, you will have already done your taxes by the time you fill out your FAFSA, and you need to estimate your tax information and go back later into FAFSA to update it.
- Because you'll have already done your taxes by the time you fill out the FAFSA you

may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (IRS DRT) to automatically import your tax information into your FAFSA.

FAFSA INFORMATION

Visit StudentAid.gov/fafsa. As you fill out your FAFSA at fafsa.gov, you can refer to help text for every question and (during certain times of day) chat online with a customer service representative.



SEPTA MEMBERSHIP IS ONGOING!



Your dues and donations provide Scholarships, Grants and special programs, as well as supporting many district programs and activities.

If your child gets extra help in class, or through a learning center or resource room for any reason, they are part of us. We are not limited to children with special needs. We proudly serve the educational needs of all our children who need some help.

If you need a membership form, please see our SEPTA website through the Jericho School District home page. We request that you have a check made out to JERICHO SEPTA for your dues. It is \$12.00 per member.

To receive a SEPTA College Scholarship, at least one individual in each graduating seniors' family must be a SEPTA member in the Jericho District by January 31, 2017.

<http://jerichoschools.org/resources/parents/septaform>

Jericho SEPTA**Post-Secondary Transition Night Agenda****Wednesday, November 16, 2016****6:30 -- 8:30 PM Information Fair****Jericho Middle School Cafeteria****Workshops****7:15 -- 7:35 PM Workshop #1: Disability Support Programs in College / College Life for Students with Disabilities**

Susan Spencer Farinacci,

Executive Director, Learning Resource Program (Adelphi University)

Mitch Nagler

Director, Bridges to Adelphi Program

7:40 -- 8:00 PM Workshop #2: Student Advocacy / Making a Successful Transition from High School to College

Samantha Feinman

Director, New Frontiers in Learning

8:05 -- 8:25 PM Workshop #3: College Application Process for Students with Disabilities

Christina Cacioppo-Bertsch

Educational Consultant, CCB Educational Consulting

8:30 -- 8:50 PM Workshop #4: Promoting Self-Determination: Living, Learning, and Earning for Students with Developmental Disabilities

Kathleen Quinn

Director, Mary Quinn's Mark LLC

Representatives from the New York Self-Determination Coalition

ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD IN THE JERICHO MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

- **A SPECIAL WORKSHOP DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS WILL BE OFFERED AT 7:00 AND 8:30 pm**



Questions to ask on your Campus Visit?

- **General questions:**

What factors do you consider when making admissions decisions?

Is the ACT, SAT, ASSET OR COMPASS test required?

What is the minimum test score accepted? How many students with minimum scores graduate?

Are there other ways to be admitted? Do you have special admission policies, transfer or provisional admission?

What is the average grade point (GPA) of the incoming freshman class?

Is it possible to transfer credits from this school to a four-year college?

- **Questions about program of study:**

Does this school have a program of study (major) in my area of interest?

What academic skills are required for my major?

Which high school courses would help prepare me for my major?

- **Questions about financial aid:**

What are the annual costs for tuition/fees and room/board?

What financial aid is available? What is your free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing deadline?

What scholarships are available? How do I apply?

- **Questions to ask the disability services coordinator?**

What documentation must I bring to identify myself as a student with a disability entitled to reasonable accommodation? How current must it be?

How is confidential information handled?

Who decides if I qualify for accommodations?

What accommodations are available? i.e. tape recorders, taped texts, note-takers, and modified exams.

How much notice is needed to have textbooks recorded on tape?

Is tutoring provided? What is the cost?

Are waivers or substitutions granted to students, who because of their disabilities, cannot pass certain courses, such as foreign languages or statistics?

Are basic skills or study skills courses offered? Are they available for credit? Can they be counted as hours toward full-time status? What is the cost?



Is there a support group on campus for students with disabilities?

Is there an adaptive technology lab on campus?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER.



Transition is a process, an ongoing set of activities; looking at the need of the whole person; managed by a team.

Transition planning and services are needed to prepare students with disabilities to move from school to independence. Options include: employment, post-secondary education, and community living-independent living skills.

Who Participates in Team Transition Planning? Student, Parent/Guardian, School Personnel, Adult Service Agencies, Parent Representative (if required).

In the year that the student turns 18 -21 (Grade 12+). Investigate post school opportunities (further education, vocational training, career readiness training, Pre-college programs); Develop Transportation/Mobility Strategies (16-21) (independent travel skills training, public transportation, needs for travel attendant, obtain a driver's license); Investigate SSDI/SSI/Medicaid programs (12-18); Re-apply for SSI, as appropriate (18); review health insurance coverage (18); register to vote/draft (18); develop an ISP (Individualized Service Plan).

Guardianship: Planning is crucial: wills, trusts and guardianships. When a family has a member with a disability planning for the future, including developing a comprehensive and realistic estate plan, is critical. Involving the whole family in the planning process can help avoid problems in the future.

Student Exit Summary: A summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance and recommendations on how to assist child to meet post-secondary goals.

Adult Service Agencies: More on this at the SEPTA resource at the Jericho School district webpage.

- ACCES/VR (VESID): Office of Vocational and Education Services for Individuals with Disabilities.
- OPWDD: Office of People with Developmental Disabilities
- CBVH: Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
- OMH: Office of Mental Health

Student Responsibilities: Register with the Student Support Office **BEFORE** school begins.

Bring information about the student's disability to the school when they enroll and know what information the school requires. Know strength and weaknesses and can verbalize them to the appropriate person.

Using the information that you know about yourself, ask for accommodations in specific areas. Ask for help at the beginning of a class, not after you are failing. Let the instructor know what accommodations you will need in class to be successful. Plan for the demands of college. Get your class schedule, work schedule and study time in place so when school starts you can concentrate on these new demands.

Support & Accommodations: Provide the required documentation to the support service office before classes begin. Psycho-educational evaluation; IEP. In college, a student needs the same skills as any other college student, plus whatever special skills or strategies that they need to cope with his/her disability.

Programs Vs. Services: Services: Decentralized and limited. In some cases, no formal contact person, limited services, services provided by individual departments or units, dependent on sympathetic faculty or staff. Programs: Centrally coordinated- formalized, often through Disabled Student Services Office, full time Disability Services Director, full or part time Disability Specialist. Student self-identification often requires documentation of disability. Individualized accommodation plan based on

documentation. Tutoring available by trained staff. Accommodations coordinated by program staff. Liaison with other campus resources.

Post -Secondary College Tools.

Compensatory Devices, assistive technology, textbooks on tape, tape recorders, calculators, specialized computer software.

College Preparation and Support Programs:

- The Cody Center provides two programs that address the needs of students with Autism Spectrum and related disabilities who have the ability and the desire to attend college. The programs are provided by Cody Center staff members on the campuses of Suffolk Community College, in collaboration with college staff members.
- The Summer Pre-College Program provides an opportunity to experience campus life and classes.
- The College Support Program provides additional social skills and organizational supports to students once they have been admitted to the college and are attending classes.
- The Vocational Independence Program (VIP) is an NYIT program for students who have significant learning disabilities. Participants are full-time students and live on NYIT's Central Islip site in a residence hall staffed 24 hours a day by VIP faculty and professionals. VIP students meet regularly with academic, social, and career counselors who help tailor the program to individual needs. Students may enter the vocational program, which encourages independence through a three-year vocational certificate program, or the degree program, which guides students through regular NYIT academic majors.

Empowering youth with the skills and knowledge they need to advocate for themselves is a natural step on the Journey to adult hood. Contact Jeff Baum for additional help on this topic.

jbaum@jerichoschools.org



Mrs. Rosenberg, High School Principal, and the Guidance Counselors explained the information on Naviance could be found at the jerichoschools.org website. On the top of the high school page (in the blue box) click on "Resources" and then "Guidance". The power point presentation of December 8, 2015 is one of the listed items for review. Here is an overview of the meeting:

A listing of Services provided by the school (such as contact information for the Guidance department, the School Psychologist and Social Worker along with their job description).

A listing of the Power Point Presentations that the Guidance Department has presented so far. Also included is a listing of Programs and Volunteer Opportunities can be found here.

One of the high lights that was pointed out was that the district uses Naviance. This computer program invites you to explore once registered "Family Connection by Naviance", our website allows students and families to investigate, research, track, and plan for the college admission process.

The Naviance Welcome page will have Announcements and other important information on it. There are links on the left side of the page and two on the top labeled:

"Colleges" and "About Me". The "About Me" tab contains information and tools that will help students on each grade level.

The "Colleges" tab will help juniors and seniors perform college searches, explore different

colleges, and compare their GPA and standardized test scores with previous Jericho students who were accepted to the colleges they are considering.

Under the "Colleges" tab you will find two sections:

"My Colleges" and "College Research" and a link to "Upcoming college visits". The "My Colleges" section is divided into "Colleges I Am Thinking About" and "Colleges I Am Applying to".

Only seniors should use the "Colleges I Am Applying to" section.

Under the Guidance Listing, a section on "College Preparation", you will find links to several areas of interest. Links include College Planning Guide, the application process, teacher recommendation procedures for juniors, Useful college/ university information websites. One of special

note, is a link to "College Support for Students with Disabilities". This listing includes college/ university contact information through web links.

Also, included at our District website is a section on Scholarships and Financial Aid.

This is a process and there is no formula. The Key that Guidance points out is to stay organized, be active in the process, aware of deadlines, stay positive and realistic. Help can be found by contacting your Guidance Counselor. 516-203-3600 x3261



SEPTA MEETINGS:

January 10 @ 7 pm at Cantiague Elementary

Topic: School Programs: Steam, Reading & Writing.

Presenters: All Elementary Principals

February 2 @ 9:15 am at the Jericho Middle School

Topic: Organizational Skills Workshop

Presenters: Dr. J. Sapienza and K. Conger

March 15 @ 7 pm at George A. Jackson Elementary

Topic: Mindfulness in the Elementary Schools

Presenters: Dr. S. Schwartz, Ms. E. Crimeni, and Ms. M. Colucci

April 25 @ 7pm at the Jericho Middle School Library

Topic: Social Media

Presenter: Dr. C. Goldstein, Ph.D., NYU Child Study Center

May 30 @ 7 pm at the Jericho Middle School Library

Topic: Student Transitioning & our Transition Library

Presenters: Dr. D. Largotta-Smith, PsyD, Mr. J. Baum, and Mr. J. Rubinstein.

June 13 @ 7pm at the Jericho Middle School Library

SEPTA Scholarship Awards & Recognition Night



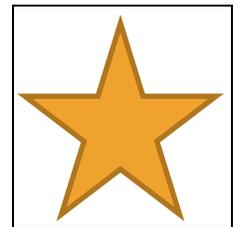
May 19, 2017
SEPTA Fundraiser
Movie Under the Stars
7 pm
Cantiague Elementary
Movie to be determined.

JERICHO SEPTA MISSION STATEMENT

SEPTA IS A DISTRICT WIDE PTA AND IS OPEN TO EVERYONE. IT IS COMPRISED OF PARENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, WHO SUPPORT A GREATER AWARENESS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION. SPECIAL EDUCATION INCLUDES LEARNING CENTER, RESOURCE ROOMS, OT, PT, SPEECH SERVICES, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY, ACCOMMODATIONS AND SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION. SEPTA BENEFITS ALL JERICHO DISTRICT FAMILIES BY PROVIDING THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS THAT ARISE FROM THE PRESCHOOL YEARS THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. SEPTA ALSO PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS TO OUR TEACHERS, AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, AS WELL AS SUPPORTING MANY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES THROUGH YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AND DONATIONS.

SEPTA
Star

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