



AOF Parent Updates



Choice Application period: If you or someone you know has a rising 9th or 10th grade student applying for AOF this fall, here are important tips:

- 1) If you do not indicate AOF as your FIRST choice, you will not get in. We will have more applicants than available spots, so all available seats will be filled with “First Choice” applicants.
- 2) When you receive your invitation, REMEMBER TO ACCEPT! You must go back into the choice application system to accept the invitation, or you will lose your spot!
- 3) If you have a sibling of an AOF student entering the program, you’re eligible for sibling priority IF your existing AOF student will still be in the program next year. Please alert Mrs Bercume or Mr Kiblinger if this applies to your student.

New York Trip: Most everything is ready to go for the New York trip. However, we are working on the schedule for our visits to various financial companies. If you have any connections that may lead to a visit in NYC, please send the contact information to Mr. Bailey (baileytr@pcsb.org).

FBLA State Competition: Our students competed in the District competition in December, resulting in SIXTY FOUR students earning the right to continue to the state-level competition! Congratulations! State competition is in Orlando, March 22-25. The cost is \$300, which covers transportation to and from Orlando, three-night stay at the Hilton Orlando, a night at Dave & Buster’s, and some food.

Within the next few weeks, all sophomores will be interviewing for their Financial Internship course placement. Financial Internship is one of the 11th grade AOF courses that teaches workplace skills through real-world experience in banking or insurance. Please ask your student to show you his/her resume and give you their elevator speech in preparation for these important interviews.

Auction results and fair share: Hats off to the auction committee chairs and all the students, parents, faculty, administrators and business partners who helped pull together this year’s event. The fundraiser brought \$25,000 to our program overall. The shared profits are reflected in the fair share balances for all students who met all stated criteria for “fair share” credit. Students may get an updated account balance from their AOF teacher.

Senior Update: We had our first round of QuickBooks certification testing. Please encourage your student to put forth the honest effort to attend each class period with the intention to learn and study at home. Next QuickBooks testing date is set for January 31st!

9th graders- Dress for success is next Thursday 1-17, and Friday 1-18 you will meet with your mentors. If you are interested in becoming the 9th grade representative for the AOF Board of Directors, please see Mrs.Grossi. Remember there is a quarter 3 leadership assignment. You can find all this information in Focus or see Mrs.Grossi. The next certification date is 1-31. I encourage all of you to prepare and be ready to take one of the three certifications required.

Golf Tournament 2019: We need your help in obtaining golfers, sponsors, and prize donations! Please contact Mr. Bailey (baileytr@pcsb.org) if you can help!

IMPORTANT SENIOR INFORMATION

There are two different financial aid applications that seniors should begin applying for. They are the FFAA (Florida Financial Aid Application) and the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

FFAA- Florida Financial Aid Application – By **April 1st** of senior year

- The FFAA is used as the authorization form for the Bright Futures scholarship.
- This application is used for over 20 State programs including Florida Student Assistance Grant, Rosewood Family Scholarship, and Critical Teacher Shortage Reimbursement Program.
- Seniors should begin applying for the FFAA starting Oct. 1st. It is an online application. The website is www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org.
- Students who qualify for one of the Bright Futures Awards and who fill out the FFAA will automatically be awarded the scholarship.
- Students have until their graduation to meet the criteria.
- **Students who qualify for one of the Bright Futures Scholarship Awards, but do not fill out an FFAA, will not receive the award.**

FAFSA- Free Application for Federal Student Aid – Anytime after Oct. 1st.

- The **FAFSA** is used for **Federal** Financial Aid purposes. **It is free to apply for Federal Financial Aid.** The website for the FAFSA is www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Most schools require students to complete the FAFSA.
- Students should complete the FAFSA even if they do not expect to receive Federal Aid.
- Students should apply as early as possible (after Oct 1) as funds can run out.
- Best to complete FAFSA online to use the IRS Data Retrieval system. There are flags to help guard against mistakes or omissions, and turn around time is faster.
- **BEWARE OF SCAMS-** There are websites that have similar addresses that will charge a fee to complete the FAFSA. These are scams!
- **The correct website is www.fafsa.ed.gov.**