Counselor Connection

April 2020



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KHEAA offers social media outreach in April and May

KHEAA is offering free live streaming and real-time social media outreach while schools are shut down.

Outreach counselors will be live to provide help to middle school and high school students and parents via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in April and at least through mid-May. The schedule is:

April 16, Verification: Learn tips for FAFSA verification, seniors, Instagram

April 21, Reading Your Award Letter, juniors and seniors, Facebook **April 22**, Tips for Being Financially Lit, Twitter

April 23, Essay Writing for Scholarships and Admissions, juniors and seniors, Instagram

April 28, Choosing a Degree: Certificate, associate's, certificates bachelor's; freshmen through seniors, Facebook

April 29, The College Job Experience, Twitter

May 5, Dual Credit, AP and Honors, eighth grade through seniors, Facebook

May 6, The Impact of College and Cultural Shock, Twitter May 7, Transition from Middle School to High School, middle school students and families, Instagram

May 12, Tips for Middle School Students and Families/Q&A, Facebook

May 14, Summer Melt, seniors, Instagram

All sessions begin at 2 p.m. Central time, 3 p.m. Eastern time.

The links are: https://www.facebook.com/KHEAA/ https://twitter.com/KHEAA

https://www.instagram.com/kheaaoutreach/?hl=en



KHEAA publishes the Counselor Connection to share information about student financial aid, college preparation and college planning. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to publications@kheaa.com.

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What 2020 graduates can expect from college courses

Unless they've taken dual credit classes, many high school seniors headed toward college won't really know what to expect when they step into a college classroom for the first time. These tips can help students be prepared for their first day of class.

Most professors take attendance and class participation seriously. Being late for class, missing classes, and not paying attendance in class could hurt your final grade. Attendance policies vary so much that it's not easy to generalize. Read the syllabus for each class carefully because many professors will explain their policies there.

Many colleges and universities have first day of class attendance policies, which allow instructors to drop students who don't attend the first class meeting. If your college does and you have reason to think you might miss a first class, contact those instructors beforehand to let them know your situation.

The best strategy is to make every class on time if at all possible. If you know you're going to have to miss a class or be late, let your professor know. If you come in late, do so with the least amount of disturbance possible.

Participating in class will help your grade and help you establish a relationship with your professor so long as you don't overdo it. Don't be Hermione Granger in Professor Snape's class and hold up your hand every time the professor asks a question.

Expect assignments to help you learn what you need for your chosen career. Even the classes you have to take for general studies will teach you something you can apply to your career or your life in general. In nearly every career, you'll have to analyze and solve problems, often by yourself. You can expect your classwork to focus on that, either through a writing assignment or a lab experiment. Many college classes will have fewer assignments than your high school classes did. Some courses may only have a mid-term exam and a final exam, which means you can't afford to do badly on either of them.

If you do have assignments, you'll need to keep on top of them because you'll rarely have a chance to turn in make-up work for extra credit. If you have a professor who allows that, count yourself lucky.

Virtual library offers resources to students

The Alabama Virtual Library is providing more online resources during the public health crisis. Teachers and students can now access thousands more electronic books and periodicals, in addition to educational software and databases.

Links to the new resources can be found on AVL's All Resources page, **www.avl.lib.al.us/resources/all**.

Many of the additional resources will be available until June 15. The resources for high school students include:

- Visible Body, a 3-D anatomy atlas that provides models that can be viewed from any angle and from varying zoom levels. A dissection tool provides real lab experience.
- **PreStep** for High Schools, where students can find tests, tutorials and e-books. If offers preparation for the ACT, SAT and other tests; tutorials to improve English, math and science skills; and help with basic computer science skills.

AVL's Help Desk is open 24/7 to help students and educators with accessing resources or with technical problems. To ensure that all Alabamians have access to AVL resources from home, the Help Desk can set up access for any Alabama resident through their existing internet service.

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Scholarship Spotlight

Alabama GI Dependents' Educational Benefit Program

Eligibility: The student must:

- be the child or stepchild of an eligible veteran.
- be a resident of Alabama at the time of application.
- attend a public Alabama college or university.
- begin training under the program before turning 26 years old.

If the applicant is a stepchild, the veteran and the stepchild's parent must have been legally married before the child's 19th birthday.

The veteran must:

- have honorably served at least 90 days of continuous active federal military service or been honorably discharged by reason of serviceconnected disability after serving less than 90 days of continuous active federal military service.
- meet 1 of the following criteria:
 - 1. be rated 40 percent or more due to service-connected disabilities or have held the qualifying rating at the time of death.

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- 2. be a former prisoner of war.
- 3. have been declared missing in action.
- 4. have died as the result of a service-connected disability rating or died while on active military service in the line of duty.
- have been a bona fide permanent resident for at least 5 years immediately before the date of the application or the date of the veteran's death . This also applies to a veteran with a 100 percent permanent and total rating.
- have been a permanent civilian resident for at least 1 year immediately before initial entry into federal active military service or any subsequent entry into federal active military service where a 12-month break in service occurred and 1 of the following:
 - 1. have been a current resident for at least 2 years immediately before the date of the application or date of veteran's death.
 - 2. be a current resident who was discharged from active duty within 12 months before the date of the application.
 - 3. have filed a resident Alabama income tax return for the past 10 consecutive years immediately before the date of the application.

Award: Varies depending on veteran's disability status

Contact: County veterans service officer or Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 1509, Montgomery, AL 36102-1509; 334.242.5077; www.va.alabama.gov