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October 2021



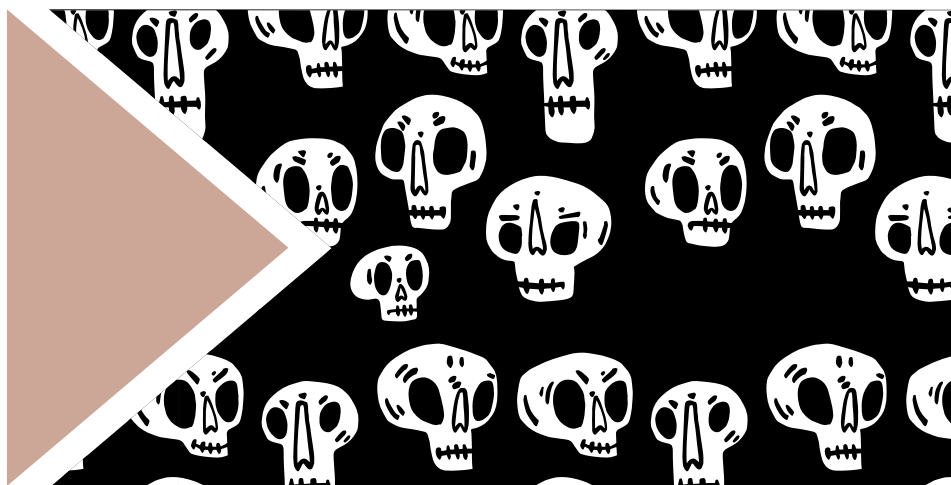
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and financial aid questions, visit

www.kheaa.com



Butler County student wins KHEAA's 2021 essay contest

Delaney Daugherty, a junior at Butler County High School in Morgantown, has won KHEAA's 2021 essay contest.

In her essay, Daugherty wrote, "Education strengthens communities by teaching students how to improve them... education produces citizens that take care of others, lead and cooperate to improve the world around them."

Daugherty and BCHS received certificates in honor of her winning essay. KHEAA staff will do a photo shoot at BCHS, with the photos used in KHEAA publications.

Daugherty will also receive a \$500 scholarship that she can use at the college of her choice.

Every year since 2003, KHEAA has hosted an essay contest in which the winner has received a scholarship and a photo shoot. For the 2022 contest, KHEAA is considering changing the topics of the essay. Interested students can get updates about the contest by going to kheaa.com. Students can also find a list of rules at that website.

A school must participate in the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program for one of its students to be eligible to enter for the 2022 contest. Students from schools featured in the past five years — Butler County, Bullitt East, Warren East, Paducah St. Mary and Logan County — are not eligible for the 2022 contest.



DAUGHERTY

FAFSA for the Win Challenge winners announced

Eight Kentucky high schools and seven 2021 Kentucky high school graduates won \$500 from KHEAA this summer for participating in the FAFSA for the Win Challenge.

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is used to apply for federal and state student aid.

“Completing the FAFSA is a critical step for students as they pursue their goals in higher education and I am so proud to announce our winning schools and students in the KHEAA FAFSA Challenge,” Gov. Andy Beshear said.

The 2021–2022 FAFSA for students entering college this year can be filed at any time. The fastest way to file is to visit <https://studentaid.gov/> and choose Apply for Aid.

The FAFSA challenge was open to all public and private high schools in the state and to 2021 high school graduates who filed the FAFSA. Ninety-four schools registered to participate in the challenge. Schools were awarded \$500 for having the highest percentage increase in FAFSA completion rates and highest percentage increase in FAFSA completion during the period from May 3 through July 30.

There was a 7 percent increase in the Class of 2021’s FAFSA completion during the contest period. Schools with the highest completion rate were:

- duPont Manual High School, Jefferson County, 90.4 percent.
- St. Mary High School, McCracken County, 87.5 percent.
- Raceland-Worthington High School, Greenup County, 84.8 percent.
- Western Hills High School, Franklin County, 68.5 percent.



The schools with the highest increase from May 3 through July 30 were:

- Boyd County High School, 44.8 percent.
- Dawson Springs Junior/Senior High School, Hopkins County, 33 percent.
- Apollo High School, Daviess County, 24.5 percent.
- Oneida Baptist Institute, Clay County, 12.5 percent.

Winners in the random student drawing for \$500 scholarships were:

- Hemi Bell, Bowling Green High School.
- Habiba Darur, Jeffersontown High School.
- Kiersten Dotson, Belfry High School.
- Alexis Marcum, Boyd County High School.
- Maggie Mattingly, Bethlehem High School, Bardstown.
- Melanie Ortega, Doss High School, Louisville.
- Jenna Smith, Atherton High School, Louisville.

Education savings accounts help all Kentuckians

Although many people think education savings accounts are only used by parents to save money to pay for their children's college, that isn't necessarily the case.

KY Saves 529, the state's official education savings vehicle, can be used to save money for children's K-12 education as well as for college. But accounts don't have to be opened by parents. Grandparents and other relatives can open accounts for children. Adults can even open accounts to save for their own college education.

"Whether for a child, a grandchild, another relative or for yourself, KY Saves 529 accounts can be a great resource for Kentuckians to save toward their family's educational goals," said Gov. Andy Beshear.

A KY Saves 529 account can be opened for as little as \$25. Minimum contributions after that are \$25 each. After opening an account, people can also invest through payroll deductions of at least \$15 per pay period.

Withdrawals for qualified education costs are exempt from federal tax. One recent change in federal tax law also allows funds in KY Saves 529 accounts to be used to pay expenses for most apprenticeship programs. Another change lets account holders use up to \$10,000 in their accounts toward repaying eligible student loans.

Qualified withdrawals by Kentucky residents are also exempt from state tax, and KY Saves 529 accounts are not included when schools determine Kentucky need-based college financial aid. Contributions qualify for the current federal \$15,000 annual gift exclusion.

For more information about KY Saves 529, visit kysaves.com.



KHEAA continues hosting social media outreach

KHEAA Outreach will continue to provide live help in the fall via Facebook and Twitter.

The schedule is:

Oct. 25: [Understanding the FAFSA: FAFSA Live, Webinar](#)

Nov. 1: Getting Connected: Resources for Middle School Parents, **Facebook**

Nov. 8: Getting Connected: Resources for Underclassmen, **Twitter**

Nov. 15: Getting Connected: You Can Go to College Too!, **YouTube**

Nov. 29: [Getting Connected: Adults Returning to School, Webinar](#)

Dec. 6: FAFSA Follow-Up: Next Steps, **Facebook**

Dec. 13: FAFSA Follow-Up: Professional Judgments, **Twitter**

Dec. 20: FAFSA Follow-Up: Making Corrections to Your FAFSA, **YouTube**

All sessions begin at 7 p.m. Eastern, 6 p.m. Central.

The links are:

www.facebook.com/KHEAA/

www.twitter.com/KHEAA/

www.youtube.com/user/KHEAAMascot/



Students should know about investment interest rates

Kentucky students who want to invest some of their earnings should learn more about interest rates. Learning the basics about simple interest and compound interest will help them make better investment decisions.

“Kentucky students have a bright future because of the growth we’re seeing in the state’s economy,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “That brighter future can translate into higher earnings, so it’s important for students to learn how to make the most of their investments. That will provide them a better standard of living during their working years and a more comfortable retirement.”

In a savings or investment account, you might receive a compound interest rate, which means you don’t just earn interest based on a percentage of your initial deposit; you earn interest based on a percentage of your initial deposit plus a percentage of the interest you’ve previously earned.

If you make an initial investment of \$10,000 at a 3 percent compound interest rate, compounded annually, you’ll have \$18,061 in your account in 20 years, and \$32,620 in your account in 40 years — your money will have more than tripled without you touching it. Without compound interest, if you were just earning \$300 in interest each year off your initial \$10,000 investment (simple interest), your account only would have grown to \$16,000 after 20 years and \$22,000 after 40 years.

Applications being accepted for Senate Youth Program

The U.S. Senate Youth Program is open to high school juniors and seniors who are currently serving in a school-wide, district, regional or state leadership capacity in a student government, civic or educational organization.

Two student leaders from Kentucky will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship and a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., where they will meet special guests from all levels of government. The opportunity is funded entirely by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

Upon the counselor’s request, application information will be emailed to counselors and/or school officials. Counselors interested may email Donna Melton at donna.melton@education.ky.gov.

All completed applications and tests must be returned with a postmark no later than Oct. 31.



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Seven Kentucky schools named 2021 Blue Ribbon winners

Seven Kentucky schools have been named 2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools based on their overall academic excellence, according to the U. S. Department of Education.

The schools are:

- Anchorage Public School.
- Blessed Sacrament Elementary School, Fort Mitchell.
- Gamaliel Elementary School.
- Greathouse/Shryock Traditional Elementary School, Louisville.
- Heath Elementary School, West Paducah.
- Rosa Parks Elementary School, Lexington.
- St. Henry District High School, Erlanger.

Representatives from Kentucky's Blue Ribbon Schools will join those from other states at the National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony in early November in National Harbor, Maryland.

More information on the program, and a list of past Kentucky winners, is available on the [USED's website](#).



Scholarship Spotlight

Kentucky Association of School Business Officials Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be a student at a Kentucky high school; be a graduating senior; plan to major in business or education; and submit 2 letters of recommendation, 1 from applicant's school and 1 from community or church. These letters must be emailed directly to scholarships.kasbo@kasbo.com from the author. The student's name and high school should be in the subject line.

Award: \$2,500

Deadline: December 16

Number: 3

Contact: School counselor or scholarships.kasbo@kasbo.com

High school planners

Seniors

- Complete the FAFSA if you haven't already done so.
- Meet with college representatives at college fairs or when they visit your school.
- Attend a financial aid seminar if your school offers one.
- If you haven't picked a college yet, narrow your list by visiting schools and talking with students. You should probably talk with your parents too.
- If you're going through the regular admissions process, it's time to ask teachers to write recommendations and to polish your admissions essay if you have to write one.
- Check with each school's financial aid office to see what financial aid forms are needed.



ACT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Scores Available
Dec. 11, 2021	Nov. 5, 2021	TBD
Feb. 12, 2022	Jan. 7, 2022	TBD
April 2, 2022	Feb. 25, 2022	TBD
June 11, 2022	May 6, 2022	TBD
July 16, 2022	June 17, 2022	TBD

SAT National Test Dates

Dec. 4, 2021	Nov. 4, 2021	Dec. 17, 2021
March 12, 2022	Feb. 11, 2022	March 25, 2022
May 7, 2022	April 8, 2022	May 20, 2022
June 4, 2022	May 5, 2022	July 13, 2022