

Grant County High School
Kentucky College Coach Newsletter
September 2020



Welcome Back Braves!!!!

We waved goodbye to yet another summer, and it's time to hit the books again. The 2020-2021 academic year bears little resemblance to past years. The sights and sounds are different. When you log into Google Meet to attend your classes, you will see some new faces and old ones. But the goals are the same.

As the Kentucky College Coach at Grant County High school, I'm in place to mentor students, help them get accepted into a college of their choice, and/or pursue a career or trade in their chosen field. I will be conducting events, and Google Meets that are available to all high school students, but my primary purpose is to work with a core group of 60 students individually or in small groups.

I looked forward to meeting with my core group of students in person to assist them in making plans for after high school, but these are crazy times, and meeting in person isn't possible at this time. However, I'm adapting my school year plans to fit our current circumstances. Right now, all the activities will occur virtually. Like the teachers, I'll use Google Meet for financial aid sessions, virtual college visits, KEES, and guest speakers that include college admissions advisors. Guest speakers may also include professionals who work in cybersecurity, marketing, finance, human resources, diagnostics (sonography)—to name a few fields.

Also, there will be a monthly Kentucky College Coach (KCC) newsletter. Each edition will include articles related to college access, reminders, deadlines, important dates, things to keep in mind, and a Kentucky college spotlight to provide students and parents with the most up-to-date information on Kentucky Colleges.

Space in the program is limited, and my roster for juniors and seniors is full. However, I have spots available for freshmen and sophomores. If you are a child's parent in either of those grades and would like your child to participate in this program, please drop me an email requesting permission and media release forms.

Alisa Adams
Kentucky College Coach
Grant County High School

Quote of the Month

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest" ~ Benjamin Franklin

ACT Registration Deadlines

Deadline	Test Date
September 17th	Oct. 10th, 17th, 24th, 25th
November 6th	Dec. 12th
January 8th	Feb. 6th
March 12th	Apr. 17th
May 7th	June 12th
June 18th	Jul 17th

Seniors, please remember the 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens October 1st. Make your parents aware of this date and the importance of completing the FAFSA sooner rather than later. Grant County High School will be hosting a FAFSA completion night on October 29th at 6:00 pm. Right now, we don't know if this will be hosted in-person or virtually. As soon as we know, there will be announcements via the district and GCHS Kentucky College Coach social media pages.

KHEAA FAFSA Completion Guide

https://www.kheaa.com/pdf/pubs/FAFSA_Completion_Guide.pdf?main=1

KEES Award Amounts

GPA	Bonus Amount	ACT Score	Bonus Amount
4.00	\$500	28 or above	\$500
3.90	\$475	27	\$464
3.80	\$450	26	\$428
3.75	\$437	25	\$393
3.70	\$425	24	\$357
3.60	\$400	23	\$321
3.50	\$375	22	\$286
3.40	\$350	21	\$250
3.30	\$325	20	\$214
3.25	\$312	19	\$179
3.20	\$300	18	\$143
3.10	\$275	17	\$107
3.00	\$250	16	\$71
2.90	\$225	15	\$36
2.80	\$200		
2.75	\$187		
2.70	\$175		
2.60	\$150		
2.50	\$125		

Amounts may change based on funding.

Don't Forget your KEES

The Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) is a significant financial aid program for Kentucky students who plan to attend college. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required, but the higher your GPA, the more award dollars you can accumulate.

All Kentucky high school students should visit the [KHEAA website](#) and set up an account. Juniors and seniors should have already completed the steps for setting up an account. Creating an account and logging in will help students keep up with their [KEES](#) awards, which accumulates each year of high school. To set up their accounts, students need their social security numbers. For the security question, pick something with an answer that never changes. For example, your favorite television show might be Supernatural, but who knows what it will be next year. The name of your first pet will always be the same and something you won't forget.

Remember, your GPA shouldn't look like a gas price your parents would be excited about.

Check out this additional KHEAA resource: High school basics: <https://www.kheaa.com/pdf/pubs/ky/HSBasics.pdf>

Tips for Minding Your Marketing

Let's talk about social media and the part it plays in the college applications process. The one thing all grade levels have in common is social media. From Facebook to Twitter and Instagram to Snapchat, nearly every high school student is dedicated to maintaining an online presence.

The college application process involves transcripts, SAT, and ACT scores, but one thing prospective college students often overlook is the impact of their social media content. This is called marketing. Wait...what? Marketing? Don't you need to get a marketing degree to be a marketer? The short answer is a resounding **NO**. Social media platforms have steadily evolved from a way to network with other people to a miasma of self-indulgent expression, tasteless jokes, and misinformation. Every time a person posts a statement, uploads a picture, shares a joke, or a video to Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, they are making an impression. And like it or not, college admissions counselors do check applicant social media account.

Admissions officers look for red flags such as language that is offensive or can be construed as sexist or racist. Another thing they look for is biographical information that is contradictory to what appears on the application. Avoid liking pages with titles such as "I Hate School" or "15 Reasons to Love Ted Bundy." Colleges look for applicants who will be a positive influence on campus culture.

The first thing an admissions officer sees is the profile picture. The best practice is to keep it professional. Take a photo against a solid background and smile. Choose your interests wisely. Anything you like will show up on your page.

Remember, even if you think it's stupid or unfair for college admissions counselors to look at your social media, it still happens. In August, Northeastern University sent warning letters to 115 incoming students who answered an Instagram poll stating they planned to ignore public health advisors and party when they arrived on campus. Failure to sign an agreement to observe campus rules would result in Northeastern revoking their offers.

Be smart. College is a young person's first grown-up purchase. Check your self-indulgence at the door. Be polite lest a public war of words comes back to haunt you. Your social media doesn't have to read like a resumé, but colleges want to know what you bring to the table and how your presence will enrich their campus.

College Myth Buster

“I can’t afford to go to college.”

Yes, you can. If you make wise choices you can afford to go to college. Over the course of the 2020-2021 year, the KCC monthly newsletter will include information on the many possibilities for making college affordable. Options include attending a community college instead of a university to get the general education requirements out of the way, taking advantage of dual-credit classes while still in high school. There are a number of possibilities!

Something to Think About

Test-optional schools are now a thing. For students who aren’t good test-takers, this sounds like a great opportunity. However, there’s a bigger picture to consider. The goal of “test-optional” is to increase accessibility, but increased access doesn’t translate to increased affordability. Test scores are often a determining factor in financial aid packages. Test optional doesn’t affect need-based, but it does affect merit-based aid. It’s better to put extra effort into learning test-taking strategies than not to test at all.

Kentucky College Spotlight

University of Kentucky

Do you bleed blue? Do you consider yourself part of the University of Kentucky’s Big Blue Nation and dream of being a member of their campus community? If so, this month’s Kentucky college spotlight is for you!

University of Kentucky athletics is a big deal in Kentucky. “Cats, Cats, cats!” is a household chant, and the Wildcats are on every young person’s radar from an early age, it also puts the University in their minds when it’s time to start touring colleges.

The University of Kentucky is a public university located in the heart of the bluegrass and they offer more than 200 majors and minors.

The average ACT score of University Kentucky students is 25.8 and the average GPA of incoming freshmen is 3.78. Current tuition and fees for Kentucky residents are \$12,484, with room and board adding \$13,768 for a total of \$26,252 per year. Their current enrollment is 31,051 and 89% of those students have received financial aid.



They are one of eight institutions in the country with the full complement of liberal arts, engineering, professional, agricultural and medical colleges and



disciplines on one contiguous campus. So, if you want to attend UK's Law, Pharmacy, Medicine schools, they would still be on their main campus.



Popular majors include biology, psychology, animal sciences, equine sciences, and any of their business majors.



UK's College of Arts and Sciences is their biggest college.



They have the #1 ranked engineering school in the state, just added Biomedical engineering as their 10th engineering pathway.



Schedule an in person or virtual visit here → <https://visit.uky.edu/walking-tour>



You can follow them on their official Twitter account → <https://twitter.com/BBNUnited> #gocats #BBN

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