

# GUIDANCE OFFICE NEWS

SACOPEE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2013

## College Applications

Many seniors have already applied to multiple colleges, while some are still deciding. Most applications can be completed through the common application, found at:

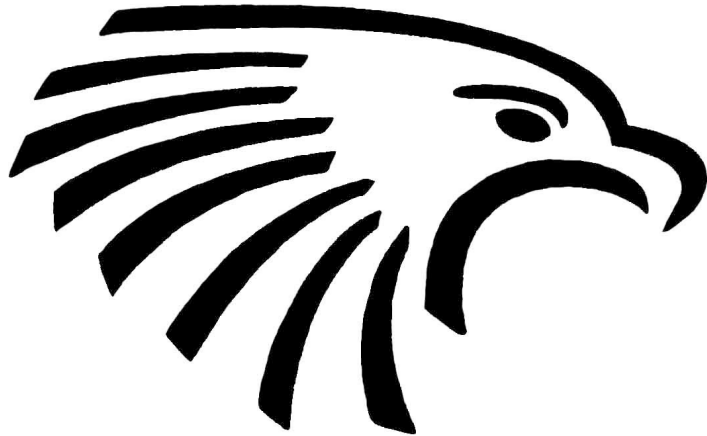
<http://www.commonapp.org>

Students are able to complete and apply to over 500 participating colleges online.

Watch for deadlines and bring your acceptance letter to the guidance office.

Please contact Ms. Landry in the guidance office with all questions at: 207-625-8541, or

[llandry@sad55.org](mailto:llandry@sad55.org)



## PAYING FOR COLLEGE

### Financial Aid

Financial Aid can help you and your family meet college costs, both educational (tuition, fees, and books) and personal (housing, food, and travel). Many families and students can't pay the full cost of education by themselves, and by applying for financial aid, you may receive help that you weren't expecting.

**Types of Financial Aid** - There are three types:

- Grants or Scholarships (gift money that doesn't need to be paid back);
- Loans (student, parent or alternative options, must be repaid - usually after students have graduated or left school);
- Work Study (part of the financial aid package which allows students to work on campus and earn a small paycheck).

## How to Apply

- The [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the first step for college-bound students. Students and parents may complete and submit the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) after January 1st.
- The [CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE](#) is required by some private colleges and universities. This is a completely on-line process and is accessed through [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).
- Andrea Cross, the assistant director of financial aid at Bowdoin College, will be at Sacopee on January 28th and February 1st, 2014. She will help you complete all financial aid forms for free. Sign up in the guidance office today!
- Watch for deadlines. Missing a deadline means less money for college!

## Scholarship Information

In addition to applying for financial aid, students are encouraged to visit the guidance office for local and national scholarships. All scholarships that we receive are emailed to students on firstclass and to parents. If you have not been receiving emails, please respond to Ms. Landry on firstclass, and she will add you to the list. Other useful sites include: **Finance Authority of Maine** <http://www.famemaine.com> offers the "nuts and bolts" of the financial aid process. FAME also offers support in filling out the FAFSA form along with the basic framework for grant, scholarship, and loan programs. **FinAid** [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) is a comprehensive financial aid website that offers financial aid information, advice, and tools. The site is free and is a great place to start for all your financial aid questions. **Maine Education Services** <http://www.mesfoundation.com> is a non-profit site designed for Maine residents seeking to obtain loans for higher education. **Fastweb** <http://www.fastweb.com> is a very popular website for locating national and local scholarships.