

SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Seniors,

I have some very important information to share with you, and I ask that you **take this information home and share it with your parents** as well. Remember, the more you do now, the better off you will be when you graduate.

If you know which college you want to attend, it is not too early to **apply for admissions**; in fact, I urge you to do this early, or at least start gathering information about your prospective college. When you do send in your college application, please come **sign up** for a transcript to be sent in my office. Colleges will need this in order to complete the admission process.

College Day! Please check the website of the college that you are interested in attending for potential college/university days, which allow you to visit and explore the campus. Many of these events require you to preregister on the website, and if you plan on missing school for a college day, you must let Mrs. Medart know in advance. After your college day, you must provide the office with a college day note or registration form in order to receive an ***excused absence***.

All college students are required to have the **meningitis vaccine** 10 days prior to the first day of the term, in which you plan on entering. If you get the vaccine this year, then it will cost you a minimal amount, but if you wait until after the age of 18, it can be hundreds of dollars, so do **NOT** delay doing this. The nurse usually has this vaccine available in the Spring. Listen for announcements.

The LEARN rep, Mrs. Hester, will be here to explain the program to you on Sept 15th during enrichment. This is the person who will help you with your FAFSA. Everyone will need to complete this process. If you have a personal reason for not wanting to complete this, please come see me.

If you are interested in the military, please let me know, and we will put you in touch with a recruiter. I suggest that you visit with all branches of the service to see what each has to offer, so that you can explore all of your options and make an informed decision. There are many great opportunities and scholarship programs available through the military, which the recruiters can further explain. .

Smyer High School has a career center web page. It is on the Smyer ISD webpage>Counselor's Corner>Career Center. You can find this at:
<https://johodnett44.wixsite.com/website>or just scan this QR code:





Counselor's Corner has resources on military, college, college admission, financial aid, references, and job searches, scholarships, and interest inventories. This site can help you explore different careers and job possibilities based on salary, location, growing need, and many more criteria. ALL scholarships will be listed here. I update this as soon as I get a new scholarship so check it often!

I know this is a lot of information, but it is very important that you read, understand, and do the things in this newsletter. Please come see me if you do not understand. Going to college is a confusing process and I want you to ask for help if you need it! Parents are more than welcome to call or come see me at any time as well. You will get newsletters about every 6 weeks. I hope you have a wonderful senior year. Good luck Class of **2026!**

Jo Hodnett – SHS Counselor
806-234-2935 ex 3003

Important Dates:

Sept 15	The LEARN lady will be here to explain the FAFSA program and how she can help you.
Oct 15	ASVAB – All seniors - This is a career exploration test administered by the armed services. It does NOT enlist you into the military. It does give you an opportunity to assess your skills and explore possible career options. People pay hundreds of dollars for similar tests. Please do your best and get accurate, personalized information.
Oct 22	SAT test - Your 1st SAT test is free. Retests are \$68. The last day to sign up is Sept. 12. Money is due at sign up in my office.
Oct 29	Lubbock Civic Center for a Career Expo – All seniors - There will be many local venders and employers. You will be able to visit with them to get more information about programs and jobs that you are interested in. <i>You will love this.</i> (8:00-12:00)
Dec 10	TSI test. Your 1st TSI test is free. Retests are \$12 for math and \$12 for ELA. Money is due at sign up in my office.