



BSSHS A+ Newsletter

Extra! Extra!

The State of Missouri has recently initiated some changes to the A+ program that all students and parents need to be aware of, these changes may impact a student's A+ benefits :

- The A+ Program will only pay for 105% of the course work to complete an associates degree.
- Beginning with the class of 2015 students must score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I End of Course Exam (this requirement may be waived after completing one semester of post-secondary education with a 2.5 GPA or better).
- Effective Spring 2012, the maximum A+ Program benefit a student may receive is capped at \$149 per credit hour.
- The A+ Program will not pay for repeated coursework.
- If a student withdraws from a course that the A+ Program paid for, the student's A+ benefit for the next semester of enrollment will be reduced by the dollar amount of the course they dropped the previous semester.

Are you A+ Eligible?

In order to receive the A+ tuition benefits from the state, students must graduate from an A+ School meeting the following criteria:

- Attend an A+ designated school for at least 3 years prior to graduation.
- Have a 2.5 GPA over 8 semesters (un-rounded and un-weighted).
- Have 95% average attendance over 8 semesters (un-rounded).
- Maintain good citizenship, and avoid the illegal use of drugs/alcohol.
- Complete 50 hours of unpaid tutoring/mentoring of students in the Blue Springs School District (all tutoring must be arranged through the A+ office).
- Score proficient or advanced on the Algebra I EOC.

A+ students are responsible for maintaining their eligibility requirements, if you would like to know your status see Mr. Sapp in the main office.

TUTOR TRAINING DATES 11-12

All A+ students must attend ONE training session **before** tutoring. All trainings are from 2:40-3:15 PM
You can schedule an individual training by making an appointment with Mr. Sapp in the A+ office.

Thursday, January 12, 2012	2:40-3:15	BSSHS Media Center
Tuesday, January 24, 2012	2:40-3:15	FC Commons
Tuesday, February 2, 2012	2:40-3:15	BSSHS Media Center
Thursday, March 29, 2012	2:40-3:15	BSSHS Media Center
Thursday, April 19, 2012	2:40-3:15	FC Commons
Tuesday, May 1, 2012	2:40-3:15	FC Commons
Thursday, May 3, 2012	2:40-3:15	BSSHS Media Center
Tuesday, May 8, 2012	2:40-3:15	BSSHS Media Center

Resources

www.mcckc.edu

Planning on using A+? Make sure you check out the Metropolitan Community Colleges website, there is a wealth of information for A+ students.

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

www.act.org

Provides information about registering for the ACT test; gives practice tests

Important Dates

Seniors need to fill out the Application for Admissions for the college they plan on attending go to: www.mcckc.edu/apply. For the Metropolitan Community Colleges students will also need to take the COMPASS test or have ACT scores sent to the school. See Mr. Sapp for an enrollment checklist that will walk you through the steps that need to be taken to enroll for the fall semester.

December 21, 2011 Last day for seniors to enroll in the A+ program.

After **January 1, 2012** Seniors need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Once the parent's federal taxes have been completed go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> to fill out the form. This is required if you plan to use your A+ benefits. We recommend having the FAFSA completed by March 1, 2012.

January 19, 2012 MCC presentation for students in the PAC at 9:15 AM.

February 2, 2012 Financial Aid Night at BSHS.

February 12, 2012 FAFSA Frenzy at BSHS, get help filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

February 25, 2012 is the deadline to file attendance appeals, remember only certain things like chronic illness, hospitalization, funerals and court dates can be appealed. See the A+ coordinator for the form.

March 8, 2012 students will have the opportunity to take the COMPASS placement test at BSSHS during the school day. The COMPASS test may also be taken at any of the MCC campuses.

April 1, 2012 is the deadline for the MCC scholarship application. Students are encouraged to apply for scholarships to pay for books and fees that is not covered by the A+ program.

April 5, 2012 is the deadline to turn in the Intent to Access A+ Benefits form for seniors, if you plan on using A+ at a community college. This form is available in the A+ office or on the A+ Web Page.

May 2012 Seniors need to have fill out the Final transcript request to be sent to the college they are attending. The final transcript will have the A+ stamp which will inform the community college that the student has met all of the A+ eligibility requirements.

May 4, 2012 is the deadline for **SENIORS** to turn in all tutoring hours to the A+ office, all others need to turn in tutor logs by the end of the semester.

May 10, 2012 enrollment group for South students who plan on attending MCC. Students will have the opportunity to attend an enrollment group for the fall semester at BSSHS from 7:25—10:30 in the Library. There will also be an enrollment group at Blue River Community College that evening for South students and their parents.