

January 2011
FINANCIAL AID BASICS
What do I need to do now?

- Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Go to #1 – “Students and Parents apply for a PIN”
- Student and 1 parent need to apply for a PIN #. This is like an electronic signature, which is needed when you complete the FAFSA.
- Go to #1 – Fill out the “FAFSA on the Web Worksheet”. You can print out your own copy or pick one up from the guidance office. Fill this out with your parent/guardian before you fill out the FAFSA on the web.
- Don’t delay! Estimate based on 2010 taxes if needed. If you get your taxes done before February 10, go ahead and use the 2010 tax information. If you do not plan to complete your taxes that early, ESTIMATE so that you will be eligible for full aid. When you get your actual tax numbers, you can go back to your FAFSA and fix any discrepancies.
- Save your PIN #, password and usernames! You and your parent/guardian will be able to use the same PIN# every year you are in college. Do not lose or forget this information – save in an appropriate folder at home.
- Put all your anticipated colleges on the FAFSA. If you put down a NY State school, you will automatically be prompted to fill out the TAP Application for NY State Aid. Go ahead and complete this information as well.
- Once the colleges get your information, they will send you a financial package, detailing how much aid you will get and possible loans. It is up to you whether or not you want to accept this package/loans.
- If you have any questions about filling out the FAFSA or reading your financial letters from the colleges, please see your high school counselor or call the Financial Aid Office at your college.
- **GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL AID PROCESS ☺**