



## College & Career Bulletin – Welcome Back 2020-2021



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### Hey Firebirds!

I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and safe. With the Governor's announcement that in person schooling will be postponed it is vital that you are keeping your mind and body active and healthy. Here is some helpful information.

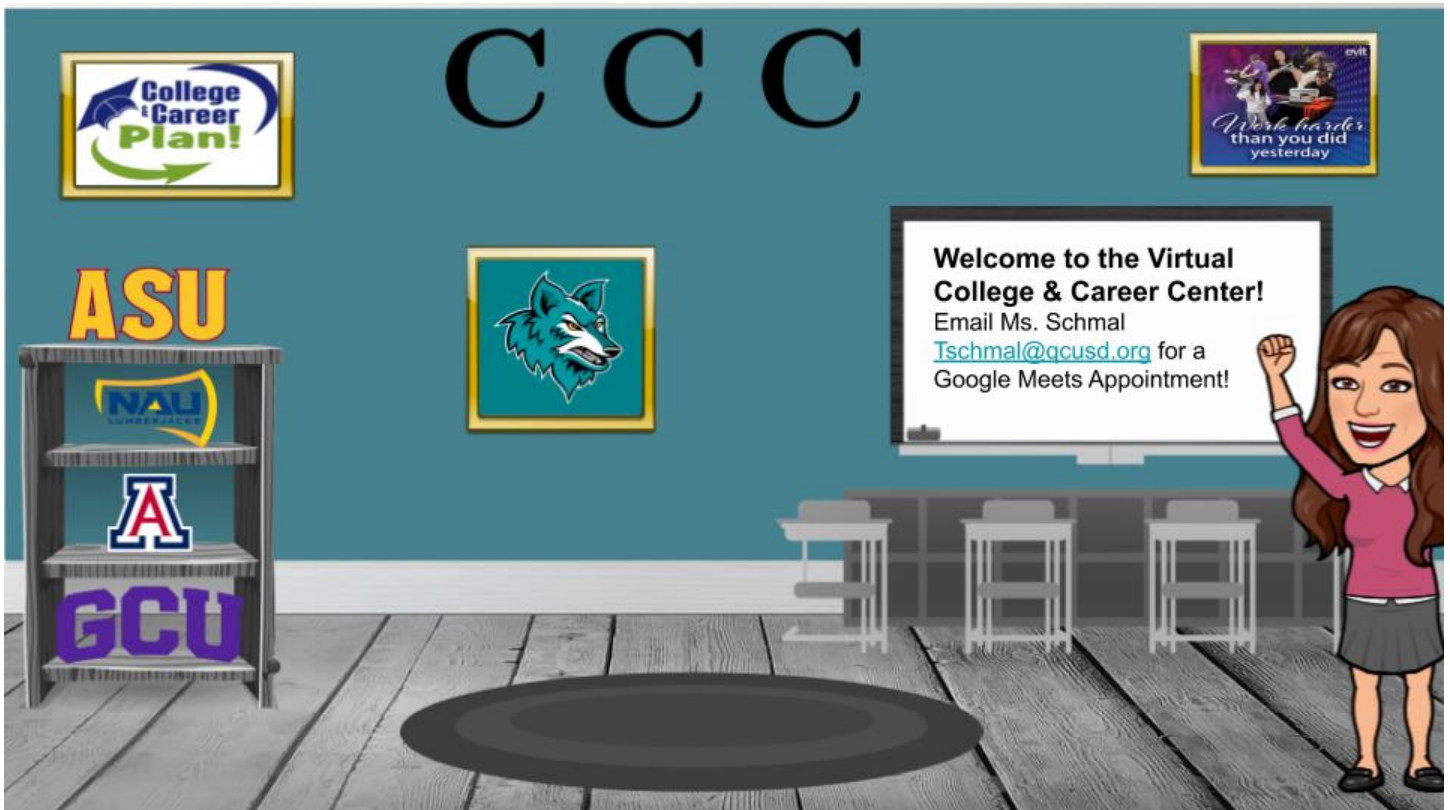
[Talking to your Teen/Tween about Covid-19](#)

[Mayo-Clinic advice for children](#)

[Teen Support during this Pandemic](#)

[Why Masks?](#)

**Have you been to the Virtual College & Career Center?** We are all adjusting to the Virtual implementation of school and I want to give you access to your College & Career Center while you are away from campus. It's important to keep setting goals for after high school and doing research into careers you are interested in, even virtually, to help you meet those goals. Visit my ["Virtual CCC"](#) with this **code: 5mp6msr** to get access. There are links to Career Search videos , Scholarships and much more.



**Scholarships:** I am piloting a new way to apply for scholarships. Going Merry takes much of the work out of applying by allowing you to create a profile that will pre populate your information. It will allow seamless upload of information from your Counselors and College & Career Specialist. It will also allow us to view the status of scholarships, helping us track our data so we can let students know which scholarships are good for them to apply.

Going Merry ([www.goingmerry.com](http://www.goingmerry.com)) is an awesome new scholarship website - it makes scholarship applications as easy as college applications are when you use the Common App! There is a big waiting list but you can skip it when you sign up here: [Going Merry Scholarship Search](#)

Going Merry is completely different from the older scholarship search engines:

- Matching - Once you fill out your profile, you are automatically matched with scholarships you are most eligible for.
- Direct Applications - You can apply directly to multiple scholarships, you never need to leave the site.
- Autofilled Applications - All of the information from your profile is autofilled into each application, saving you time.
- Estimated Application Times - Every scholarship has estimated application time to help you prioritize them.
- Scholarships Grouped By Essay Topics - Scholarships are grouped by common essay topics so you can minimize the number of essays you have to write.

[Parent Introduction to Going Merry & Scholarship search & applications](#)

## Preparing for College: Fall Tips

### Junior High

- Explore your strengths and talk to family about their careers and what they like about them
- Keep your grades up – You want A's & B's - Very important in Spanish and Algebra I (8th grade only). These grades will get posted on your High School Transcript
- Look for opportunities for Leadership and Responsibility at your school

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Virtually Tour College Campuses – Research programs of interest at local & out of State colleges.
- Look for local College Fairs to attend - NACAC's College Fair is going Virtual - here is the link to register [Virtual College Fair](#) - there are several during September and October.
- Keep your grades up – Strive for A's & B's in all classes.
- Volunteer - stay connected to your community in any way you are able.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Search for summer activities that you support your areas of interest and talents.
- Get to know your Counselor
- Virtually tour colleges and universities and once we open up again make plans to visit colleges – Research programs of interest at local and out of state colleges. NACAC's College Fair is going Virtual - here is the link to register [Virtual College Fair](#) - there are several during September and October.
- Keep your grades up – Strive for A's & B's in all classes.
- Volunteer - this can be difficult during the pandemic but find where you are needed, be that at home, with siblings, or working as an essential worker and think about how this has changed or impacted your life and what it means going into our new reality. This can be helpful for College/University and scholarship applications.
- College Bound Athletes – Go to [NCAA.org](http://NCAA.org) and set up an account

## 11th Grade

- Take the PSAT in October. Decide whether the SAT or ACT highlights your strengths more. (Covid is changing how colleges look at students and check with the college you are interested in as to what their requirements are. If you still have questions call the Admissions Advisors, they will be able to help you understand what they look at to evaluate students.
- Begin your Scholarship search. Fill out your profile on ["Going Merry"](#) and get scholarships tailored to your interests.
- Virtually tour colleges and universities and once we open up again make plans to visit colleges – Research programs of interest at local and out of state colleges.
- NACAC's College Fair is going Virtual - here is the link to register [Virtual College Fair](#) - there are several dates during September, October and November.
- Keep your grades up – Strive for A's & B's in all classes.
- Volunteer - this can be difficult during the pandemic but find where you are needed, be that at home, with siblings helping tutor online classes, or working as an essential worker and think about how this has changed or impacted your life and what it means going into our new reality. This will be valuable for College/University and scholarship applications.
- College Bound Athletes – Go to [NCAA.org](#) and set up an account or update your information.

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