FAFSA Information-GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The Louisiana Department of Education now requires all High School SENIORS complete the FAFSA in order to be eligible for graduation. If you are unable to complete the FAFSA please speak with your counselor to discuss alternate options available to fulfill this requirement for graduation.

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) must be completed by everyone applying for federal financial aid. Most colleges that will issue scholarships require students to complete the FAFSA to be eligible for scholarships. The application can be completed online at www.fafsa.gov .The TOPS application is the FAFSA and must be completed by the state deadline for a TOPS application to be considered.

While students may not be eligible to start the actual application you can start the process of setting up your FSA ID. A FSA ID is the username and password used to log on to certain U.S. Department of Education websites. You must have an email address that you have access to in order to complete this process. Parents and students must set up their OWN FSA IDs (meaning you cannot have the same email address for both accounts). It is important to keep this ID information in a safe place as you will need to use it each time you log in to complete the FAFSA.

CLASS OF 2020---THINGS TO DO

- 1. Register for a FSA ID--you can do this now, save the FSA ID for both you and your parent in a safe location to use later.
- 2. Make sure you have all of the correct documents needed to complete the form.
- 3. Complete the **2020-2021 FAFSA application** (opens October 1, 2019).
- 4. Turn in a copy of the email confirmation that your <u>"FAFSA has been processed"</u> to your counselor with your FULL NAME written on the top.