GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

WHAT ARE SCHOLARSHIPS?

Scholarships are a monetary award that students do not have to pay back. Scholarships are available based on financial need and/or achievement (academic, athletic, leadership, artistic talents, etc.). Scholarships are an important part of financial aid. Community involvement sometimes is included in the selection as many scholarships are generated by community funds.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

Scholarships usually have certain criteria for applicants. Students who meet the criteria may apply. Students with talents (academically, artistically, athletically) and/or financial need can apply for scholarships.

WHERE CAN I FIND SCHOLARSHIPS I'M ELIGIBLE FOR?

There are many scholarship databases online, including <u>Mrs. Weiss's website</u>. Colleges also offer scholarships. Other scholarship resources include: community, religious, and social organizations, your parents' or your own employers, and local businesses. Seniors are encouraged to look at these right away and do a monthly list of scholarships they wish to apply for. This procedure will help them to stay on top of the application process.

<u>icansucceed.org</u> <u>raise.me</u>

fastweb.com scholarships.com finaid.org

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications will be included with scholarship information. Most scholarship applications are online and submitted electronically. However, some may require a paper application that needs to be mailed. Completing the scholarship application accurately, completely, and neatly is extremely important. Type the information whenever possible. Sometimes an essay is a requirement of a scholarship application. These types of scholarships often go unclaimed as students do not apply if they have to write an essay or they wait too long before they start the writing process. Some scholarships merely require completing an application; others ask for application fees, essays, recommendation letters, or presentation of talents.

* NOTE: Be thorough in your search but be aware of scholarship searches that require a registration fee, as those are scams.

WHEN DO I SUBMIT MY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS?

Each scholarship will have a deadline and they are crucial!! Late applications are usually not even considered. When references or recommendation letters are required, be sure to give plenty of time to the person completing them for you AND provide them with a copy of your recommendation form. Be sure to note whether the recommendation letter is to be sent with the application or in a separate envelope. It is important to start early and meet the application deadline.