

**Scholarship Tips & Information**

**Who gives scholarships?**

* Foundations
* Businesses
* Employers
* Civic organizations and charities

**How can I find scholarships?**

* **Naviance**: Scholarships that have been sent to FWHS are all listed in Naviance. Go to the **Colleges Tab**-scroll down to the bottom of the page to **Scholarships & Money**
* **Scholarship Match**: Scholarships that might be suitable for you based on your information listed in Naviance
* **Scholarship List**: All scholarships that FWHS has listed in Naviance
* **Scholarship Applications**: Scholarships that you have applied to via Naviance
* **Scholarship Search**: A national database of scholarships; when you enter your information, you will receive notices about scholarships for which you might be eligible
* **Colleges**:
	+ Many colleges have their own scholarships
	+ Contact the colleges’ financial aid offices where you are applying and ask what scholarships are available and which ones you are eligible for
* **Fairfield Scholarship Foundation** <http://fairfieldscholarshipfoundation.org/>
	+ Scholarships available to FWHS and FLHS students
	+ One application for multiple scholarships
	+ Application available in early April – See School Counselor
* **\*Fairfield County Community Foundation** [www.fccfoundation.org](http://www.fccfoundation.org)
	+ Can apply for and be awarded up to four scholarships
	+ Applications available in January; close in late March
	+ Required materials for the online application
* Most current official Transcript
* Letter of Recommendation (2nd letter if required by scholarship criteria).
* Complete copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) that is available online by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Visit [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov)
* Personal Statement/Essay (2nd essay if required by the scholarship)
* **CT Council for Philanthropy** <https://www.ctphilanthropy.org/resources/scholarships-youth-opportunities>
	+ Various regional scholarships
* **Other resources/Search websites**:
	+ **U.S. Dept. of Education** <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>
	+ **U.S. Dept. of Labor** <http://careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch>
	+ [www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)
	+ [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
	+ www.collegeNet.com
	+ [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
	+ [www.scholarships4students.com](http://www.scholarships4students.com)
	+ [www.scholarshiphelp.com](http://www.scholarshiphelp.com)
	+ www.studentaid.ed.gov
	+ www.finaid.org
	+ [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
	+ [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

**How do I apply for scholarships?**

* Organization is a **MUST**!
* Determine which and how many scholarships you want to apply for
* Set a goal for your applications: one per week? Two? Ten per month?
* Create a spreadsheet with deadlines and requirements
* Create folders for each application and required documents
* Give yourself plenty of time for each application
* Save your essays by theme, e.g., leadership, community service, etc. so you can tweak and reuse them where applicable
* Meet all deadlines and make sure there are no errors

**10 Tips for writing effective scholarship essays:**

* Read the directions and make sure you understand them before you start writing.
* Think about what you are going to write and organize your thoughts before you start writing.
* Begin the writing process by writing an outline.
* Make sure your outline touches on every aspect required per the instructions.
* Write your essay by elaborating on each point in the outline.
* Use clear, concise and simple language throughout the essay.
* State your accomplishments without coming across as if you are bragging.
* Make sure grammar & spelling are impeccable.
* Read question again and then read your essay to be certain that the essay addresses every point.
* Have someone with strong writing & editing skills proofread the essay.

**Avoiding Scholarship Scams**:

* The Federal Trade Commission suggests you look for these warning signs of scholarship scams:
* **“**The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”
* “The scholarship service will do all the work.”
* “The scholarship will cost some money.”
* “You can’t get this information anywhere else.”
* “You are a ‘finalist’ in a contest you never entered, or you have been selected by a ‘national foundation’ to receive a scholarship.”
* “The scholarship service needs your credit card or checking account number in advance.”
* The federal and state governments only make scholarship offers via FAFSA
* Don’t give out your social security number to search programs
* If it sounds too good to be true…it most likely is
* **NEVER PAY ANYONE OR ANY ORGANIZATION TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOU!**

**\*\*\* STOP BY THE COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER – P38 – ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**GOOD LUCK!!!!**