

June and July 2020 Newsletter

Dear ACPS Students, Families, and Alumni,

The college search and admissions process is time consuming and a bit daunting in good times. With all that is happening in the world and our country, many students and parents are feeling overwhelmed and quite frankly, scared. The Scholarship Fund will continue to share updates and information related to higher education and help you navigate the ever-changing admissions and financial aid process.

The **Scholarship Fund office will be OPEN ALL SUMMER**. While we can't meet in person yet, Mr. Waters and I are available via email, phone or zoom meeting. Please email me, college@acps.k12.va.us or Mr. Waters, darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us throughout the summer if you'd like help with college or financial aid planning!

For regular updates and info, remember to follow us on Twitter & Instagram: @TC2College

JUNIORS: Class of 2021

- **Testing-ACT & SAT** – Typically we recommend that all juniors take both an SAT and an ACT to determine which test is a better fit for their test-taking-style. Then rising seniors can spend the summer preparing to retake the test of their choice in late summer or early fall of senior year. **However, due to the pandemic, when and where testing is offered and how testing will be used in the admissions process is changing.**
 - Here are the links to the [ACT](#) and [SAT/AP/College Board](#) COVID-19 updates and resources.
 - [ACT 2020 & 2021 Test Dates](#)
 - [SAT 2020 & 2021 Test Dates](#)
- **It's time to finalize your list of colleges** - The Scholarship Fund would be happy to talk through your list of potential colleges and help you choose 6-8 schools that:
 - **Offer your major of interest:** Not sure what you want to study? Take your career and personality assessments in [Naviance](#)!
 - **Match your GPA & SAT/ACT scores (2 safety, 2 match, 2 reach):** Take a look at the average GPA and SAT/ACT score for admittance to [4-year public and private colleges in VA](#), check out the scattergrams in [Naviance](#), and make a free account with [Princeton Review](#).
 - **Will college be affordable for your family:** Use the [Net Price Calculator](#) to get a personalized price for each college on your list. The Net Price Calculator will take into account your family size, income, and grades and calculate how much your family is eligible for in financial aid and scholarships at that particular school. You'll find that each college has a different starting price (or "sticker price") and will award you a different amount of financial aid

- NY Times June 3, 2020 Article: "[How to Normalize the College Search Process for Juniors](#)"
- **Virtually visit and tour colleges:**
 - [5 Ways to Tour Colleges from Home](#)-College Board Blog, April 2020
 - [NACAC Virtual College Fairs](#)
 - NACAC Corona Virus [College Fairs and Admissions Updates](#)
 - A [guide](#) to virtual campus tours
 - [Campus Tours](#)
 - [YouVisit](#)
 - [Chicago HBCU Alumni Alliance](#)
 - Colleges are also creating their own virtual info sessions, tours and workshops. Check out the home, visit or admissions page for colleges you are interested in to learn more.

● **Honors Colleges and Honors Programs; what do these programs offer, who do they serve and how does this impact cost?**-[Honors colleges and programs](#) can offer students a large campus with all the bells and whistles (sports teams, sprawling campus, student organizations) while providing a rigorous curriculum in a smaller, more intimate format. Since many honors programs and colleges are offered at large, public universities, the price can be less than a small, private liberal arts school.

● **Consider whether you would be a good candidate to apply Early Action/Early Decision or to apply for the QuestBridge or Gates scholarship** - Not sure? I'd be happy to help you evaluate your options. Please email me ASAP if you think you may be interested, as there are steps you should take now to begin your applications before the school year ends.

- **Early Action/Early Decision:** Ivy Leagues and many highly selective colleges accept almost 50% of their freshman class through Early Action/Early Decision. Students who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses may want to consider applying early.
 - Early Action (EA): Accepted students are not required to attend EA college
 - Early Decision (ED): Accepted students are required to attend ED college and withdraw all other college applications. **Because ED is binding, it is important that students with financial need apply ONLY to colleges that guarantee to meet 100% of the student's financial need (please see this list of colleges that guarantee to meet 100% of financial need).** Only families that can afford to pay the full cost of college out of pocket should apply ED to colleges that are not included on the above list.
- **QuestBridge:** Students with high financial need (household income of \$65,000 per year or less) who have a 3.75+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to QuestBridge, a 4-year, full-ride scholarship to highly selective partner colleges. Applications are due in September of senior year.

- **Gates:** Students with high financial need (Pell-eligible) who have a 3.3+ GPA and are enrolled in AP/DE courses should consider applying to Gates, a highly selective, 4-year, full-ride scholarship for minority high school seniors. Applications are due in September of senior year.
- **Looking for all-expense paid college visits...often called “fly-in programs”?** - Many colleges sponsor high achieving students from traditionally underrepresented groups, students who are the first generation in their family to attend college, and/or students from families with limited financial resources. Some of these programs are open to undocumented or DACA students. Participation in these visits often gives you a competitive edge in the admissions process, so check out this sampling of opportunities or email me to schedule a zoom to discuss more options.
 - **University of Virginia:** Apply for Hoos First Look by June 20
 - **Smith College:** Apply for Women of Distinction by June 19
 - **Barnard College:** Apply for Barnard Bound...2020 info not released yet
 - **Wellesley College:** Apply for Discover Wellesley Travel Grant...2020 app not released yet
 - **Williams College:** Apply for Windows on Williams by July 1
 - **Swarthmore College:** Apply for Discover Swarthmore by July 7
 - **MIT:** Apply for WISE by August 7
 - **Washington and Lee University:** Apply for the Diversity and Inclusion visit...2020 info not released yet
 - **Amherst College:** Apply for [Access to Amherst](#) by Sept 1
 - **Middlebury College:** Apply for Discover Middlebury by mid-August
 - **Hamilton College:** Apply for Diversity Overnight...2020 info not released yet
 - **Rice University:** Apply for Soar...2020 info not released yet
 - **Franklin & Marshall College:** Apply for Collegiate Leadership Summit...2020 info not released yet
 - And [many more schools](#) with updates for 2020/COVID
 - List of [schools/programs from 2019](#)

SENIORS: Class of 2020

- **Just now decided you want to pursue college?** - It's not too late to submit the FAFSA, apply to NOVA, and make college a reality! I'd be happy to help - even after graduation! Email me at college@acps.k12.va.us and we can set up a zoom meeting.
- **Receiving my scholarship email at your ACPS email address?** - Your ACPS account will be deactivated after graduation. Go ahead and [sign up here](#) with your personal email address.

TC ALUMNI:

- **Don't forget to renew FAFSA** - Need help submitting your FAFSA for next school year or completing financial aid verification paperwork? You are more than welcome to still reach out for help from The Scholarship Fund...once a Titan, always a Titan.
- **Scholarship Fund of Alexandria renewal application due July 15th** - The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria **renewal application** is due by July 15 for Scholarship Fund awardees in the classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019 with 2.0+ GPA. Please contact the Scholarship Fund office with any questions!

Below is a list of upcoming scholarships. Local scholarships are indicated by pink text.

The below list is a sample of scholarship opportunities available to students. There are many scholarship search engines. Some scholarship search engines require a fee and some “capture” and sell your information; so be cautious. And if you have questions or need help, contact me: college@acps.k12.va.us

Need based vs. Merit based Aid: Scholarships typically fall into two categories; Need based aid and Merit based aid. Here are some [differences between Need and Merit based aid](#) as well as detailed information about both [Need Based](#) & [Merit Based](#) aid.

June

1. [Prism Foundation](#) (used to be GAPA Foundation) – application is closed for 2020, sign up to get on their mailing list about new scholarship cycle. \$5,000 scholarship open to high school seniors and current college students who have history of activism within either the Asian and Pacific Islander and LGBTQ communities
2. [A&F Scholarship - June 12, 2020](#) - \$1,000 scholarship open to high school juniors and seniors as well as current college students; essay on career and life goals
3. [Ricoh Scholarship](#) - June 22, 2020 - \$2,500 scholarship open to current college sophomores with 2.5+ GPA enrolled at an HBCU studying Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Marketing, Finance, Accounting, Information Technology, Business Operations
4. [Narrative Prize - June 15, 2020](#) - \$4,000 prize awarded for the best short story, novel excerpt, poem, one-act play, graphic story, or work of literary nonfiction published *Narrative*
5. [Herb Block Scholarship – July 15, 2020 – \\$8,000 per year renewable scholarship for students \(including DACA students\) who will enroll at NOVA in the fall; open to 2019 high school graduates and current college students \(who have completed fewer than 40 credits\)](#)
6. [Legal Scholarship](#) – June 15, 2020 – \$1,000 scholarship open to 2020 high school graduates and current college students pursuing a career in pre-law or paralegal studies with 3.0+ GPA

7. [Native American Scholarship - June 15, 2020](#) - \$5,000 scholarship for students who plan to work with a tribe or nation in the field of education or social service
8. [American Muscle Student Scholarship - June 15, 2020 for fall scholarship and October 15, 2020 for spring scholarships](#) - \$2,000 scholarship open to high school seniors and current college students pursuing an automotive themed major
9. [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#) - June 15-August 15, 2020 - \$2,500 scholarship for high school graduates pursuing a career or technical program (up to 2 years)
10. [Big Sun Athletic Scholarship – June 19, 2020](#) - \$500 scholarship open to high school seniors and current college students who are student athletes
11. [NEWH | Washington DC Metropolitan Chapter Scholarship](#)-The Hospitality Industry Network | Washington DC Metropolitan Chapter-June 19, 2020-\$2,500, open to currently enrolled college students attending an accredited college in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia or Washington, DC. Applicant must have a career objective in of the areas of the Hospitality Industry
12. [Providian Medical Scholarship - June 21, 2020 \(or January 15, 2021 for winter drawing\)](#) - Essay contest on medical technology; \$500 scholarship open to current college students and high school seniors with 3.0+ GPA
13. [Ethiopian Heritage College Scholarship](#), June 28, 2020, \$1,000. *Sponsored by Chaikin Sherman Cammarata Siegel P.C. Scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors in the Greater Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area who have immigrated from Ethiopia.*
14. [Automotive Hall of Fame – June 30, 2020](#) – Open to high school seniors and college students interested in an automotive career with 3.0+ GPA
15. [Optimal – September 30, 2020 \(used to have a June deadline\)](#) - \$5,000 scholarship open to students currently enrolled in community college
16. [Power & Energy Society Scholarship - June 30, 2020](#) - \$2,000 & \$3,000 renewable scholarship open to current college students considering a career in electric power and energy engineering
17. [Spectrum Scholars](#)-June 30, 2020, \$20,000 (\$10,000/year). Scholars will be awarded up to \$10,000 in their junior and senior years, with the first award being issued for the Fall Semester 2020. Must be full-time students having permanent residency in or attending an accredited college/university within Charter's 41-state service footprint; or in the company's corporate headquarter cities including Washington, D.C.; Denver, Colorado; or Stamford, Connecticut (see eligible states/territories within the company's footprint). Must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher to apply and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher for renewal. Scholars should identify as Black/African American, Students within this community who also identify as LGBTQ, students with disabilities or students with military backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. Must qualify for need based aid. Must have a desire to explore an internship with Charter after completing their junior year (2021). Charter Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ:CHTR) is a leading broadband connectivity company and cable operator serving more than 29 million customers in 41 states through its Spectrum brand.
18. [Optimal - Military Scholarship – September 30, 2020 \(used to be June 30\)](#) - \$5,000 scholarship open to current college students who are veterans, active duty military, or children of service members/veterans

July

1. [American Jersey Cattle Association Scholarships](#)-July 1, 2020, Amount varies. Open to members (junior or Lifetime) of the American Jersey Cattle Association who will be enrolled in college during the 2020-2021 academic year. Applicant must show an interest and commitment to continued involvement in the Jersey dairy business. In addition to the general scholarships, there is a scholarship open specifically to students in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.
2. [Marsh Scholarship](#), July 1, 2020, Amount Varies. Open to college students who are Eastern Surfing Association members in good standing.
3. [Panda Cares Scholars Program/UNCF](#)-July 1, 2020, up to \$7,000. Open to current U.S. college students who will be a sophomore beginning in the fall of 2020. Applicant must have a 3.0 GPA, have a minimum of 20 hours of community service, have demonstrated financial need, and have a permanent address in the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, or Wisconsin.
4. [Panda Cares First Year Scholars Program/UNCF](#)-July 6, 2020, up to \$7,000. Must be a graduating high school senior planning to enroll in fall 2020 as a full-time, first-year student at an accredited U.S. located four-year college or university. Applicant must have a 3.0 GPA, have demonstrated financial need, and have a permanent address in the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, or Wisconsin.
5. [SFA Renewal Application - July 15, 2020 - Open to current college students who received an SFA scholarship during their senior year at TC](#)
6. [Direct Textbook Scholarship](#) - July 31 2020 - \$3,000-\$1,000, essay scholarship open to 2019 high school graduates and current college students with 2.5+ GPA
7. [UNCF Network Scholarship](#) – information for 2020 not available but check out some of these [other UNCF scholarships](#) with upcoming deadlines
8. [Bachus and Schanker](#) - July 30 for September Awards and November 30 for January Awards - \$2,000 essay scholarship about the importance of the 7th Amendment; open to 2020 high school graduates and current college students with 3.0+ GPA
9. [VTAG – July 31, 2020 – \\$3,300 grant for VA residents attending a private university within the state of Virginia](#)
10. [Gen and Kelly Tanabe Scholarship](#) - July 31, 2020 - \$1,000 essay scholarship open to 9th-12th graders and college students
11. [Beauty School Scholarship](#) – September 1, 2020 (used to be July 31) - \$2,500 scholarship open to students age 18+ who plan to enroll in a cosmetology school during the next 12 months

12. [CIA Undergraduate Scholars Program](#) - July 31, 2020 - \$18,000 per year scholarship for college plus summer employment throughout college with salary and benefits; open to high school seniors, college freshmen, and college sophomores with financial need, GPA of 3.0 or higher, and 21+ ACT/1000+ SAT
13. [Pureland Supply Vocational and Skilled Trade Scholarship](#) – May 1, 2021 for Fall 2021 (used to have July 31 deadline) - \$500 essay scholarship open to students enrolled at community college or trade/technical/vocational school
14. [First Step Scholarship](#) – July 31, 2020 - \$1,500 essay contest on preventing distracted driving; open to 2020 high school graduates and current college students

August

1. [Nurses Make a Difference Scholarship](#) - August 1, 2020 - \$1,000 nursing student scholarship open to 2019 high school graduates and current college students with 3.0+ GPA
2. [Patsy Takemoto Mink Scholarship](#) - August 1, 2020 - \$5,000 financial need based scholarship for a female college student with one or more children
3. [USRA Scholarship](#) - August 7, 2020- \$5,000 scholarship for rising college juniors or seniors studying science, engineering, or science education with a 3.5 or higher
4. [Marvel Optics Scholarship](#) - August 15, 2020 for Fall and January 5, 2021 for Spring - \$1,500 short essay or video contest; open to current college students
5. [iVein Health and Wellness Scholarship](#) - August 31, 2020 for Fall and December 31, 2020 for Spring - \$2,500 essay contest on maintaining a health lifestyle during college; open to current college students with 3.7+ GPA
6. [PEO Star Scholarship](#) - September 1, 2020 - \$2,500 scholarship open to female rising high school seniors with 3.0+ GPA who exhibit leadership and community service. Must be nominated by local P.E.O. chapter to apply - please email Ms. Harrington at college@acps.k12.va.us if you are interested in being nominated!

Monthly Drawing & Sweepstakes

- [\\$2,000 No Essay Scholarship](#)
- [\\$1,000 Cappex Easy Money Scholarship](#)
- [Huntington Scholarship Sweepstakes](#) - June 30, 2020 - \$4,000 scholarship drawing open to high school seniors
- [Because College is Expensive Drawing](#) – March 30, June 30, September 30 and December 30 (end of each quarter) - \$500 scholarship drawing open to high school juniors and seniors as well as current college students

Have a wonderful summer, and please feel free to contact me with any questions! I hope we are all in the building again this fall so we can meet face-to-face.

- Scholarships and financial aid

- Finding a good college fit
- Writing college and scholarship essays
- SAT/ACT preparation
- Building a résumé
- Financial aid options for undocumented students
- Completing the Scholarship Fund Application

Best,

Ms. Harrington

A-115 (across from the College & Career Center)