

September 2020

Dear ACPS Students, Families, and Alumni,

Welcome back to school. Thank you for signing up the SFA monthly scholarship email list.

While we're not back in the building, Mr. Waters and I can still support you with the college admissions and financial aid process.

Ms. Harrington, college@acps.k12.va.us or 571-409-6186 (Google Voice; call or text)

Mr. Waters, darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us or 703-688-2670 (Google Voice; call or text)

In the next few weeks, Mr. Waters and I will be publicizing our open "zoom" office hours. Also, we can schedule one-on-one zoom appointments for students who need more time or can't make it to open office hours.

- [Past SFA Monthly Scholarship E-newsletters](#) are archived on the SFA website.
- The [sign up link for the monthly scholarship e-newsletter](#) and current e-newsletter are on the same SFA webpage.

SENIORS:

Not sure where to start with the college process?

Here is what the class of 2021 should be focusing on:

- Register for an SAT and/or ACT. Study for SAT & ACT. Qualify for free or reduced lunch? Need a test waiver? Please contact Ms. Hawn at marianne.hawn@acps.k12.va.us
 - Research majors and careers
 - Finalize list of schools (reach, match & safety) and add in Naviance-check out in Canvas, the How to Build and Edit your "colleges I'm applying to" list (link below)
- SAT/ACT Prep...practice. There are many FREE ways to take practice tests.
 - [SAT and Khan Academy](#); offer free practice questions and tests.
 - [ACT English](#) and [ACT Math](#) practice questions and tests; as well as the [Preparing for 20-21 ACT Guide](#)
 - The US Army has launched a new program [MARCH2SUCCESS](#) that offers FREE SAT/ACT prep as well as high school prep programs.
- Log into the School Counseling Resource Canvas page and go to "college application tools". There you will find info about building your college list AND the FERPA waiver/matching your Common App and Naviance Accounts

- [How to Build and Edit Your "Colleges I'm Applying To" List and Request Transcripts](#) 
- [How to Match Common App and Naviance Accounts](#) 
- [How to Request Letters of Recommendation from Teachers in ACPS](#)
- Remember, request letters of recommendation from two CORE teachers in Naviance ONLY. Do not request letters of recommendation in Common App.
- FERPA Waiver: students will submit the FERPA release authorization within the Common App account, not their Naviance account.
 - The student must complete the education section within Common App first, then complete the FERPA release authorization.
 - The FERPA release authorization is found within the Recommenders and FERPA section of the my colleges tab, and the "release authorization" link must be checked with the FERPA decision.
 - Students can only see the Recommenders and FERPA section once they've added at least one school to their application.
- Begin brainstorming and drafting personal statements and essays. Need help reach out to Mr. Waters or me.
- Register for the FREE essay writing & college application workshop by Ethan Sawyer; AKA "The Essay Guy". The live course sessions will be held on Saturdays and Sundays starting September 12th at 2-3:30pm Pacific Time (5-6:30pm Eastern)
 - **TCW students can join this fall course from September 12th-October 4th at NO COST.**
 - [This syllabus \(Links to an external site.\)](#) maps out what Ethan will cover during the courses.
 - **Can't make the live course dates?** You'll have access to the courses for a year, and recordings of the sessions will be available to all who sign up.
 - [Go to this registration page. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
 - Enter your name and email. Keep an eye on your email with next steps and instructions for the assignments to complete and how to join the live webinar.
- Check out the College Application Tools page on the [TCW Canvas School Counseling Resource](#) page.
 - Senior College Planning Checklist, TCW Top 20 & SAT/ACT Registration & Dates, and a recording of the Early Action/Early Decision webinar are available
 - Stay tuned for info and updates on the "Green Packet" AND how to register for (virtual) college visits

Financial Aid & FAFSA-stay tuned for the Scholarship Fund FSA ID & FAFSA Workshops

- The **2021-2022 FAFSA is NOT available until October 1, 2020**, www.fafsa.gov
- The 2021-2022 FAFSA determines financial aid for fall 2021, spring 2022 and summer 2022
- The 2021-2022 FAFSA uses 2019 income tax returns
- **The Scholarship Fund will be offering FAFSA workshops in October and November-we are planning for a virtual scenario. Stay tuned for more details.**
- **The Scholarship Fund will be offering FSA ID workshops in September;** to help students and parents create an FSA ID (which is the electronic signature for the FAFSA).
 - Only one parent/guardian is required to create an FSA ID. If a parent/guardian EVER created an FSA ID for themselves or an older child, the parent/guardian will need to find their FSA ID username and password.
 - **A social security number is required to create an FSA ID**
 - **If a parent/guardian does not have a social security number...it is okay...**parents who don't have a social security number can manually sign the FAFSA signature page.
 - ALWAYS write down and/or take screen shots of your FSA ID username, password and security questions.
 - How to create an FSA ID video: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/create-fsaid.wmv>
 - What to do if I forgot my FSA ID password video: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/recover-fsaid-password.wmv>
 - What to do if I forgot my FSA ID username video: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/retrieve-fsaid-username.wmv>

The Dream Project; a mentoring program for seniors who are immigrants or children of immigrants, especially those with an immigration status that is a barrier to obtaining a college degree (undocumented)

- The application to join the 2020-2021 mentoring cohort is open- <http://dreamportal.herokuapp.com/mentee/sign-up/>
- The Dream Project mentoring program assists students in applying for colleges and scholarships by arranging campus tours, helping with essays & applications.
- Trained mentors can direct students to best-fit colleges and scholarships.
- Due to COVID-19, mentoring will take place during synchronous and asynchronous virtual sessions, both group and individual

Follow us on Twitter; @TC2College: here is some of the recent info and articles we have tweeted:

- [How the Corona Virus Has Upended College Admissions](#)
- [Look Beyond College Rankings to Find Good Schools](#)
- [ECMC Free financial literacy courses for students](#)
- [JVL College Consulting Monthly Scholarship List](#)
- Plus much more info about essay writing, test optional schools, virtual fairs, and upcoming FAFSA workshops and info

Stay tuned to Canvas, Naviance and Twitter for updates and info on:

- TC Senior College Planning Meetings-September, dates tbd
- Scholarship Fund FSA ID Workshops (mid to late September)
- Scholarship Fund FAFSA Workshops (Oct & Nov)
- VA College Application Week-November 16-20

Covid Questions on Application: why they were added and if and how you should respond.

The new covid questions on the CommonApp and Coalition App allow students to keep the focus of their personal statement/college essays on telling the story of “how I have become who I am”.

- [This Pandemic Does Not Define You](#)-Forbes.com
- Common App- Covid Question-
<https://appsupport.commonapp.org/applicantsupport/s/article/Where-can-I-explain-how-COVID-19-had-an-impact-on-me>
- Coalition App-Covid Question-<https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/news-announcements/coalition-adds-application-question-to-help-students-and-counselors-address-the-pandemic>

Is applying early right for you? Please contact me if you would like to discuss whether you might be a good candidate to apply Early Action/Early Decision or to apply for the QuestBridge or Gates scholarship.

- **Recording of the Friday, 7/24, Early Action/Early Decision Zoom Webinar by the College and Career Center and Scholarship Fund is posted on the Canvas School Counseling Resource page.**
 - **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 College Match Program:** 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 typically due the end of **September** of senior year.
- **Gates Scholarship:** 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 open and are due **September 15, 2020** of senior year. ***47 days until the deadline***

Juniors & Seniors-TCW class of '21 and '22

Virtual College Fairs: This fall, NACAC and Coalition for College will offer several virtual college fairs. This is a great time to learn about colleges, listen to college admissions representative talk, learn from the questions your peers are asking, and ask your own questions. This info will help you build or narrow your list of reach, match and safety schools.

- NACAC will offer four virtual college fairs for students and families on Sept. 13, Oct. 12, Oct. 18, and Nov. 8. **Register at virtualcollegefairs.org.**
- Coalition for College will offer virtual college fairs for students and parents on August 26, 27, Sept. 16, 17, Oct. 21, 22 & Nov. 4, 5. Register at <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/events>

FLY In Programs are all expense paid college visits - 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 program are also open to undocumented or DACA students. Participation in these visits often gives students a competitive edge in the admissions process. Because of the pandemic many fly in programs will be virtual in 2020. Take a look at the below links.

- [Explore College Fly in Programs at Coalition Schools](#)
- [What is Happening to Fly in Programs in 2020?](#)
- [Access to Amherst](#); Sept 1 deadline to apply; Oct 4-8, 2020

Parents & Students Grades 9-11

College Search Process: it is important to begin talking to middle school students about college and life after high school. Conversations about careers, class choices, playing around with some of the assessment tools in Naviance, and impromptu visits to colleges while on family road

trips, are all low stress ways to introduce younger students to the idea of college. The Scholarship of Alexandria fund offers [The Transition to High School Planning Night](#), typically in mid-January (developed for 8th grade students and families) and [College Nights Virginia](#), typically in mid-March (developed for 9th and 10th grade students and families), as a way to provide more detail and guidance about the college admissions and financial aid process.

College Fit-Personal, Academic and Financial: when Scholarship Fund advisors work with high school students to develop their list of reach, match and safety schools; we work with students to identify schools that fit their personal goals and needs, academic and career interests, and family's financial situation. Research shows that retention and persistence rates are much higher when a student feels welcome and accepted, inspired and supported and has a realistic picture of the costs and a long-term plan to address the costs. Scholarship Fund advisors rely on input from students and parents, as well as various higher education tools and resources to help students find a good "fit". This [July 29, 2020 blog post on Road2College](#) discusses some of the tools and resources parents can use to begin the college search process and help their student find a good "fit". Remember, there is much more to a college than their "rank".

TCW Alumni (this includes Class of 2020)

Financial Aid Appeals-If you family's financial situation has changed please contact Ms. Harrington to discuss if you can appeal your financial aid award. (Remember, your 2020-21 FAFSA used your family's 2018 income tax return. If your family's income now is significantly lower than in 2018, please contact Ms. Harrington to discuss options).

- Special circumstance/professional judgment fin aid appeals are based on any change that significantly decreases your family's income-divorce, marriage, birth of another child, loss of employment, covid, etc.

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

September

1. [Golden Door Scholars](#) -Typically opens in the Summer and closes in later September. [Sign up](#) to get more info once 20-21 scholarship open. - four year scholarship for students who attend [partner schools](#) who have DACA, TPS or certify that they meet immigration eligibility criteria.
2. [US Army ROTC Scholarships](#)- The 2021 National High School Scholarship campaign kicked off on June 12th and will continue through March 4, 2021. Army ROTC provides full tuition and fees (or \$10K for room and board) scholarships to over 2000 high school

students each year. In addition to the tuition and fees, the scholarship pays \$1200 annually for books and a stipend of \$420 per months (for up to 10 months a year.)

3. [Love Your Career Scholarship](#) - [September 10, 2020](#) - \$1,000 scholarship open to current college students. Applicant must submit an essay describing at least three steps that they plan to take in the next year to start a path towards having a career that they love
4. [Cameron Impact Scholarship](#) - [September 11, 2020](#) - 4-year, full-ride, merit-based scholarship open to high school seniors with 3.7+ GPA and community service experience
5. [Gates Scholarship](#) - [September 15, 2020](#) - 4-year, full-ride scholarship for Pell-eligible, minority high school seniors with 3.3+ GPA
6. [Questbridge](#) – [September 29, 2020](#) - 4-year, full-ride scholarship connecting high-achieving low-income high school seniors with Questbridge partner colleges; **some partner colleges are open to undocumented students**
7. [Bonsai Finance Veteran's Scholarship](#) - [September 30, 2020](#) - \$1,000 scholarship open to high school seniors and current college students who are veterans or active duty member of the U.S. Military service, or direct dependents (i.e., son, daughter, spouse)
8. [SR Education Group Community College Scholarship](#) - [September 30, 2020](#) - \$5,000 essay scholarship
9. [SR Education Group Military Scholarship](#) - [September 30, 2020](#)- \$5,000 essay scholarship open to veterans/active military, and their sons, daughters, or spouses
10. [SR Education Group Undergraduate Scholarship](#) - [September 30, 2020](#)- \$5,000 essay scholarship
11. [Nursing Scholarship](#) - [September 30, 2020](#) - \$2,500 scholarship open to current college students studying nursing at an [AACN Member Institution](#)
12. [OppU Achievers Scholarship](#) - [September 30, 2020](#) - \$2,500 essay scholarship open to current high school and college students with 3.0+ GPA
13. [Cosmetology Scholarship](#) - [September 1, 2020](#) - \$2,500 scholarship open to students planning to enroll in a cosmetology program during the next 12 months
14. [Voy Media Entrepreneur Scholarship](#) - [September 30, 2020](#) - \$2,500 essay scholarship on entrepreneurship for current college students
15. [Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs Scholarship](#) - [September 30, 2020](#) - \$2,500 scholarship open to current college students pursuing a degree related to manufacturing
16. [Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award](#) - [September 15, 2020](#) - \$10,000 scholarship for exceptional musician with financial need; open to students ages 8-18 who have not yet entered college (HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS DEADLINE: December 4, 2020*)

OCTOBER

1. [National Young Arts Foundation](#) - [October 16, 2020](#) - Open to students ages 15-18 who excel in cinematic arts, dance, theater, music, writing, or visual arts. Cash awards up to \$10,000 and master classes with world-renowned artists

2. [Olin Teague Aerospace Scholarship](#) - October 12, 2020 - \$4,000 scholarship open to high school seniors pursuing a career in aerospace fields
3. [American Muscle Student Scholarship](#) - October 15, 2020 - \$2,500 scholarship open to high school seniors and current college students pursuing an automotive themed major
4. [Coca-Cola Scholarship](#) – October 31, 2020 – \$20,000 scholarship open to current high school seniors with 3.0+ GPA (unweighted) and a demonstrated capacity to lead and serve
5. [Zombie Scholarship](#) - October 31, 2020 - \$2,000 essay scholarship open to students 14 years of age or older; 250 word essay on surviving a zombie apocalypse
6. [AACN Polly Bednash Nursing Scholarship](#) - October 31, 2020 - \$5,000 scholarship open to students with a 3.2+ GPA who are currently enrolled in a BA nursing program at an AACN member institution

7. [Voice of Democracy Scholarship](#) - October 31, 2020 - \$30,000 essay contest on "Is This The Country The Founders Envisioned " open to students in grades 9-12
8. [Horatio Alger Scholarship](#) - October 26, 2020 - \$10,000 scholarship open to high school seniors with a G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher who have overcome adversity and have participated in community service and who display integrity and perseverance; family income must be under \$55,000
9. [Scholarship America Dream Award](#) – Typically an October deadline, 20-21 application info not posted yet - \$5,000-15,000 renewable scholarships open to current college freshmen with 3.0+ GPA, [open to DACA students](#) [Comcast/NBC Universal Scholarship](#) - September 5, 2019 - \$5,000 scholarship open to current college sophomores and juniors with 3.0+ GPA studying at an HBCU and planning to pursue a career in entertainment/media
10. [Horatio Alger National Scholarship](#) - October 26, 2020 - \$25,000 scholarship open to high school seniors who have participated in community service and who display integrity and perseverance; family income must be under \$55,000

11. [Wendy's High School Heisman](#) – Opens October 1, 2020 closes October 29, 2020 - \$10,000 scholarship open to seniors who are student athletes, leaders in their school community, and who have a 3.0+ GPA
12. [PEO Star Scholarship](#) – Chapter Recommendation due by October 15, 2020 and applicants have 30 days after receiving the application to complete it - \$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. Feldman at margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us if you are interested in being nominated!
13. [Scholarships4Moms](#) – October 15, 2020 - \$10,000 scholarship drawing for moms who are current college students

Monthly Drawings

- [\\$2,000 No Essay Scholarship](#)
- [\\$1,000 Cappex Easy Money Scholarship](#)

Have a wonderful first week of school, and please feel free to contact me about any of the below topics.

- 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