

SENT DECEMBER

Dear ACPS Students, Families, and Alumni,

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! As the new Director of College Advising at the Scholarship Fund, I, Ms. Samuel, am excited to continue working with TC students and alumni.

The Scholarship Fund staff remain available to support students from 8 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. I can be reached at college@acps.k12.va.us or my Google Voice number, 703-705-2464. Mr. Waters and Ms. Harrington continue to serve as SFA College Advisers. Mr. Waters can be reached at darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us or his Google Voice number, 703-688-2670. Ms. Harrington can be reached at Melissa.harrington@acps.k12.va.us or her Google Voice number, 571-409-6186. We look forward to meeting with you and supporting your college dreams!

SENIORS:

- **Upcoming Event: The Scholarship Fund will be holding an additional set of FAFSA Workshops this Monday, December 7th:**

On Monday, December 7th, the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria will be hosting two different FAFSA Workshops—Step 1: Creating the FSA ID and Step 2: Completing the FAFSA. For both presentations, interpretation will be offered in Spanish, Arabic, and Amharic. Click one or both of the links below to register.

- Monday, Dec. 7th, 11 AM—Step 1: Creating an FSA ID ([Register Here](#))
 - The FSA ID is the username and password that students and parents will both create to complete their FAFSA.
- Monday, Dec. 7th, 3:30 PM—Step 2: Completing the FAFSA ([Register Here](#))
 - The FSA ID is the username and password that students and parents will both create to complete their FAFSA.

- **Why complete the FAFSA? s**

- **Every senior should fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** -- a free application to qualify for money from the federal government, the state of Virginia, and colleges.
- Seniors who complete the FAFSA are 63% more likely to enroll in college.
- The FAFSA does NOT obligate you to take out loans to pay for college.
- The application does NOT include essays and does NOT consider your grades.
- Most families receiving free/reduced lunch will qualify for \$6,435 in free money from the federal government (the Pell Grant). However, even if a family does not receive free or reduced lunch, they may receive some funding through the FAFSA (from the Commonwealth of VA or the student's college).
- **Many colleges award financial aid first come, first served.**
- **Many private scholarships require a FAFSA as part of their application.**

- **Preparing for the FAFSA**

- Who is eligible to complete the FAFSA? [Answer-Citizens AND Eligible Non-Citizens.](#)
- [Documents needed](#) to complete the FAFSA
- Am I a [dependent or independent student](#) on the FAFSA?
- Who is [my parent](#) on the FAFSA?
- Everyone who can, should use the [IRS Data Retrieval Tool](#) to complete their FAFSA. [Steps to use IRS DRT.](#)
- If you need more info about a FAFSA Question-Select the blue and white question mark icon next to a FAFSA question to view a "tool tip" that provides information about how to answer that question.

- **Need help with college essays for January 1st deadlines?** – We are more than happy to help you brainstorm and edit your essays before winter break! Please share your essay via email at one of the addresses listed below -- all essays shared with me ***by the end of the day on Sunday, December 13th*** will be returned before the holidays. We will prioritize providing essay feedback on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Ms. Samuel: college@acps.k12.va.us
- Ms. Harrington: melissa.harrington@acps.k12.va.us
- Mr. Waters: darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us

- **Don't forget to submit the FAFSA as soon as possible!** - It is critical that every senior submit the FAFSA immediately to qualify for free money from the federal government, the state of Virginia, and colleges. Even if students are not sure whether or not they plan to attend college, they should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible to keep their options open!

Some priority financial aid deadlines have already passed, so students should submit the FAFSA ASAP to maximize the financial aid they will receive!

FAFSA does not require essays or consider students' grades. **Most students receiving free or reduced price lunch will qualify for the Pell Grant – up to \$6,345** of free money to help them pay for school! Even if a student does not receive free or reduced- price lunch, he/she may still be eligible to receive thousands in state and institutional aid. So, every family should complete the FAFSA to see what they might qualify for!

- **The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria application is now open!** - The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria awarded over \$500,000 to T.C. Williams' Class of 2020. All current T.C. Williams seniors are encouraged to apply.
 - To learn more about the [SFA first time applicant process](#), please go [here](#).

TC ALUMNI:

- **Don't forget to renew your FAFSA!** - It is time to submit your FAFSA for next school year! Feel free to reach out to the Scholarship Fund adviser for assistance. We'd love to hear about your fall semester & help you renew your financial aid.

- **Transferring?** - For many of you it is time to start thinking about transferring from NOVA to a 4-year school. I'd be more than happy to assist with narrowing down your list of schools, editing essays, navigating the Guaranteed Admissions Agreements with Virginia colleges, etc.
- **Graduating?** - Class of 2017, we can't believe your college graduation is almost here! If you need help brushing up your resume, writing cover letters, preparing for job interviews, or completing grad school applications, please know that you can still reach out to me for help!

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

DECEMBER

1. [Google Lime Scholarship - December 4, 2020](#) - \$10,000 scholarship for a current undergraduate or graduate student with a disability who is studying computer science, computer engineering, or a degree in a related field
2. [Generation Google Scholarship - December 4, 2020](#) - \$10,000 scholarship for a high school senior, college student, and graduate student who is studying Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or a closely related field as a full-time student. Students from groups who have been historically excluded from the technology— included but not limited
3. [Scholastic Art Awards – December 4, 2020](#) - **Art contest open to students in grades 7-12. \$5 fee per submission, but fee waivers are available! 13 Gold medal scholarships, \$10,000 and 30 Silver medal scholarships, \$1,000**
4. [Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarship - December 5, 2020](#) - \$5,000 scholarship open to students age 5-25 who are volunteering to stop hunger. (\$5,000 scholarship and \$5,000 to their hunger related charity)
5. [UNCF Tierra and Angel Long-Tyler Scholarship – December 9, 2020](#) – A one-time \$2,500 need-based scholarship for college juniors and seniors majoring in a health care-related field during the 2020-21 school year. Eligible candidates must attend Duke University, Spelman College, Norfolk State University, or any four-year, accredited institution in the D.C. Metropolitan Area
6. [Scholastic Writing Awards - December 12, 2020](#) - **Writing contest open to students in grades 7-12. \$5 fee per submission, but fee waivers are available! Scholarships \$500-\$1000**
7. [LEDA - December 14, 2020](#) - Free leadership and college prep summer program at Princeton University for current high school juniors from a low-income background with 3.6+ GPA, **open to DACA students**
8. [Science Ambassador Scholarship - December 14, 2020](#) - 4 year, full-tuition scholarship for a female high school senior or current college student seeking an undergraduate degree in science, engineering, or math, **open to undocumented and international students**
9. [Burger King Scholarship - December 15, 2020](#) - \$1,000 - \$50,000 scholarships open to high school seniors

10. [USA University Student Scholarship](#) - December 31, 2020 - \$500 scholarship open to current college students (environmental related)
11. [Gen and Kelly Tanabe Scholarship](#) - December 31, 2020 - \$1,000 essay scholarship for students in grades 9-12
12. [Badcredit.org Scholarship](#) - December 31, 2020 - \$1,000 essay contest on how the US credit score system can be improved; open to high school seniors and current college students with 3.5+ GPA
13. [Travis Watkins Scholarship](#) – December 31, 2020 - The Travis W. Watkins Tax Resolution & Accounting Firm Scholarship is a one-time \$1,000 award for any current or soon-to-be student who has had his or her family's life altered because of tax controversies (back taxes owed, audits, etc.)

JANUARY

1. [GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship](#) - January 5, 2021 - \$10,000 per year renewable scholarship for high school seniors with 3.0+ GPA who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship
2. [Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Award](#) - January 8, 2021 - \$36,000 scholarship open to Jewish teens age 13-19 who have demonstrated remarkable leadership and service. Though the application is due January 8th, there is an earlier nomination deadline of December 18th
3. [Ron Brown Scholarship](#)– January 9, 2021 - Open to African-American high school seniors who excel academically, exhibit exceptional leadership potential, participate in community service activities, and demonstrate financial need. US citizens or permanent residents only. Renewable scholarship awarding \$10,000 per year
4. [Virginia DAR Scholarships: All Majors](#) – January 12, 2021 - \$2,500 scholarships open to Virginia high school seniors who plan to enroll an in-state college and major in a field other than nursing
5. [Virginia DAR Scholarships: Nursing](#) – January 12, 2021 - \$2,500 scholarships open to Virginia high school seniors who plan to enroll an accredited in-state college and major in nursing
6. [APIA Scholars Program](#) - January 14, 2021 - \$2,500 - \$20,000 scholarship open to students of Asian and/or Pacific Islander ethnicity with GPA of 2.7+
7. [VALHEN Scholarship](#) – January 15, 2021 - Still has not released the 2021-22 application, keep checking- \$2,500 scholarship open to Latinx high school seniors in Virginia with 2.5+ GPA
8. [Washington Crossing Scholarship](#) - January 15, 2021- Up to \$5,000 scholarship for high school seniors planning careers in government service
9. [Hurst AACN Scholarship](#) - January 15, 2021 - \$2,500 scholarship open to current college students studying nursing at an AACN member institutions
10. [Architecture Diversity Scholarship](#) - January 15, 2021 - \$20,000 scholarship open to high school seniors and current college freshmen planning to study architecture
11. [JFK Profile in Courage Essay](#) - January 15, 2021 - \$10,000 essay contest open to 9-12 grade students
12. [Coolidge Scholarship](#) - January 20, 2021 - 4-year, full-ride scholarship open to high school juniors who have excelled academically, exhibit an interest in public policy and commitment to service

13. [C-SPAN'S Student Cam](#) - January 20, 2021 - "What does it mean to be an American" film contest open to 6-12 grade students; prizes up to \$5,000
14. [NOVA Oratorical Scholarship](#) - January 22, 2021 - \$500 - \$1,500 scholarship open to African American high school seniors with 2.5+ GPA
15. [The Point Foundation](#) – January 25, 2021- Open to high school seniors and current college students (including undocumented students) who identify with and work for the betterment of the LGBTQ community
16. [Schmidt Futures' RISE Program](#) - January 29, 2021 – Need-based scholarships (amount not yet specified) available for college cost of attendance and internship expenses, in addition to a technology package and free online courses. Talented young people between the ages of 15 and 17 (as of July 1, 2021) are eligible to apply. The RISE Program is looking to identify potential rather than identify students based on traditional measures like grades or test scores. The January deadline is the first step of an eight-month selection program aimed at identifying students with the potential to tackle the world's most pressing issues
17. [I Have a Dream Scholarship](#) - January 31, 2021 - \$1,500 scholarship open to students age 13+ who write a 250 word essay on what they dream about

Monthly Drawings

- \$2,000 No Essay Scholarship
- \$1,000 Cappex Easy Money Scholarship

Have a great holiday season, and please feel free to contact me with any questions! Please feel free to make an appointment with me using [this link](#) to discuss any of the topics below.

- 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. Samuel