

Scholarship Letter:

**Juniors can start applying for some of these as well.

****This is something Education Quest will cover when they give the Financial Aid Presentation, but I wanted to get you guys thinking about it before September 22.

Paying for college can be pretty tricky and expensive. Loans are the last thing we want a student to have. Scholarships are something students can start applying for at any time. Students need to make sure to check the requirements of scholarship to make sure they are eligible. Also, watch the time frame - when a scholarship opens and when one is due.

Make sure you **NEVER** pay for a scholarship website - there are so many that are out there that are free, use those. Also, if it is making you pay, it might not be a good/safe site to use.

The first priority to pay for college is scholarship - get as many of these as you can. You don't have to pay them back.

Next, if the scholarships don't cover the tuition you will look at grants. Some will need paid back with a lower interest than a loan -usually don't have to start paying until the student is graduated. Some you won't pay back based on financial need. Some you won't pay back, but you will have to fulfill the requirements (work at a low income school for 5 years type thing ex. Teach grant).

Then there will be loans - students can only borrow a certain amount each year though. Depending on the school, the tuition may not be fully covered - what happens then is you pay cash for what you can (save from jobs, payment plan, etc.), get a personal loan, or parents take out a direct plus loan to cover the rest of the students. The timeline to pay these back is different based on each loan or who you get the loan through. **Make sure to only borrow what you absolutely need. You will be able to track loan debt at this site - https://nslsds.ed.gov/nslsds/nslsds_SA/

**This is a college funding estimator - you can play around with numbers to see what you will need - <https://www.educationquest.org/resources/college-funding-estimator/>

The **College Funding Estimator** estimates the results of your FAFSA – the application for federal, state, and college-based financial aid. The information will help you plan financially for college and determine if you qualify to apply for “need-based” scholarships.

****Organize scholarships in deadline order and set aside time each week to work on the essays and application.**

Create a resume to put on applications -

<https://www.educationquest.org/resources/activitiesresume/>

Get letters of recommendation - give the person writing the letter adequate notice, a specific deadline, and a copy of your resume.

*****Where to find scholarships:**

- Check my page on the school site - I will post any that I get there under the high school student tab.
- I am sending an email to you and your parents for each scholarship I know of.
- Check your parents employers for scholarships - sometimes jobs offer scholarships to the kids of their employees. If you are a farmer, check with the suppliers - they sometimes offer to help the “purchaser” out.
- Check your churches
- Check the school you are going to website - often the admission application covers a lot of the scholarship the particular school offers, but not all. So check the website of the school you are going to -
 - ex. Kearney - <http://www.unk.edu/scholarships.php> - I found it by going to the schools site - clicking admission - clicking scholarship - then fill out the info to see what is available to you
 - Find out info at the school's website on athletics and arts type programs (music or band scholarships).
 - Check the schools site for honors scholarships (high GPA and ACT score - there will be a lot of requirements to maintain this scholarship)
- Get on a work study program at the college - you will work a part time job on campus doing something, you will get paid for it, it will be flexible hours for class schedule, and you will really get to network with people on campus later - boost resume and have someone more credible for letters of rec (as once in college you really don't want letters of rec from high school teachers).

Scholarships -

- Fill out the ones I send you - I linked it for when they get posted <https://pleasantonbulldogs.org/node/181> **There are search sites there as well to use
- Follow/ sign up for emails from Countdown 2 College
- PARENTS - (you/students will get this at the Financial Aid Presentation, but why not get ahead of the game?) - Visit eqf.org/967866 - register your student to win a \$500 scholarship - Winners must have/create a NEST 529 College Savings Account to receive scholarship funds.
- Look through this website for scholarships that apply to you - <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- Look through this website for scholarships that apply to you - <https://fa.financialavenue.org/>
- Look through this website - <https://www.educationquest.org/resources/scholarshipquest/>
- Website - <https://pages.collegeboard.org/scholarship-opportunities-from-collegeboard>
- Website - <https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>
- Website - <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships>
- Website - <http://supercollege.com/>

- Website - <https://www.collegedata.com/en/pay-your-way/scholarship-finder/>
- Website - <https://www.chegg.com/scholarships>
- Website - <https://www.internationalscholarships.com/>