

Dear ACPS Students, Families, and Alumni,

Welcome back to school! The Scholarship Fund Office is open from 8 AM – 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Please feel free to drop by at any time (including Lunch and Learn) to see me in Room A-115. Due to ACPS COVID-19 registrations, in-person appointments are not available for ACHS alumni and parents. Alumni and family seeking appointments can schedule phone or Zoom appointments using [this link](#).

SENIOR EVENTS:

- **Save the date for Senior College Planning Meeting on the week of September 13th.**
All seniors will be pulled down during lunch to the auditorium for a college planning presentation during the week of September 13th. Students will be pulled by academy, according to the schedule listed below.
 - Tuesday, September 14th: Academies 1 & 2
 - Wednesday, September 15th: Academies 3 & 6
 - Thursday, September 16th: Academies 4 & 5
 - Friday, September 17th: Academies 7 & 8
- **Save the date for the SFA's Virtual FAFSA Workshop on October 6th from 4 – 7:30 PM:** Please join the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria for our virtual 2022-23 FAFSA Workshop. Translation services will be available in Spanish, Arabic, and Amharic. From 4:00 – 4:30 PM, SFA staff will walk students and families through the process of creating FSA IDs. From 4:30 – 7 PM, staff will walk students and families through the process of completing the FAFSA. Please sign up using [this link](#) as availability is limited.
- **Save the date for the ACHS College Fair on October 14th from 5:30 – 7 PM:** More details to follow.
- **Save the date for the in-school SAT on Wednesday, October 28th:** All seniors will take the SAT during the school day on [Wednesday, October 28th](#)! This will be an official SAT score that students may send to colleges. There is no advance registration required, and the test is free for all seniors.

SENIOR RESOURCES:

- **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 see me ASAP if you think you may be interested, as there are steps you should take now to get started on your applications.
 - **Early Action/Early Decision:** Ivy Leagues and many highly selective colleges have historically accepted a large portion 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.

- **QuestBridge:** Students with high financial need (household income of \$65,000 or less for a typical family of four) 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 28th.
- **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 high school students of color. Applications are due September 15th.
- **College Visits at ACHS:** Want to discover more colleges or learn more about the colleges on your wishlist? There are over 70 colleges that will be hosting college rep sessions with ACHS students---both in-person and virtually. Virginia Commonwealth University, Boston University, The College of William & Mary, George Mason University, and American University are just few of the schools that are hosting visits for ACHS during this fall. To view more details and register for these visits, please login to your Naviance account (using Clever) and select "College Visits" under the College tab.
- **Not sure where to start with the college process?** Feel free to drop into my office in Room A-115 or make an appointment with me by clicking [this link](#). I'd be glad to answer any questions, help you finalize your list of colleges, and work with you to brainstorm and perfect your college essays.
- **It's time to finalize your list of colleges:** The Scholarship Fund would be happy to talk through your list of potential colleges with you 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](#).
 - **Determine your college safeties, matches, and reaches:** Check out the scattergrams in [Naviance](#) and make a free account with [Princeton Review](#).
 - **Will 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, but the Net Price Calculator will give you the information you need to make sure that the schools on your list will be affordable.
- **Looking for all-expense paid college visits?** - Many colleges sponsor free visits for 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 also open to undocumented or DACA students. Many of these programs will take place in the fall. Participation in these visits often gives you a competitive edge in the admissions process, so check out this sampling of opportunities and contact Ms. Samuel at college@acps.k12.va.us to learn more.

- [Haverford College](#): Have-A-Look (HAL) by the priority deadline of September 7th for overnight visits or the standard deadline of September 20th. Although the initial program will take place virtually on October 3rd – 5th, participating students would have the option to be considered for an in-person campus overnight visit from October 24th – 26th
- [Columbia College](#): Apply for Virtual Columbia Engineering Experience (CE2) by September 9th
- [Middlebury College](#): Apply for Discover Middlebury (Virtual Program) by September 10th

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

September

1. [Love Your Career Scholarship](#) – September 10, 2021 – \$1,000 scholarship open to current college students attending college in one of the 50 U.S. states at the time of the application deadline. 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. Applicants must also interview a professional in their intended field of study and include the interviewee’s answers in their essay.
2. [Bryan Cameron Impact Scholarship](#) – September 10, 2021 – 4-year, full-ride, merit-based scholarship open to high school seniors with 3.7+ GPA and community service experience.
3. [Gates Scholarship](#) – September 15, 2021 at 8 PM EST – 4-year, full-ride scholarship for Pell-eligible, minority high school seniors with 3.3+ GPA. Ideal candidates will possess an outstanding academic record in high school, demonstrated leadership ability, and exceptional personal success skills.
4. [Questbridge](#) – September 28, 2021 – 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.**
5. [Bonsai Finance Veteran's Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$1,000 one-time 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). Applicants must be U.S. citizens and not have previously earned a bachelor’s degree from a college or university.
6. [Optimal Community College Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,000 essay scholarship open to legal residents of the United States (excluding Rhode Island, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands). Applicants must be at least 16 years old and enrolled at a public community college, junior college, technical college, or city college.

7. [Optimal Undergraduate Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,000 essay scholarship open to legal residents of the United States (excluding Rhode Island, Guam, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands). Applicants must be at least 16 years old and working towards a certificate, diploma, or degree at the Associate's level or first-time Bachelor's level.
8. [Nursing Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,500 scholarship open to current college students studying nursing at an AACN Member Institution.
9. [Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,500 scholarship open to current college students pursuing a degree related to manufacturing.
10. [OppU Achievers Scholarship](#) – September 30, 2021 – \$2,500 essay scholarship open to current high school and college students with 3.0+ GPA.

October

1. [Golden Door Scholars](#) – October 4, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST – \$40,000 maximum scholarship available specifically for DACA recipients, TPS holders, and students who are undocumented (*Visa holders may also be eligible to apply. Please email info@goldendoorscholars.org for clarification*). Application typically opens in September and closes towards the end of October. Applicants must either be in high school in the United States, have graduated from a U.S. high school, or obtained a GED certificate in the U.S. To receive scholarship, students must attend one of Golden Door's partner colleges ([linked here](#)).
2. [American Muscle Student Scholarship](#) – October 15, 2021 at 12 PM EST – \$2,500 scholarship open to high school seniors and current college students pursuing an automotive themed major.
3. [Scholarship America Dream Award](#) – October 15, 2021 at 4 PM EST – \$5,000-15,000 renewable scholarships open to current college students with a 3.0+ GPA who will be at the sophomore year level or higher during the 2022-23 academic year. *Open to DACA students, as well as U.S. citizens, and U.S. permanent residents.*
4. [La Unidad Latina Foundation](#) – October 15, 2021 – \$2,000 scholarships available to current undergraduate and graduate Latino students. Application will be available beginning on September 1st. Past criteria for this scholarships have required that students reside in the U.S and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0. Applicants must have completed at least one full-time year of study for undergraduate applicants, and at least one full-time semester of study for graduate applicants.
5. [PEO Star Scholarship](#) – October 15, 2021 (Nomination Deadline) – \$2,500 scholarship open to female high school seniors with a 3.0+ GPA who with leadership and community service experience. Must be nominated by local PEO chapter to apply. Please email Ms. Samuel at college@acps.k12.va.us if you're interested in being nominated. After being nominated, you will receive the application via email and must submit your completed application 30 days after the link is emailed.

6. [National Young Arts Foundation](#) – October 15, 2021 – Open to students in grades 10-12 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.
7. [Olin Teague Aerospace Scholarship](#) – October 15, 2021 – \$4,000 scholarship open to high school seniors who are U.S. citizens pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies in an aerospace field.
8. [College JumpStart Scholarship](#) – October 17, 2021 – \$1,000 essay-based scholarship open to 10th-12th graders, college students, and non-traditional students. Financial need is not considered.
9. [Heisman High School Scholarship](#) – October 19, 2021 at 6 PM – \$1,000 - \$10,000 scholarships open to current high school senior athletes with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Qualified students will have participated in volunteer service, community involvement, or leadership within his/her school or community.
10. [Coca-Cola Scholarship](#) – October 31, 2021 – \$20,000 selective scholarship open to current high school seniors with a demonstrated capacity to lead and serve. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, nationals, permanent residents, refugees, asylees, Cuban-Haitian entrants, or humanitarian parolees.
11. [AACN Polly Bednash Nursing Scholarship](#) – October 31, 2021 – \$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](#).
12. [Patriot's Pen Scholarship](#) – October 31, 2021 – \$5,000 essay contest on "How can I be a Good American?" open to students in grades 6-8.
13. [Voice of Democracy Scholarship](#) – October 31, 2021 – \$30,000 maximum scholarship based on the essay prompt "America: Where do we go from here?" open to students in grades 9-12.

Additional Scholarship Sources

- [United Negro College Fund](#): Various scholarships available for college-bound African-American students
- [FastWeb](#): Scholarship search engine
- [Scholarship Sharing](#): Virginia-based scholarship search engine

As usual, please feel free to contact me with any questions. Please feel free to make an appointment using [this link](#) to discuss any of the topics below.

- Scholarships and financial aid
- Analyzing financial aid award letters
- Writing college and scholarship essays

- Building a résumé
- Financial aid options for undocumented students

Best,

Ms. Samuel