

Class of 2010

Scholarship Procedures

All seniors need to strictly adhere to the following procedures when applying for scholarships:

1. Most scholarships will be available online through the Virginia Beach City Schools scholarship website, Scholarship Central. You can access the website by going to www.vbschools.com. Click on “Class of 2009” and then search all scholarships or narrow your search. You may also see available scholarships on the video announcements. See the counselor mentioned on the announcement for information about that scholarship.
2. Read the applications carefully and complete ALL components of the scholarship application. Incomplete applications are usually not considered.
3. If the scholarship needs a transcript, you must request one from Mrs. Thomas in Guidance 2 weeks prior to the due date. To request a transcript, pick up the transcript form or print it off the OL website, fill out the name and address of the scholarship, get a parent’s signature, and turn in the form with \$2 per scholarship to Mrs. Thomas.
4. If a recommendation letter is required, you should personally contact the individual you are asking to write the letter. If possible, make the request 2 weeks prior to the due date. You may want to supply the person with an academic resume to help in writing the letter.

Scholarship Counselors

Ms. Sheehan and Mrs. Bolling

Scholarship Scams

Be careful when searching for information on student financial assistance. Make sure information and offers are legitimate. Don’t fall prey to fraud.

Estimates show that families lose millions of dollars to scholarship fraud each year. The Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act enhances protections against fraud in student financial assistance. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) cautions students to look for these telltale lines:

“The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”

“You can’t get this information anywhere else.”

“I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship.”

“We’ll do all the work.”

FAFSA on the Web- Filing for Financial Aid

If you are planning to attend a public 2 or 4-year college or university next year, you will need to start thinking about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The 2009-2010 application can be accessed through the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. There will also be a limited number of paper copies available in the guidance office. It is recommended that you fill out the application as soon as you have all of your and/or your parents’ tax information for 2008. Many colleges also have financial aid applications that must be filled out in addition to the FAFSA.

Frequently Asked Questions About Financial Aid

I probably don't qualify for financial aid. Should I apply anyway?

Yes. Many families mistakenly think they won't qualify for aid and prevent themselves from receiving financial aid by failing to apply for it. In addition, there are a few sources of aid available regardless of need. The FAFSA form is free; there really is no reason not to apply.

Do I need to be admitted before I can apply for financial aid at a particular college?

No. You can apply for aid anytime after January 1. To receive funds, however, you must be admitted to the college.

Do I have to reapply for financial aid every year?

Yes. Most financial aid offices require that you apply for financial aid every year. If your financial circumstances change, you may get more or less aid. Your amount of financial aid can also change significantly if you have a different number of family members in college.

Are my parents responsible for my educational loans?

No. Parents are, however, responsible for the Federal PLUS loans. Parents will be responsible if you are under 18 and they co-sign your loan. Your parents can help you pay your loans if they'd like, but they are under no obligation to repay them for you.

I got an outside scholarship. Should I report it to the financial aid office?

Yes. If you are receiving any kind of financial aid from university or government sources, you must report the scholarship to the financial aid office.

Where can I get information about Federal Student Financial Aid?

You can receive information and access the application at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can get a copy from the guidance office or by calling 1-800-4FED-AID.

How soon after January 1 should the FAFSA be sent in?

Send it in as soon after January 1 as possible. Do not wait until your family taxes are done. You may use estimates of your income, so long as they aren't far from the actual amounts. You will have an opportunity to make corrections later.

What do I need before I can fill out the FAFSA?

You need to have a social security number, a personal identification number (request your PIN at www.pin.ed.gov), and the right documents and information (your parents' W-2 forms and your own tax information).

What if I need help filling out my application?

You can chat live with someone and receive help as you are filling out the form on the FAFSA website. You may also call 1-800-4FED-AID or contact the financial aid staff at the college you plan to attend.