



Senior Newsletter

September 2020

Google Classroom: Class of 2021; code: 35blrba

Kim Aucoin, Career Coach

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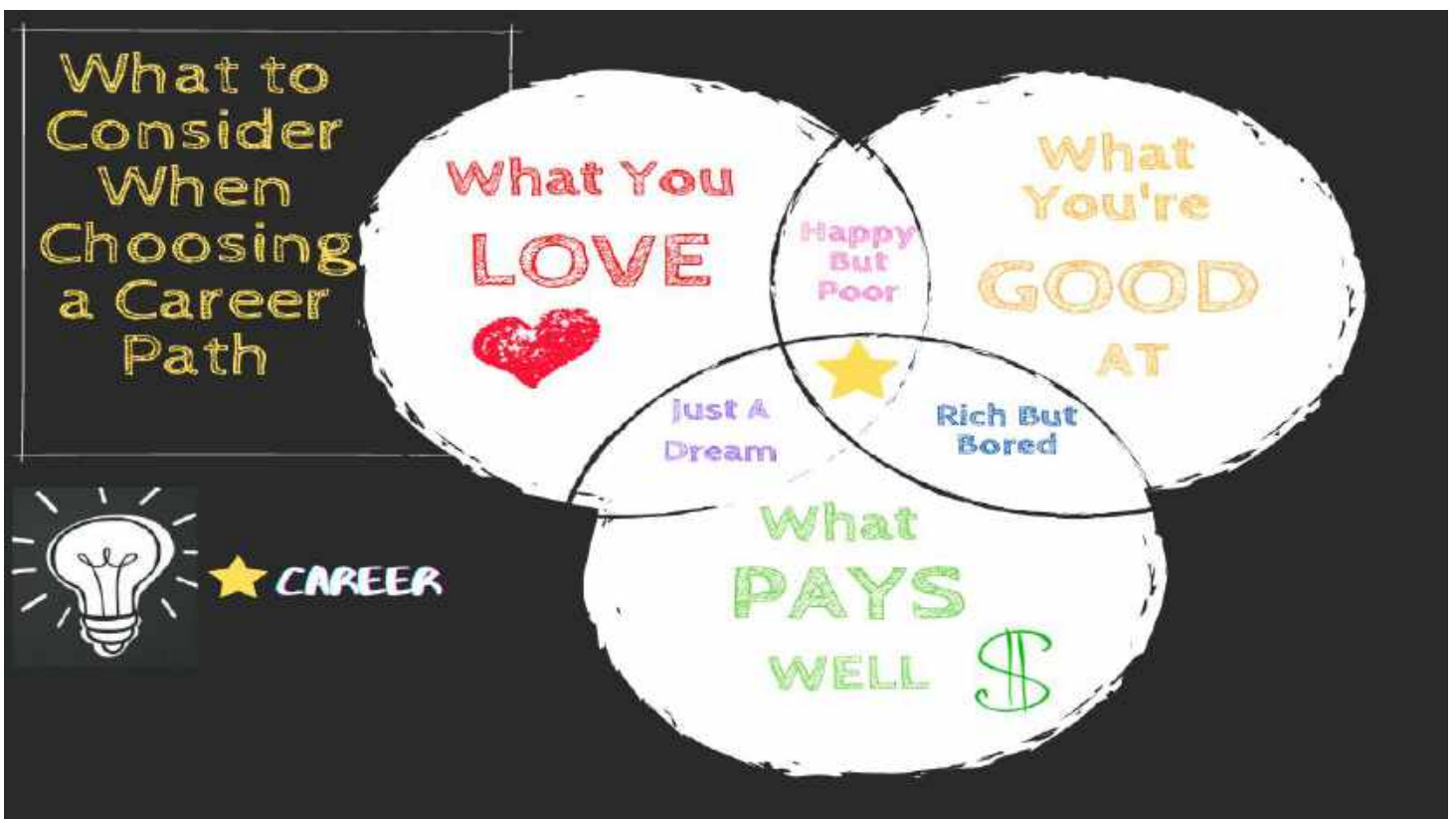
Located in room 607 of the math bldg.

Welcome Back Gators!

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to your senior year! As we are working under unusual schedules and circumstances, I encourage you to check your Class of 2021 google classroom often for important information pertaining to college and career planning, TOPS/TOPS Tech, FAFSA/Financial Aid, scholarship applications, admission requirements, and the many opportunities, options, and paths available to you. If you have any questions or need an appointment, feel free to contact me by email to schedule an appointment.

Seniors - please take some time to think about careers and what is most important to you. Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years? The Venn diagram below is an easy way to view factors to consider when choosing a career path. Other things to consider when thinking of potential professions are: (1) the location of the job; (2) the number of jobs available in that field and future job growth; (3) the amount of education or experience required, and (4) similar careers.



Senior Checklist Fall 2020



- ❑ **Register to take the ACT or SAT** – only your highest score counts, so start early! Be sure to send your scores to LOSFA for TOPS – use code 1595 for ACT & 9019 for SAT. Remember that you need a 20 (ACT) for TOPS and a 17 for TOPS Tech (or 3 silvers on workkeys). Either exam can be used for college admission and TOPS/scholarship qualification.

Check out these free online prep resources:

1. **ACT Practice Test (from the ACT):**
https://pages.act.org/free-practice-act-test.html?_ga=2.268077067.406942252.1568046829-664466279.1549903268
2. **ACT Vocabulary Games and Tests:**
<http://quizlet.com/6991782/act-test-vocabulary-prep-flash-cards/>
3. **ACT and SAT Test Prep (Vocabulary)** <http://www.myvocabulary.com/act-test-prep/>
4. **Practice Tests and Flashcards:**
<https://www.march2success.com/main/learnmore/collegeprep>
5. **ACT Reading Comprehension Practice:**
https://www.testprepreview.com/act_practice.htm
6. **ACT Resources and Articles:** <https://www.thoughtco.com/act-test-prep-4132572>
7. **ACT and SAT Practice tests:** <https://www.4tests.com/act-practice-test>
8. **ACT and SAT Tips and Practice tests:**
<https://www.testpreptoolkit.com/act-practice-test>
9. **ACT Tips and Practice tests:** <https://www.mometrix.com/academy/act-practice-test/>
10. **ACT Prep, Expectations, Practice tests:** <https://magoosh.com/hs/act-practice-test/>
11. **ACT Sample Tests** <http://actstudent.org/sampletests>

- ❑ **Make a list of your top career choices.** This will help you decide which school or work training program will be the best fit for you. If you have not already taken a career interest assessment; go to <https://navigator.kuder.com> and **log in with clever**. (Your username and password are the same as your laptop login)
- ❑ **Research colleges** – take into consideration the program availability, location, size, environment, extra-curricular activities, and cost. Visit their websites for virtual tours and events - many have started taking appointments for private tours. (*go to* https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_VLT-eBDVlcFHSE6hKbAZZ50sX12347tNkPSwLY30Es/edit?usp=sharing or go to your Class of 2021 google classroom for LA College/School **Contact list** -admission recruiter contacts, website links, phone numbers, and campus preview and

virtual dates.) Remember that not all colleges require you to attend school for 4 years. There are many great programs at technical schools and community colleges that lead to great careers in 2 years or less.

- ❑ **Review college admission requirements** and scholarship levels. (*go to <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bVLwaf9ubnaEk18nLE0KAcvYXpg4qrs5j5UGayrcDCE/edit#gid=0> or go to your Class of 2021 google classroom for LA College/School Admission Requirements; see Mrs. Kim Aucoin if you have questions*)

- ❑ **Start the college application process!!** Remember that if you are interested in university academic scholarships, you must meet the priority application deadline dates (*go to https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16sChLMOPUqZ4xBSw3nefEwYdJG4F60pC_mqnNJNI3Y/edit#gid=0 or go to your Class of 2021 google classroom for LA College/School Academic Scholarship Detail*). LSU requires the Common Application (*it is a lengthy application that requires a Letter of Recommendation from a teacher -make sure to give them a few weeks to complete the recommendation letter*). Teachers and counselors will be bombarded with requests, so get yours in early!

- ❑ **October 1st the 2021-2022 FAFSA application Opens!** It is part of your senior graduation requirement and most colleges and schools require this to be completed as part of their application process . We will hand out **Senior ‘Yellow’ Folders** on Oct. 1st with FAFSA instructions and we will have a Virtual FAFSA presentation that evening. Make sure to pick up your folder on Oct. 1st and tune in that evening to our virtual presentation. Remember: College is not FREE!! And TOPS alone will not pay for the entire cost of college and technical schools!!!
 - FAFSA is your application for: (1) TOPS/TOPS Tech, (2) Pell Grants, (3) Student Loans, (4) On campus jobs, and (5) Parent PLUS Loans. Need help?? Contact your Career Coach, Kim.Aucoin@apsb.org if you have any questions or need to schedule a private appointment. We will be updating you as we schedule additional FAFSA virtual and on-campus assistance sessions.

- ❑ **Create a TOPS Award System Account** – this will allow you to track your TOPS status once your ACT scores and transcript information has been reported. Instructions and your LA Secure ID will be in your **Senior “Yellow” Folder** that will be handed out on **Oct. 1st**. (If you need or would like to create your award system account before then, please contact Mrs. Kim Aucoin at kim.aucoin@apsb.org .



ACT & SAT Dates 2020-21

- **ACT Test Dates 2020-21** **Current Seniors who did not take the June 2nd makeup ACT test (from the cancelled March test date), are automatically signed up to take the Oct 6th makeup ACT test at school during the day.**
- **Online registration:** <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>.
- **Cost:** (NOTE: All fees are subject to change. Please check the ACT website to confirm fees)
 - Full test with writing = \$70
 - Full test without writing = \$55
 - Section Testing: 1 Section = \$44; 2 Sections = \$48; 3 Sections = \$52
 - Late fee = \$30
 - Section retesting will be available in 2021. Check the ACT website for exact dates.
- **Fee Waivers** – students are allowed up to 4 fee waivers total (Juniors & Seniors only). Students requesting a waiver must have applied and qualify for free or reduced lunch for 2020-21.
- **LOSFA Code** (to send your scores for TOPS qualification) = 1595

| Test Date | Registration Deadline | Late Registration (extra \$30 fee) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| September 12, 2020 | August 14, 2020 | August 28, 2020 |
| October 24, 2020 | September 18, 2020 | October 2, 2020 |
| December 12, 2020 | November 6, 2020 | November 20, 2020 |
| February 6, 2021 | January 8, 2021 | January 15, 2021 |
| April 17, 2021 | March 12, 2021 | March 26, 2021 |
| June 12, 2021 | May 7, 2021 | May 21, 2021 |
| July 17, 2021 | June 18, 2021 | June 25, 2021 |

SAT Test Dates 2020-21

- **Online registration:** <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
- **Cost:** (NOTE: All fees are subject to change. Please check the SAT website to confirm fees)
 - Without writing = \$52, With Writing = \$68, Late fee = +\$30
- **Fee Waivers** – a limited number of fee waivers are available. Students requesting a fee waiver must have applied and qualify for free or reduced lunch for 2020-21.
- **LOSFA Code** (to send your scores for TOPS qualification) = 9019

| Test Date | Registration Deadline | Late Registration (extra \$30 fee) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| August 29, 2020 | July 31, 2020 | August 18, 2020 |
| September 26, 2020 | August 26, 2020 | September 15, 2020 |
| October 3, 2020 | September 4, 2020 | September 22, 2020 |
| November 7, 2020 | October 7, 2020 | October 27, 2020 |
| December 5, 2020 | November 5, 2020 | November 24, 2020 |
| March 13, 2021 | February 12, 2021 | March 2, 2021 |
| May 8, 2021 | April 8, 2021 | April 27, 2021 |
| June 5, 2021 | May 6, 2021 | May 26, 2021 |

TOPS Information – 2020-21

Requirements

| Requirements | Opportunity Award | Performance Award | Honors Award | TOPS Tech |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| TOPS GPA | 2.5 | 3.00 | 3.0 | 2.5 (TOPS Tech GPA) |
| ACT Score (Superscore not accepted) | 20* | 23 | 27 | 17 or <u>WorkKeys Silver</u> |
| SAT Score | 1020 | 1130 | 1280 | 900 |
| Award Amount | TOPS Tuition amt.** | TOPS Tuition + \$400 | TOPS Tuition + \$800 | TOPS Tech tuition amt. |
| Can be used for | CC or 4-year program | CC or 4-year program | CC or 4-yr program | 2-year technical programs only |

Required ACT score may change each year based on the State average. Actual required score is released in October. **TOPS and TOPS Tech tuition amounts are set each year and are subject to change. Amounts vary based on college/university. TOPS Tech eligible programs are subject to change each year (see TOPS Tech information sheet for eligible programs).

Applying for TOPS:

To apply for TOPS, students must:

1. Complete and submit the** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA www.fafsa.gov) **or** the TOPS Online Application (<https://www.osfa.la.gov/AwardSystem/faces/jsf/onlineApp/onlineAppFAFSA.jspx>). **Students in need of grants, loans or work study have to complete the FAFSA, not the TOPS Online Application. **Many colleges and technical schools (such as LSU, AVEDA, etc.) require students to complete the FAFSA application as part of their application process.**

Please note that if you complete the TOPS Online Application, you may NOT submit the FAFSA. You can only complete one or the other, not both.

2. Send qualifying ACT (<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/sending-your-scores.html>) or SAT (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/sending-scores/how-to-send>) scores to LOSFA. The codes for sending scores to LOSFA are: 1595 (ACT) and 9019 (SAT). Please review your TOPS Tracker account (see below) to determine if your scores have been reported to LOSFA.

Tracking your TOPS Eligibility

The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid (LOSFA) has created a system which allows students to track their TOPS eligibility. Students must create a LOSFA Student Hub account to access this system. Students should check their information to ensure it is correct and contact LOSFA at 1-800-259-5626 with questions. Final eligibility information will not be posted for a student until qualifying ACT/SAT scores have been received by LOSFA **and** the student submits a FAFSA or TOPS online application. All Seniors will pick up their “Senior ‘Yellow’ Folder” on Oct. 1st which will have instructions on how to create their LOSFA Student Hub account. Questions?? For information about TOPS/TOPS Tech, program eligibility, and award amounts, contact Mrs. Aucoin (Kim.Aucoin@apsb.org).

Scholarships

| Deadline | Name | Description |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| Sept 15th | Gates Scholarship | <p>Full Ride -"From at least one of the following four minority communities: African American, American Indian/Alaska Native*, Asian & Pacific Islander American, and/or Hispanic American Pell-eligible A US citizen, national, or permanent resident Maintaining a minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) " https://www.thegatesscholarship.org/scholarship</p> |
| Sept 21st | Atlas Shrugged Essay Contest | <p>\$100-\$25,000 -Write 800-1,600 word essay based on topics from website regarding book (Atlas Shrugged) https://aynrand.org/students/essay-contests/#tab-3-atlas-shrugged-overview</p> |
| Sept 30th | Shout It Out Scholarship | <p>\$1500 -"If you could say one thing to the entire world at once, what would it be and why?" (250 words or less) https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/shout-it-out-scholarship?utm_source=featuredpage</p> |
| Sept 30th | Courage to Grow Scholarship | <p>\$500 -Please explain in 250 words or less why you believe that you should be awarded this scholarship (This is a monthly scholarship) https://couragetogrowscholarship.com/</p> |
| Sept 30th | Sallie Mae \$1,000 Sweepstakes | <p>\$1000 - complete an entry form. https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/registration/</p> |
| Oct 5th | AES Scholarship | <p>\$600 - "Students must submit an essay of between 500 and 1000 words in answer to the following question: When you look back on your life in 30 years, what would it take for you to consider your life successful? What relationships or accomplishments will be important on this journey?" http://scholarships@aesengineers.com/scholarships.php</p> |
| Oct 25th | Horatio Alger Foundation | <p>Varies up to 10,000 - To be eligible to apply, applicants must meet the following criteria: Be enrolled full time as a high school senior in the United States; Exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a bachelor's degree at an accredited non-profit public or private institution in the United States (students may start their studies at a two-year institution and then transfer to a four-year institution). Demonstrate critical financial need. Be involved in co-curricular and community service activities. Display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity. Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0;</p> |

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| | | and Be a United States citizen https://scholars.horatioalger.org/scholarships/ |
| Oct 31st | Voice of Democracy | \$1,000 - \$30,000 - Deliver 5 minute speech on "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" https://www.vfw.org/VOD/ |
| Oct 31st | National Rice Month Scholarship | \$2000-\$5000 - Create an original video about U.S. rice, National Rice Month, and the importance of rice to your state (3 minutes or less) Upload your video to Youtube or Vimeo https://www.reelricecontest.com/ |
| Oct 31st | Coca-Cola Scholarship | Varies - US Citizen or permanent resident. https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/ |
| Oct 31st | Zombie Apocalypse | \$2000 - "Imagine that your high school or college has been overrun with zombies. Flesh out a plan to avoid the zombies." (250 words or less) https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship |
| Nov 1st | Congressional App Challenge | Prize Package - Competition for HS students to create an app individually or in groups of up to 4 students www.CongressionalAppChallenge.us |
| Nov 12th | Real Impact Scholarship | \$500 - \$1500 -Create an original work (Video, Music, Creative Writing, Graphic Design) showcasing your idea for a SOLUTION or STRATEGY to fix the very real problem of reckless and distracted driving. Focus on reckless and distracted driving choices such as eating while driving, speeding, reaching for an object, talking to passengers, etc. While mentioning the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is permitted, this should not be the sole focus of the entry. https://createrealimpact.com/contestrules/ |
| Nov 13th | Jack Kent Cooke Foundation | \$40,000-" •Graduate from a U.S. high school in spring 2021 •Intend to enroll full time in an accredited four-year college beginning in fall 2021 •Earn a cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.5 or above •Demonstrate unmet financial need. We will consider applicants with family income up to \$95,000. " https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/college-scholarship-program/ |
| Nov 15th | Elks Most Valuable Student | \$1,000-\$12,000 - Must be a US Citizen. https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/mvs.cfm |
| Nov 30th | Education Matters Scholarship | \$5000 -"What would you say to someone who thinks education doesn't matter, or that college is a waste of time and money?" (250 words or less) |

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| | | https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/education-matters-scholarship |
| Nov 30th | Dr. Juan Andrade Jr. Scholarship | \$1000 - At least one parent must be of Hispanic ancestry. Non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply (DACA or Undocumented), Demonstrate financial need https://www.ushli.org/dr-juan-andrade-scholarship-for-youth-hispanic-leaders/ |
| Nov 30th | Griswold Home Care | \$1000 -student pursuing a bachelor's, associate's, graduate, or professional degree at an accredited college or university https://www.griswoldhomecare.com/scholarship |
| Nov 30th | Seth Okin Good Deeds Scholarship | \$1000 -Applicants must be both interested and engaged in serving their community and must have a GPA of 3.0 or greater. Applicants must submit a 500-word essay that responds to the following question: With so many people and organizations in today's world in need of volunteers and financial assistance, how should people decide where to direct their time and donations? https://criminallawyermaryland.net/2020-seth-okin-good-deeds-scholarship/ |
| Dec 1st | AQHA Scholarships | \$500 - \$50000 - Multiple scholarships with different qualifications. Check website for details https://www.aqha.com/scholarships/-/asset_publisher/D3YJ9xRyZQ9Q/content/scholarship-application?_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_D3YJ9xRyZQ9Q_redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aqha.com%2Fscholarships%3Fp_p_id%3Dcom_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_D3YJ9xRyZQ9Q%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_D3YJ9xRyZQ9Q_cur%3D0%26p_r_p_resetCur%3Dfalse%26_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_D3YJ9xRyZQ9Q_assetEntryId%3D1472620 |
| Dec 2nd | National Space Club | US Citizen majoring in STEM (preference for those with space related interest) https://www.spaceclub.org/scholarship/index.html |
| Dec 15th | Rubincam Youth Writing Competition | \$500 - Submit a genealogy in a biographical narrative format for one family line; include four generations, beginning with you, as the first generation. You may use a biological, adoptive, or foster parent, or guardian for the second generation https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/competitions/rubincam-youth-award/ |
| Dec 31st | Unigo 10k Scholarship | \$10,000 - "Imagine a historical figure is brought back to life. Who is it? What's their favorite mobile app?" (250 words or |

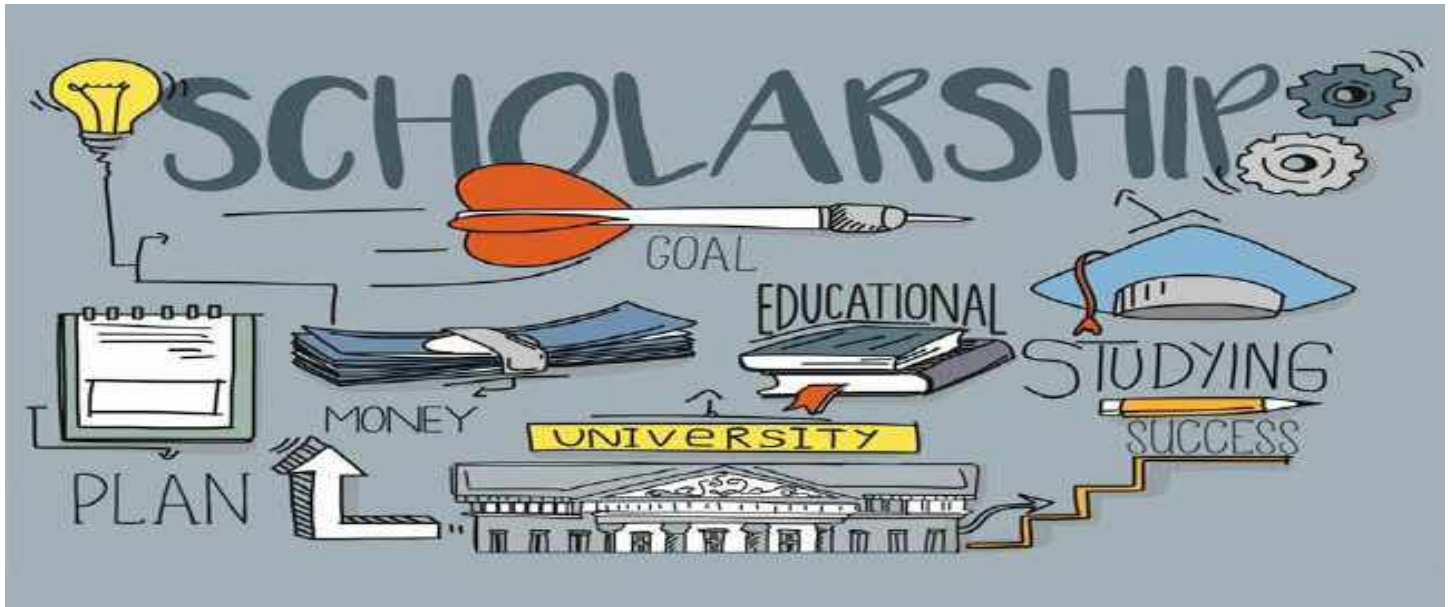
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| | | less) https://www.thefire.org/resources/high-school-network/essay-contest/ |
| Dec 31st | Top 10 List Scholarship | \$1,500 -"Create a Top Ten List of the top ten reasons you should get this scholarship." (250 words or less) https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/top-ten-list-scholarship |
| Dec 31st | Free Speech Essay Contest | \$500 - \$10,000 -Essay must be between 700-900 words on the following prompt: In a persuasive letter or essay, convince your peers that free speech is a better idea than censorship. https://www.thefire.org/resources/high-school-network/essay-contest/ |

Please check the following google sheet and your google classroom for an updated list of scholarships through July 2021:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NCV0ssqgUZnRyTfQLznW0E-aTJOFUKw2OfdtlOQxQpM/edit#gid=0> The spreadsheet is updated weekly and any additional scholarship opportunities that arise between newsletters will be posted in Google Classroom; Class of 2021; code: **35blrba**.

Please read scholarship requirements carefully and know that late applications WILL NOT BE accepted.

Remember that the biggest bang for your buck is university scholarships. These scholarships are renewable for 4 years and are based on your GPA and ACT/SAT scores. For most colleges, you are screened for university scholarships when you submit the application for admission.



WRAP UP



For Class of 2021 Test Updates

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid-19.html> .

Need help studying for the ACT? ACT is working to offer additional resources for the Class of 2021.

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid19.html> for a listing of all upcoming events and resources.

Websites and Apps

Additional scholarship information may be found at:

www.askLela.org www.braf.org www.fastweb.com

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

www.scholarships4students.com www.FinAid.org

www.grantsscholarshipsandmore.org www.zinch.com/decachapters

www.BlackExcel.org – list of scholarships for minorities

http://beautyschools.org/careers-in-beauty/grants_scholarships/ – cosmetology scholarships

<https://ascension.kuder.com/landing-page> - log in with Clever and use the same Login used to log into your school computer.

Scholarship Apps: **Scholly**
 Scholarship Grab (free)
 Sail- Simple scholarship search (99 cents)
 ScholarshipAdvisor (free)

Each of these apps allows you to search for scholarships based on criteria you enter.

*** This information was compiled to the best of our ability. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions.

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