



# Scholarships 101

AVHS Counselors

# What are scholarships?

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- FREE money awarded based on certain criteria
- Financial aid for college comes in 3 main forms:
  - Grants and Scholarships (aid you don't repay)
  - Loans (aid you must repay)
  - Work study/military assistance (aid you earn)

# Common myths

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- Scholarships are ONLY awarded for strong financial need
- Students must earn straight A's to win scholarships
- All scholarships require a written essay
- Students should be involved in as many extracurricular activities as possible to win scholarships

# Scholarships can be earned based on...

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- Student's co-curricular activities and skills
  - Music, drama, world language, art, writing

# Scholarships can be earned based on (continued)...

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- Student's activities outside of school
  - Work, place of worship, volunteering

# Scholarships can be earned based on (continued)...

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- Student's history and uniqueness
  - Military family, heritage, ethnicity, medical history

# Scholarships can be earned based on (continued)...

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- Merit based (academic achievement)
  - GPA, transcript, ACT test scores, PSAT/SAT scores, AP scores

# Scholarships can be earned based on (continued)...

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- Student's goals
  - Career, location of work



# How to apply for scholarships

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- Personal information
- Essay (if applicable)
- Letters of recommendations
- Transcripts/GPA
- Financial information
- Test scores

\*\*Keep these documents organized

# How to be successful scholarship winner:

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- TIME!
- Create a portfolio
- Follow directions
- Proofread
- Follow up to make sure application is received
- Scholarship search

# The scholarship search...

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- Future College or University
- Past associations/groups
- Local businesses
- Parent/guardian employer, church
- AVHS common scholarship application
- Naviance (students can log in directly to Naviance using their collab account):

<https://student.naviance.com/applevalley>

# AVHS Common Scholarship

- Will be posted on February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Due on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Able to apply for multiple scholarships at one time
- Google form online
- Link will be sent out via Schoology

# Scholarship search engines

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- Naviance Family Connection
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) - financial aid information and planning

# Beware of scams!

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- Watch out for “scholarships” or groups:
  - Asking for money up front
  - Have no contact information listed for the business
  - Requesting bank account, credit card information or social security numbers