McDOWELL

Scholarships:

Scholarships are basically like gifts that help pay for your college education. Unlike loans, they don't have to be paid back. Scholarships are offered by schools, employers, individuals, private companies, nonprofits, communities, religious groups, and professional and social organizations. A scholarship might cover the entire cost of your tuition, or it might be a one-time award of a few hundred dollars. Either way, it's worth applying, because any amount will help reduce the out-of-pocket cost of your education. Every little bit helps! Read below for some helpful tips.

- Check the **financial aid websites** of the colleges that you are applying to for scholarships opportunities. Some you may be automatically considered for when you apply for admission. Others, like major specific scholarships, require you to apply.
- Utilize **Naviance** to search scholarship postings. New scholarships are added often, so make sure to check back routinely.
- **Millcreek Education Foundation** offers scholarships created only for McDowell students. Visit their website for details- www.millcreekeducationfoundation.org.
- College Board's **Big Future** offers helpful information about paying for college, including a scholarship search tool. Visit www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- Use a **national scholarship database** to help you find scholarships that you're eligible for. You should NEVER need to pay a fee. Some reputable options include: Scholarships.com, Fastweb, Cappex, Niche, Chegg, ScholarshipOwl, and Going Merry
- **Network** with family and friends. Ask if they know of any work places or organizations that offer scholarships. Ask at your place of employment too.
- The **Erie Community Foundation** offers many local scholarships. Head to www.eriecommunityfoundation.org for details on eligibility and how to apply.
- Ask the **financial aid office** of the school that you will attend if there are any more scholarships or additional monies you are eligible for. It doesn't hurt to ask!

*Make sure that you have completed the FAFSA!

Some colleges require you to have filled out the **FAFSA** in order to be considered for the scholarships that they offer. Even if you feel that your family makes too much money for you to qualify for state or federal aid, you should STILL fill out the FAFSA application.
*See the FAFSA flyer or Mrs. Gilroy for more information.

*If you have questions or need assistance with scholarship applications, please see Mrs. Gilroy in the College Connections office located in guidance. You may also contact her at **jgilroy@mtsd.org** or call 814-835-5418.