

CMR High School Scholarship News Scoop # 1 October 2024-2025



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT YOUR COUNSELOR'S GOOGLE CLASSROOMS!

Financial Aid Information

The FAFSA for fall of 2025 has been delayed again this year. Instead of an October 1st launch it will open **December 1st.** We *highly encourage* you to obtain your **FSA IDs now** for yourself and your parents so that when FAFSA opens, you're ready. (<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>). The information needed on the FAFSA form will be based on your and your parents' tax information from 2023.

Time to Register - Selective Service and You

All male United States citizens and male aliens residing in the U.S. and its territories must register with Selective Service within the period starting 30 days before and ending 30 days after their 18th birthday. Log on to www.sss.gov and you can get yourself registered in about 5 minutes. If you have any questions or need assistance, please see Mr. Budeski in the Advisement Center.

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Through WUE, students in western states may enroll in more than 140 two-year and four-year college institutions at a reduced tuition level: 150% of the institution's regular resident tuition. Participating states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming. Search the WUE Online Database to see which institutions participate and which programs are available at the discounted WUE. Contact participating schools for applications and more information.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Montana State University 2025 Presidential Scholarship

The Presidential Scholarship is MSU's most prestigious scholarship award and is available to incoming freshmen with a high school cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher. Students will be selected as finalists on the basis of their academic accomplishments, intellectual or creative distinctions, extracurricular activities, letters of reference, and original essays. The online application can be accessed at www.montana.edu/honors/scholarships. Students are encouraged to begin the application process early as the process is quite lengthy. Deadline is December 6, 2024.

Montana State University Premier Scholarship

Millions of dollars in scholarships and financial aid will be awarded to MT freshmen who demonstrate academic promise based on high school GPA. Students awarded the Premier Scholarship must be seeking a bachelor degree, maintain residential status, GPA of 2.5+ and continuous enrollment status (minimum of 15 credits/semester).

Montana State Treasure State First Generation Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to MT residents who self-report first-generation status on their application for admission. This is a four-year renewable scholarship that can be stacked on top of the MT Premier Scholarship.

Cat Scholarships

Many MSU colleges and departments offer scholarships to both incoming and returning students. This application opens to admitted students on November 1st and has a priority deadline of February 1st. If scholarships are need-based, you must complete a FAFSA prior to February 1st. Go to montana.academicworks.com for application.

Montana Resident Freshman Scholarships

Hundreds of renewable scholarships between \$1,000 and \$4,000 will be available to freshman entering MSU. If you are planning on attending MSU next year visit [Montana Resident Freshmen Scholarships - Undergraduate Admissions | Montana State University](#) for more information and deadlines.

Montana State University-MT American Indian Waiver

This covers tuition and prorates according to a student's credit load. Student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress with financial aid to be eligible. Applicant must be a MT resident, provide documentation of tribal membership and have completed a FAFSA showing financial need. Apply at msuadmissions.org/application.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SCHOLARSHIPS

Davidson Honors College Presidential Leadership Scholarship

The PL Scholarship is a four-year scholarship for incoming UM students whose cumulative GPA is 3.7 or higher. Students' applications and interviews are reviewed by a committee of honors faculty and campus partners. At UM, PL Scholars will be enrolled in the inclusive Davidson Honor's College and contribute to academic innovation, garner personal and professional development opportunities and enhance their leadership skills. Applications for the Davidson Honors College Presidential Leadership Scholarship at the University of Montana are available and can be downloaded and printed at <https://www.umt.edu/finaid/scholarships/presidential-leadership-scholarships2/>. Application deadline is December 1st, 2023.

Montana Resident Entering Student Scholarship

Several Scholarships are available to MT residents. To apply you must complete the University of Montana Undergraduate application. All general scholarships will be considered from the undergraduate application. The application and criteria can be found at <http://www.umt.edu/finaid/scholarships/mt-resident-entering-student-scholarships/default.php>. Scholarship awarding begins in November.

MONTANA PRIVATE COLLEGES

University of Providence Scholarships

The University of Providence will award Academic Merit Scholarships and Competitive Academic Awards. Information and applications are available at <https://www.uprovidence.edu/financial-services/scholarships/>

Carroll College

Carroll College will be offering several merit scholarships and a Montana Advantage Award on incoming freshman. Visit <https://www.carroll.edu/scholarships-aid/scholarships-new-students> for scholarship opportunities to this venerable Montana institution.

GFPS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Great Falls families, alumnus, and organizations generously fund yearly scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year. The Foundation is proud to administer these local scholarships representing over \$350,000 in awards each year. The scholarships are awarded to best reflect the wishes of the donors and the needs of students. The following scholarships are available at gfpsfoundation.org. You will have to create an account, but once you enter your information, it will pre-populate for each scholarship.

The deadlines for ALL of these scholarships is November 15th at 5p.m. No exceptions.

Braget Family Scholarship for Healthcare

The \$500 Braget Family Scholarship hopes to improve access to higher education for the next generation of community leaders. The Braget Family Scholarship for Healthcare will be awarded annually to two motivated students who plans to pursue a post-secondary education at an accredited institution in the healthcare field. Scholarship Requirements:

- The applicant must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- The applicant must have applied to an accredited college or university
- The applicant must be pursuing a career in healthcare
- The applicant must demonstrate leadership and involvement in extracurricular activities
- The applicant must demonstrate an example of volunteer work in our community
- The applicant must submit two letters of recommendation: teacher/community member/employer or volunteer supervisor.

Bud Robertson Memorial Scholarship

Bud Robertson taught history at C.M. Russell High School from 1968 to 2004 and passed away in June 2022. This scholarship was established by his wife, Francie, with funds coming from numerous people impacted by Bud's commitment to education. The Bud Robertson Memorial Scholarship will provide one \$1,000 award to a CMR graduate. Scholarship Requirements:

- Must attend C.M. Russell High School
- Must show interest in history & provide letter of recommendation from a history teacher
- Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA

Carnahan Towing Softball Scholarship

This \$1,000 scholarship has been established to support a graduating softball player who is pursuing further education and has demonstrated a commitment to supporting others both on and off the field. Scholarship Requirements:

- Must have a minimum GPA of 3.2
- Must demonstrate financial need
- Must demonstrate a commitment to supporting others
- Two letters of recommendation (a letter from a softball coach is preferred)

CMR Quarterback Club Scholarship

QB's Club is the booster club for the CMR Football program. It raises money annually for the program and all proceeds go directly to the program and a small scholarship fund. The QB's Club awards up to five scholarships every year in the amount of \$500 for student athletes who were part of the CMR Football program. Any athlete who lettered in football is eligible and must complete a 500-word essay explaining how CMR Football impacted them.

Dean Riggin Memorial Music Scholarship

The essence of this \$850 scholarship is to provide an opportunity for students who show a dedication to the field of music, diligence, citizenship, and the ability to work hard toward a goal. Student must have a >2.5 cumulative, show financial need, participate in music, and provide two letters of recommendation—one from a music teacher.

DM Garrity MD Scholarship

The \$1,000 DM Garrity MD Scholarship was created to support a student who has, or is currently, navigating the chronic or terminal illness of a parent or caregiver. This is a significant hardship, and it is the wish of Deb and her family that this scholarship lightens the burden for these students. They would like to reward students who are working toward bettering their own life and their community on a daily basis. Scholarship Requirements:

- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Must demonstrate financial need
- Must demonstrate a commitment to good deeds and concern for others
- Must provide 2 letters of recommendation, one from a teacher/coach/counselor at school and one from a community member
- There is no requirement for the scholarship recipient's field of study (college, trade school, cosmetology, etc.)

Dustin Aaron Parker Memorial Scholarship

Dustin Parker was a CMR student and was a junior at the University of Montana in Missoula at the time of his tragic death due to an auto accident. Prior to his death he was pursuing a degree in Business and Finance. This \$2,000 scholarship originated as a goodwill gesture by C.M.R. Journalism teacher, Katie Meiers and Dustin's fellow journalism students. Scholarship Requirements:

- Must attend Great Falls High School, C.M. Russell High School or Paris Gibson Alternative High School
- Must have a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Must be pursuing 'non-traditional' postsecondary education such as certifications and trades, vocational or tech schooling

Fred and Vasilina Grasseschi Scholarship

The Fred and Vasilina Grasseschi Scholarship was created because of the Grasseschi family's strong belief in academics and athletics as well as their promotion in building character. The Fred & Vasilina Grasseschi Scholarship will be given this year to an applicant with the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated acceptable citizenship

- Participated in sports all four years (football player given preference)
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Must have participated in one extra-curricular activity for each of the four years in high school
- Must show financial need
- Must attend a Montana college or university

Great Falls Moose Lodge Scholarship

The Moose is known for creating lifelong bonds through activities and a shared concern for its missions.

The Great Falls Moose Lodge was chartered on March 21, 1911 and moved to its current location in Black Eagle in 1967. In addition to providing social activities for members, they support local nonprofits through donations, service and the use of their facility for fundraising events. The Great Falls Moose Lodge is offering three \$1,000 scholarships for GFPS graduates pursuing any field of study, at any 2 or 4-year accredited institution or vocational training center.

Scholarship Requirements:

- Graduate from any GFPS High School
- Demonstrate financial need
- Must have a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Demonstrated community service

Gus Bannon Scholarship

This \$500 scholarship was established to honor the memory of one of cross country's greatest fans. Gus was just a pup when he became a Bannon in the fall of 2004 and he proudly wore a CMR Cross Country t-shirt and showed enthusiasm and support for all team members. In spirit, Gus continues to be a strong supporter of CMR and GFH Cross Country. Scholarship Requirements:

- Nominees must have demonstrated a positive influence on teammates, self-discipline, strong practice effort and improvement on personal best records.
- Nominees must plan on attending a Montana university or college
- Nominees must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- The nominee will write a one page, 250-word, reflective essay regarding their high school cross country experience. (Memorable running moment, observation while participating in cross country or whatever life lesson cross country taught you etc...).
- The nominee must provide 2 letters of recommendation; one from a faculty member and one from an employer or volunteer experience.
- Scholarship funds will be awarded to the school of the recipient's choice upon entering the second semester at their post-secondary Montana school.

Jack and Rosann Johnson Scholarship

A couple who wish to remain anonymous and who are outstanding supporters of CMR football has provided an endowment gift to fund the Jack and Rosann Scholarship. This is a four-year renewable scholarship and will be awarded each year.

Scholarship Requirements:

- Applicants must be a CMR senior
- Must have a GPA of at least 3.0
- Must participate in at least one sport and be involved in at least one school/community activity
- Applicant will submit two letters of recommendation by non-family members
- Applicant will write an essay.
- Recipient must maintain a 3.0 GPA all four years as college as well as maintain good citizenship.

Jan Cahill Memorial Scholarship

This \$1,000 scholarship was established to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Jan Cahill. Jan spent over 35 years in various Montana schools as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. Education was a central part of Jan Cahill's life and career. Jan's professional goal and philosophy were "to provide effective leadership in a challenging educational environment and make a positive contribution to the education of children." Scholarship Requirements:

- Applicant must have a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Applicant must attend a college/university in Montana
- Applicant must explain how music or other hobbies helped them thrive in academics
- Applicant must explain how they have overcome challenges
- Applicant must provide two letters of recommendation

Jaraczski Family Scholarship

This scholarship was established in November 2004 after Richard Jaraczkeski died after a long battle with cancer. He highly valued well-rounded young adults who demonstrated integrity, care for others, character, strength and determination. This scholarship is intended to reward one graduating senior who exhibits these values and who is serious about receiving a higher education. Scholarship Requirements:

- Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or better.**
- Applicants must have participated in organized physical and non-physical activities 3 out of the 4 years of high school. The activities are not limited to school sponsored activities

**If a student has a GPA of 2.5-2.8 and has overcome any special circumstances or obstacles and meets the other requirements of this scholarship, he or she will be considered for this scholarship.

Jennifer Joy Astrin Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Dr. Charles and Judith Astrin in memory of their daughter, Jennifer Joy. Jennifer died at the age of 18 in a tragic traffic accident in 1992. She attended C.M. Russell High School and was an active member of DECA. This is a four-year renewable scholarship. Recipients must maintain a 3.0 GPA and carry at least 12 credits to receive the award in future years. Scholarship Requirements:

- Must show proof of financial need by including the EFC page from their FASA.
- This renewable scholarship is for any field of study and may be used at four-year colleges or universities in or out-of-state.
- Three scholarships shall be granted to students with the highest grade point average. In case of a tie, the S.A.T. score will be the tiebreaker. Absent S.A.T. score differences, ties will be broken based on date of application and/or net family income. No other bias factor shall be applicable.
- Scholarship checks will be distributed directly to the college or university.

Kelly Johnson Memorial Scholarship

The Kelly Johnson Scholarship was established as a memorial to Kelly Johnson, who was an outstanding Rustler during her high school career at Charles M. Russell High School. Kelly died tragically in an accident on July 1, 1991. This scholarship serves as a tribute to the memory of her. Scholarship will be given this year to an applicant who provides two letters of recommendation (one teacher/one coach) with the following qualifications:

- Must participate in and earn a varsity letter in at least one varsity sport at CMR.
- Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Must submit two letters of recommendation (one from a high school teacher, one from a coach).

Lowry Family Scholarship

The Lowry Family Scholarship was established in 2018 by Gary and Marie Lowry in recognition of their two children and six grandchildren who all graduated from CM Russell High School. Gary and Marie see the value of excellence in education and athletic and extra-curricular activities and are grateful for the education their children, grandchildren and currently great grandchildren have received in Great Falls Public Schools. They want to honor two C.M.R. students who plan to continue their education and have excelled as a Rustler. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded and is not restricted to an in-state school. Scholarship Requirements:

- Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Must have athletic, extra-curricular and/or school involvement.
- Two letters of recommendation (one from a high school teacher, one from a coach).

Rudolf Schoesser Memorial Scholarship

This particular scholarship is awarded to a student who exhibits motivation and action in making his or her dreams a reality and who plans to pursue his or her post-secondary education at an accredited institution. Scholarship Requirements:

- Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Must be involved in at least one extracurricular activity each year of high school
- Must have applied to an accredited college or university
- Must provide a transcript and two letters of recommendation.

Samantha Sipes Scholarship

The Samantha Ann Sipes Scholarship was established in 2014 to honor a CMR senior interested in pursuing a career in health care who demonstrates determination in overcoming obstacles, compassion for those in need, and kindness towards a diverse population. This \$1,000 four-year renewable scholarship is funded annually as a continuing tribute to Samantha Sipes. Scholarship Qualifications:

- Applicant must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25
- Applicant should demonstrate school involvement and concern for others (one letter of recommendation and resume).
- Applicant must write a 250-word essay discussing and adversity they faced, how they dealt with it and what they learned from it.
- Applicant must write a 250-word essay describing their plans to enter into a health-related field and what motivates them to pursue this course of study and career.

Taryn Brody Memorial Scholarship

This \$500 scholarship honors the life of Taryn Brody and is sponsored by Vineyard Church and is for an individual who shows the most growth and ability to break from their shell to be the rock star that they are meant to be, no matter what career path they choose. Scholarship Requirements:

- Applicant must be student at CMR and involved in the drama department on some level.
- Applicant must have at least a 2.5 GPA.
- Applicant must have a letter of recommendation from an instructor.
- Applicant does not necessarily need to pursue a career in theatre – just have it in his/her blood, just as Taryn did.

Treacy Giesler Memorial Scholarship

Treacy Giesler was a 1984 graduate of Charles M. Russell High School. Throughout her junior and senior years, she suffered from a debilitating brain tumor. In spite of the tumor, her determination, compassion for others and love of life triumphed. She participated in many activities and maintained a high academic record. The Treacy Giesler Memorial Scholarship was established by her family and friends and is funded annually as a continuing tribute to her memory. Criteria of Scholarship:

- Applicant must have a 3.0 or higher GPA
- Demonstration of having overcome some adversity (economic, emotional, family conflict, learning OR physical disability)
- Demonstrate participation in school and community activities
- Demonstrate concern for others and self determination
- One letter of recommendation and transcript

REMINDER: FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP SESSION ONE ENDS NOV 15TH

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

MT Jaycee Foundation Scholarship-A \$1,000 annual scholarship to a college or university and a NEW \$1,000 scholarship for a vocational or industrial school is being offered to MT seniors. Download the application and student check list at www.usjcisenate.org. Deadline for applications is January 17th.

Evans Hairstyling College in Rexburg, ID is offering a \$2,000 scholarship to all students enrolling in their cosmetology school. Submit your application online at www.evanshairstylingcollege.com.

Horatio Alger Scholarship

The Horatio Alger Association seeks to assist students who have demonstrated integrity, perseverance in overcoming adversity, strength of character, financial need, a good academic record, commitment to pursue a college education, and a desire to contribute to society. Scholarships range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Several scholarships are available and each has unique qualifications and deadlines, so APPLY EARLY. Applications are available at: <http://scholars.horatioalger.org>.

Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarships

Elks will award 500 scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$12,500. Male and female students compete separately for identical awards. Scoring is based on scholarship, leadership and financial need. Applicants DO NOT NEED to be members of Elk's Club to apply. Application deadline is on or before November 12, 2024. Applications are available at: [Most Valuable Student \(elks.org\)](http://Most Valuable Student (elks.org))

Elks National Foundation Legacy Award

The Elks National Foundation Legacy Awards scholarship contest awards one-year, \$4,000 scholarships to children and grandchildren of Elk members who are high school seniors, going on to college and exhibit the core values of the Elks National Foundation: Knowledge, Charity, Community and Integrity. Applications are available online at <https://www.elks.org/scholars/default.cfm?m=programs>. Deadline is February 3, 2025.

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarships

Each year the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) awards multiple scholarships to male and female students showing dedication to the pursuit of higher education in diverse areas of study including history, economics, law, political science, medicine, nursing, occupational and physical therapy, elementary and secondary education, chemistry, math, science and English. Visit <https://www.dar.org/national-society/scholarships> from November 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025 to find the right scholarship for you.

The DAR Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest, created in 1934, is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. This award recognizes and rewards high school seniors who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. If you possess the qualities listed above, please see your counselor to arrange time to write the DAR essay.

Voice of Democracy Scholarship—This year’s theme is “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?”

Each year, more than 51,000 high school students from across the country enter to win a share of the \$2.2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the VFW’s Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition. The national first-place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000 - \$16,000, and the first-place winner from each (State) VFW Department wins an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. Visit <https://vfwmt.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=14856> for more information.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH ENGINES

reachhighermontana.org
scholarships.com
fastweb.com
collegeboard.com
myscholly.com

***Common Application**—Provides applications, both online and in print, that may be submitted to more than 400 colleges and universities, mostly private and/or out of state schools. See Mrs. Lowry or your counselor for more information.



Scholarship Tips

- ✓ **Please check out the criteria carefully.** For example, if the scholarship requires you to attend a Montana school and you are going out-of-state, you will not qualify.
- ✓ **Scholarships have deadlines.** Don't wait until the last minute to get your application(s) completed, references turned in, or transcripts sent. It takes time and effort to do a quality application.
- ✓ **Have a back-up plan.** Apply to more than one school, and/or at least have a second and third choice in mind. Many quality students make the mistake of applying only to schools where admission and selection are very limited. It is recommended that you take your **ACT** or **SAT** test **no later than the December test dates**. Most colleges will accept results from either test. Please see your counselor about whether or not it might be beneficial or necessary for you to retake the test.
- ✓ **Scholarship Scoops.** Be attentive to the Scholarship Scoops as they arrive monthly. It is impossible to put every scholarship that colleges, universities, and vocational schools offer in the scoops. **It is your responsibility** to be searching out scholarships that fit your needs. The Advisement Center will pass along scholarships that arrive periodically.
- ✓ **All scholarship applications should:**
 - Be typed or word processed if possible.
 - Be on time.
 - Be complete. (Proofread, double check scholarship requirements and directions)

- Be carefully and thoughtfully done.

***Don't forget to write a thank you note to those who write you letters of recommendation.**

VISIT A MONTANA CAMPUS

U of M Visits—You will spend time learning more about UM academic programs, co-curricular experiences and seeing for yourself why UM is a university like no other. Visit https://apply.umt.edu/portal/campus_visit for dates.

MSU Visits—MSU will be offering daily on-campus or virtual visits Monday through Friday. Students can attend a campus tour, visit residence halls, meet with an admissions counselor, and get more information from academic departments of interest. Explore opportunities at www.montana.edu/visit.

Carroll Campus Visit Dates—Tour the campus, attend a class, meet a professor and have lunch with current students. Carroll is offering several options to visit their campus. Visit <https://www.carroll.edu/admission-aid/visit-campus> to find out what those options are.

MT Tech Offers in-person campus visits Monday through Friday beginning at 1pm throughout the year. Visits must be booked with at least a 7 days business days' notice. Book at [Montana Tech: Visit Us! \(mtech.edu\)](http://Montana Tech: Visit Us! (mtech.edu))

REGISTER FOR THE ACT @ ACT.ORG

Cost is \$69 (Non-Writing); \$94 (Writing). Registering late incurs additional fees.
Administered at CMR. HS Code is: 270397

*Register for the December 14th test before November 8th

*Register for the February 8th test before January 3rd

*Register for the April 5th test before February 28th

REGISTER FOR THE SAT @ SAT.ORG

Cost is \$68. Registering late incurs additional fees.
Administered at GFHS. HS Code is: 27130

*Register for the November 2nd test before October 18th.

*Register for the December 7th test before November 22nd.

*Register for the March 8th test before February 21st.

*Register for the May 3rd test before April 18th.

*Register for the June 7th test before May 16th.

