

Austin High School | September 2024

CAREER PATHWAYS NEWSLETTER



AGRICULTURE,
FOOD, & NATURAL
RESOURCES



BUSINESS



ENGINEERING,
MANUFACTURING,
& TECHNOLOGY



EDUCATION, HEALTH
SCIENCES, & HUMAN
SERVICES



ARTS &
COMMUNICATION

WELCOME BACK!



We are gearing up for another great year at AHS! Now is the time to start thinking about your 4 year and beyond plan and setting yourself up for success! We are launching a new program this year called SchoolLinks and it is AWESOME! If you want to talk about your career pathway, stop and see me in the Career Center!

Ms. Carlson

UPCOMING DATES:



9/11/24 - Accuplacer Testing
9/16/24 - PSAT Registration Due
10/9/24 - PSAT Testing (optional 10th & 11th)
10/10/24 - College Fair (Commons)- 1:00 - 3:00
10/22/24 - Accuplacer Testing
10/25/24 - UMD Rep in Career Center -10:00
10/29/24 - ASVAB Testing

NEW

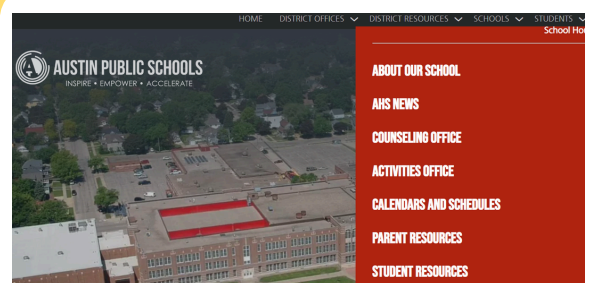


SchoolLinks

We are implementing a new college and career readiness platform this year called **SchoolLinks**. Throughout the year you will be learning how to use different aspects of the program, but feel free to hop in and explore! SchoolLinks is your one stop shop for exploring colleges, looking for scholarships, working on your Packer Portfolio, connecting with real industry professionals, learning about career exploration events offered through AHS, and much more! This is where college rep visits and tour opportunities will be posted in your Events feed.

TO ACCESS SCHOOLINKS:

To log in, go to the AHS Homepage, Student Resources in the red menu, and scroll down until you see SchoolLinks.



STUDENT RESOURCES

[STUDENT HANDBOOK](#)

[9TH GRADE PARENT PRESENTATION](#)

[A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE AT AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL](#)

[MCIS](#)
[Parchment](#)
[Odysseyware](#)
[Get Connected](#)
[Austin Assurance Scholarship](#)
[APS Student Links](#)
[AHS Yearbook Information](#)
[SchoolLinks](#)

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

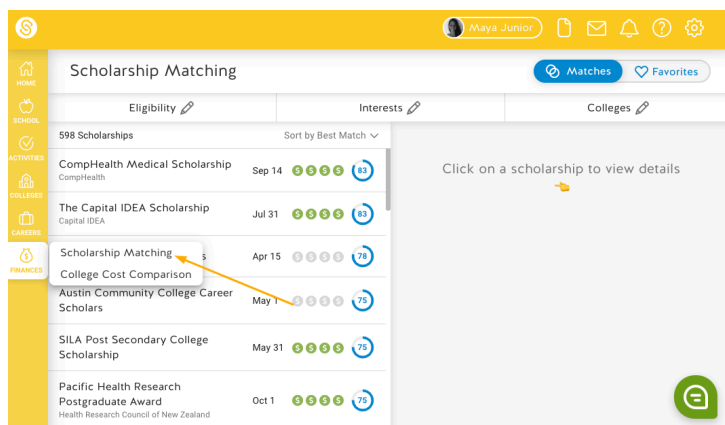


HOW DO I FIND SCHOLARSHIPS IN SCHOOLINKS?

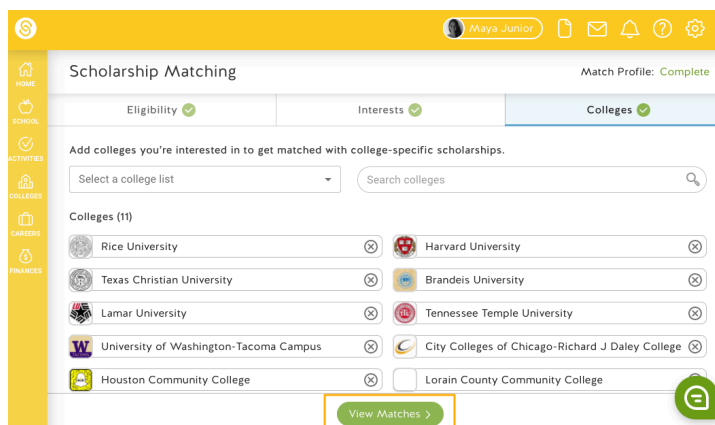
SchoolLinks

Featured Scholarships will be posted in this newsletter, but the **full list of scholarships can be found in the SchoolLinks site**. There will no longer be a separate scholarship list, it will all be housed in SchoolLinks.

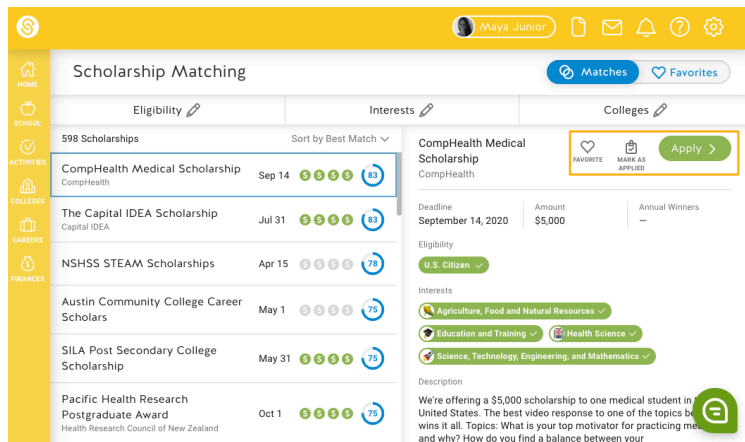
From the SchoolLinks dashboard, click the Finances icon on the left hand navigation bar and select Scholarship Matching from the side menu. Create a Scholarship Match Profile based on eligibility, interests, and colleges. Click View Matches to see the results. You can also search for specific scholarships. Note - as they become available in the next few months, our local scholarships will also be added.



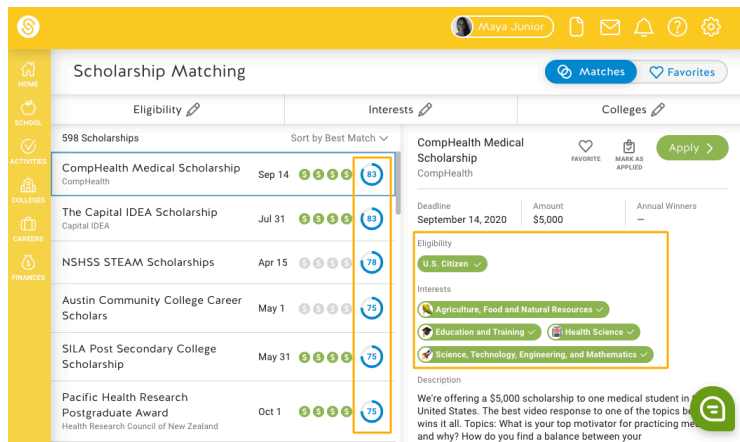
1. Access the Scholarship Matching feature



2. Create a Scholarship Match Profile



3. View Results



4. Favorite and apply for scholarships

[Click here for an informational video](#)



SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



THE HORMEL FOUNDATION Austin Assurance Scholarship



Are you interested in a \$12,000 scholarship to attend Riverland? If the answer is YES, [click here](#) to learn more about eligibility for the Austin Assurance Scholarship. You can stop by the Career Center any day to see Ms. Carlson or on Tuesdays or Thursdays to talk to Taylor Flugge, Austin Assurance Advisor.

Get Connected is a constant **source of volunteer opportunities**, and this is also **where you will go to log your hours**. All students have a Get Connected account. Can't remember your password? Click the "forgot password" link. All accounts are created with your school email so the hours pull for the scholarship. **Pro tip: Always fill out the volunteer request completely with as much detail as possible. Failure to do so will result in delays in approval.** Note: if you are volunteering at the Humane Society this year, you will need to stop in the Career Center and get a verification form.



[Click here to access
Get Connected](#)



SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



North Star Promise Program

A new scholarship that makes college affordable for more Minnesotans



Beginning in fall 2024, the North Star Promise (NSP) Scholarship program will make college accessible and affordable for any eligible Minnesotan who has the desire to earn a credential. The program will cover the full cost of tuition and fees for eligible Minnesotans at public institutions and tribal colleges in the state.

NSP is intended to have a positive impact on multiple fronts:

- Help stabilize enrollment at Minnesota public institutions of higher education;
- Serve as an economic driver for Minnesota by educating qualified workers who are much needed to fill vacancies in the state's labor force;
- Create a viable higher education path for Minnesota residents who may have previously thought education was not a possibility for them.

Eligibility and Academic Requirements

- ✓ You must be a Minnesota resident
- ✓ Have a family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) as reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Minnesota Dream Act Application below \$80,000.
- ✓ Attend a Minnesota public higher education institution or tribal college
- ✓ Not be in default on a state or federal student loan
- ✓ Be enrolled taking at least one credit
- ✓ Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards
- ✓ Have not already earned a baccalaureate degree
- ✓ Be enrolled in a program or course of study that applies to a degree, diploma, or certificate

What's Covered?

NSP will cover the full remaining cost of college tuition and fees, after other scholarships, grants, and tuition waivers have been applied.

Eligible Institutions

- ✓ All Minnesota State colleges and universities
- ✓ All University of Minnesota system campuses
- ✓ All tribal colleges

North Star Impact

An estimated 15,000 students will benefit from NSP in the first academic year of implementation.



Scan the QR code to learn more





SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



North Star Promise Program

APPLICATION STEPS & AWARD DETAILS



Eliminating financial barriers: Your path to college is clear with the North Star Promise ✓

Maximum Award Amounts

There is no maximum length of time that students can receive the NSP, but there are credit limits.

For students earning a:

2-year Associate Degree:

Receive NSP up to 60 credits

4-year Bachelor's Degree:

Receive NSP up to 120 credits

Last-Dollar Scholarship

NSP is a "last-dollar" program, which considers any other sources of gift aid funding that students receive, before the award is applied.

The goal of this strategy is to utilize all available federal, state, private and institutional gift aid to provide as many eligible students as possible with a tuition and fee-free pathway to a college education.

How do I apply?

Students apply by completing the:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.studentaid.gov or
- Minnesota Dream Act application at www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct

What happens next?

The college or university you are attending will assess your eligibility on a term-by-term basis and award North Star Promise Scholarships to all eligible students.

Your award amount will be calculated by your college or university. They will determine your tuition and required fee charges, subtract all other sources of gift aid (scholarships, grants, waivers and stipends) and award the remaining amount in a North Star Promise Scholarship. Students will be notified through the college or university's standard awarding process.

How much money can I receive?

There is not a limit on the maximum term, yearly, or lifetime dollar amount of an award you can receive. The amount you receive is based on the "last-dollar" calculation of your eligibility on a term-by-term basis. You can receive up to 100% of the amount charged in tuition and required fees per term, minus all other sources of gift aid you receive. You must continue to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards at your school.

If funds are available, the highest need students may also receive North Star Promise Plus funds. **Note: The details on the North Star Promise Plus provision of the program are still being determined.**

Questions about the program? Contact:
NorthStarPromise.OHE@state.mn.us



SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



About The Gates Scholarship The Gates Scholarship (TGS) is a highly selective, last-dollar scholarship for outstanding, minority, high school seniors from low-income households. Each year, the scholarship is awarded to exceptional student leaders, with the intent of helping them realize their maximum potential.

Selected Scholars will receive funding for the full cost of attendance to earn a bachelor's degree, that is not already covered by other financial aid and the Student Aid Index, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or the methodology used by a Scholar's college or university. Costs covered include tuition, fees, books, housing and food, and may include additional personal costs.

TGS also provides Scholars with various online support services designed to help them excel in their degree programs, graduate, and make a successful transition to their chosen careers. These include career services, mentoring, leadership development, wellness, and knowledge building.

To apply, a student must be:

- A high school senior
- From at least one of the following ethnicities: African American, American Indian/Alaska Native*, Asian/Pacific Islander American, and/or Hispanic American
- Pell-eligible
- A US citizen, national, or permanent resident
- In good academic standing with a minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)

Additionally, a student must plan to enroll full-time, in a four-year degree program, at a US accredited, not-for-profit, private or public college or university.

**For American Indian/Alaska Native, proof of tribal enrollment will be required.*

The ideal candidate will have an outstanding academic record in high school (top 10% of class), demonstrated leadership ability (participation in community service, extracurricular, etc), and exceptional personal success skills (emotional maturity, motivation, perseverance)

Timeline:

July 15 - application opens
Sept 15 - application deadline for Phase 1
Dec 1 - semi-finalists announced
Jan 15 - deadline for Phase 2
March 2025 - finalists announced

[Click here](#) for more information



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sumner Elementary will be hosting a Welcome Family Event on **Thursday, September 19th** from 4:00-7:00 PM on the playground. We are seeking high school volunteers to facilitate “backyard” games with students and families. Contact Jill Rollie to register.



Southgate PTC needs child care help for their PTC meetings - 2 students per evening from 4:00-5:15 in the Southgate gym. Email Alyssa alyssashuster@hotmail.com
Meeting Dates: Sept 11, October 9, Nov 13

We need your help to staff the **Packer Pantry**. This is a great resource for our student body and we are hoping to have it open and available!

Please sign up for a time to work in the pantry. We will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays before and after school. You just have to be present and monitor the space. You can tidy up while you are there too! You will receive a service hour for each hour you work, or a .5 hour for 30 minutes .

See or email Mrs. Hovland with any questions!
Emily.hovland@austin.k12.mn.us

School Year Help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4AA5AA29A6F58-50753670-ahspantry>



Volunteer Remind Group

Join Ms. Carlson's Volunteer Opportunity Remind Group - TEXT @34kd64g to 81010 to get Ms. Carlson's texts about volunteer opportunities

We need you!



Get volunteer hours!

Tutors needed!

- Help peers at AHS
- Get volunteer hours
- Make a difference



Fill out the form below or use the QR code today!
<https://forms.office.com/r/6RxKQtDPPP>



TESTING INFORMATION



PSAT Testing

When: October 9, 2024 (registration forms due Sept 26)

Who: Optional test for 10th and 11th graders

Where: Locations will be posted on the Career Center door

***Registration forms available in the Career Center and Cashier's Office**

Wednesday, October 9 the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will be administered to interested sophomores and juniors. The PSAT/NMSQT is a standardized test serving as a practice version of the SAT exam. It includes modules for reading, writing, and math. The PSAT also prepares students for college readiness and is the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship. It is the only test that the Hormel Foods Corporation will accept for their special scholarship program. These special scholarships are available to the children of current, retired, or deceased employees of Hormel and its subsidiaries. In no instance will any officer or employee of the Hormel Company play a part in the selection of scholarship winners or monies to be awarded. The NMSQT Corporation handles the entire award process. This test is NOT required for the Austin Assurance Scholarship.

Sign up will take place starting September 4th; forms are available in the Career Center and Cashier's Office. **Parents/guardians will need to complete the registration form and submit to the cashier by September 26 at 3:30 PM. This test is optional, you do not have to take it.**

To Prepare: Click here to learn more about the Digital PSAT/NMSQT. Full length adaptive digital practice is available on the Bluebook app. Additional resources are available on Khan Academy. **There will be a mandatory PSAT Prep and Device Check session for students on Tuesday 10/1 at 7:45 AM and again at 3:30 PM in the Career Center. It will take about 15 minutes.** This step is critical so we ensure the correct version of Bluebook is on their device.

Testing Day: On 10/9/24 the test will start promptly at 8:30 AM. Students can check the window outside the Career Center to see their room assignments the week of the test. The test will take approximately 2.5 hours.

If you have any questions regarding the PSAT Test, please contact Jane Carlson in the Career Center. This test is optional.



TESTING INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE ACCUPLACER?



The Accuplacer is a **standardized reading and math placement exam** to help colleges assess student readiness for introductory credit bearing courses and make reliable placement decisions. **This may be required to enroll in our PSEO courses as well as when you enroll in college.** Accuplacer makes it easier for you to plan a successful path toward a college degree. Talk to your counselor or Ms. Carlson if you are interested in learning more about the Accuplacer. You must pre-register using the link below two weeks in advance of the test.

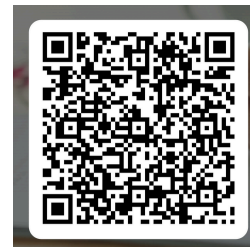
2024-25 Testing Dates: 9/11, 10/22, 11/19, 12/17, 1/14, 2/4, 4/8, 5/13

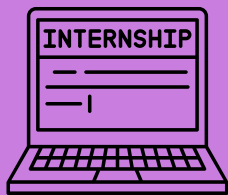


WHAT IS THE ASVAB?



The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is a standardized test that measures a person's **aptitude** and helps **predict their future academic and career success**. The ASVAB is used for a variety of purposes, including military entrance eligibility and career guidance for both military and civilian jobs. The test includes topics such as arithmetic reasoning, comprehension, electronics, automotive and mechanical comprehension, assembling objects, and verbal expression. It was originally designed as a military test in 1968, but is now used for much more. The **ASVAB Career Exploration Program** is an online tool students can utilize in conjunction with their score to explore and plan for a career in civilian or military worlds of work. **In addition, the ASVAB test is one way to earn academic eligibility for the Austin Assurance Scholarship if you don't need the GPA threshold. Any junior or senior can take the ASVAB at AHS. Testing dates are 10/29, 12/10, 1/28, 2/11, 4/1, 5/20.** Sign up with the QR Code below.





INTERNSHIPS & EMPLOYMENT

Helping people looking for work now



September is

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

#MNWorkforce

CareerForce™

[Click here for the most recent WDI Job List](#)



Your Career. Your Future. Our Focus.



STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM

100% Paid Tuition or Reimbursement
Options Available for Students



Scan the QR Code to:

- schedule a tour or classroom presentation
- for interested students to fill out our online application.

AT YOUR REQUEST, WE CAN PROVIDE:

- In-class Presentations
- College Tours
- Video Conference Calls
- Job Shadowing
- Kibble Equipment Shop Tours
- Meetings with Current Interns
- Meetings with Kibble Employees



We partner with other technical programs, too!

Shane Uttenhove & Brian Huinker
Student Recruitment Specialists
605-237-3956

Careers@KibbleEq.com
KibbleEq.com/Student-Tech

STUDENT INTERN PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

| | TechKnowledge Program | John Deere Tech Programs | General Diesel Programs |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 100% Tuition Paid Upfront by Kibble Equipment | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Tuition Reimbursement | | | ✓ |
| Paid Internships | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| New Student Tool Kit & Toolbox Provided | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Up to \$7500 Tool Reimbursement | | | ✓ |
| Books & Fees Paid by Kibble Equipment | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Housing Allowance Starting Second Year | ✓ | | |
| Relocation Housing Stipend for Internship | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Laptop Computer Provided | ✓ | ✓ | |
| John Deere Exclusive Training Courses | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Access to John Deere Training Courses with Signed Agreement | | | ✓ |
| Post-Graduation Commitment | 3 years | 3 years | 5 years |

Your Career. Your Future. Our Focus.

Shane Uttenhove & Brian Huinker
Student Recruitment Specialists
605-237-3956

Careers@KibbleEq.com
KibbleEq.com/Student-Tech





CAREER PATHWAYS
EXPLORATION

PATHWAY INFORMATION



Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship

This year's essay theme is "Is America Today Our Forefather's Vision?" This essay contest is open to grades 9 - 12. The top national scholarship is for \$35,000! Essays are due Oct 31. If you are interested in submitting an essay, stop in the Career Center and see Ms. Carlson for details.



AHS COLLEGE FAIR

This is your chance to speak informally with representatives from a variety of colleges right here in the AHS Commons!

✓ Open to all students 9 - 12

Explore your options and start planning your future. We look forward to seeing you there!

Representatives attending include:

Riverland, MSU Mankato, Winona State, U of M Twin Cities, Luther, RCTC, Gustavus, St. Mary's, NIACC, U of M Rochester, all branches of the military, and more!

Do the Scavenger Hunt and you might win a pizza!

Thursday
October
10
1:00 - 3:00



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

