



Lewisville Independent School District

COLLEGE ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Volume 3.8

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Juniors, you can continue preparing for your senior year this summer. Review your *Junior/Senior Handbook* for:

- College admission requirements
 - College selection information
 - College admissions testing
 - Financial aid information
 - College costs
 - College visit information
 - College timeline for seniors
 - Other post-high school educational options
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- ✓ By the beginning of your senior year, you should have your college choices narrowed to the top five.
 - ✓ Take some college visits this summer to help you in your selection process.
 - ✓ Check on the college websites for admission requirements, deadlines for application, programs available, and scholarships which may be available.
 - ✓ Take or sign up to take the SAT or ACT in the early fall. Make sure your scores meet the admission standards for the college of your choice.
 - ✓ If you are planning to play college sports, register with the NCAA Clearinghouse (www.eligibilitycenter.org)
 - ✓ Complete your senior resume forms to be used for recommendations (page 60 *J/S H B*)
 - ✓ Start your scholarship search. See the information below for more information on applying for scholarships.
 - ✓ Work on your essays for college admission and for scholarships.

Seniors are encouraged to apply early for scholarships in order to increase their chances of receiving as much money as possible to help pay for college expenses. This summer is a great time to begin applying. There are hundreds of scholarships available. Two keys to being a recipient are: (1) to apply for as many as possible with quality applications and, (2) to get organized to make applications easier and efficient.

Tips for submitting **quality** applications include:

- Fill out each application completely. Applications which are missing anything will probably automatically be eliminated.
- If an essay is required, write one that will make you stand out above all the other applicants. Be sure to address the particular prompt stated on the application. See www.gocollege.com for tips on writing a great essay and www.scholarshipjunkies.com under *Scholarship Articles* (Articles include: Writing an Autobiographical Essay, Writer's Block, Scholarship Applications, Requesting Letters of Recommendation, Padding your Application, Common Essay Questions 101, Preparing for Scholarship Interviews, Building a Scholarship Profile, Time is of the Essence)
- If letters of recommendation are required, be sure to give specific information to the person you are asking for the recommendation. The www.gocollege.com and www.scholarshipjunkies.com give information on letters of recommendation including people to consider asking to write the letter, information to give them including personal data, scholarship information, and the date you need the letter.
- If the application requires a copy of your transcript, notice if it specifies *a copy* of your transcript or an *official copy*. About mid-June, after grades are finalized and posted, you can email the registrar's office and request a **student copy** of your transcript, make multiple copies, and have them ready to send off with your scholarship application. If an **official copy** is required, email the registrar and request a copy be mailed according to instructions on the application. To email the registrar: xxxxx@lisd.net. Give your full name, ID #, date of birth, year of graduation, and daytime phone number. She will let you know when you can pick it up.

Tips for **getting organized** include:

- Develop a method of organizing your applications. You can set up a filing system with different folders for scholarship opportunities, scholarships you are currently working on, and scholarships you have applied for. Be sure to make copies of the complete application including the essay and keep it in this file. Set up scholarship portfolios which include articles like transcripts, resumes, certificates, notable awards, achievements and newspaper articles. This can be useful for interviews for both colleges and scholarships.
- Use a chart to keep track of the scholarships for which you will apply. Note the application deadline, the notification deadline and the date you submitted the application. A chart is available at www.lisd.net/counseling/college.html at the bottom of the page. It is available in MS Word or PDF.
- Prepare a scholarship resume to make it easier to list your achievements, membership in organizations, leadership roles you have had, and awards and honors you have received. www.gocollege.com is a website that can provide other useful tips.

For a comprehensive list of websites containing information on scholarships, go to

www.lisd.net/counseling/college.html Here you will find the Scholarship Newsletter and helpful information not only in applying for scholarships but also numerous **websites with hundreds of scholarships** for which to apply. Sign up for one or more of the websites that ask for your profile information. They will email you scholarships which match your profile. You can then choose which ones to apply for. One common site is www.fastweb.com Another is www.brokescholar.com There are several others on the lisd website. Some of the websites list scholarship sweepstakes, scholarship lotteries, etc. Go to www.gocollege.com for more information on this resource for scholarship money.

Searching for and applying for scholarships are not necessarily difficult, just time-consuming. Getting a scholarship is a "numbers game." The more you apply for, the greater your chances of receiving one or several. Getting organized is a key factor in submitting as many as you can. Note, however, that you should submit only **high-quality** applications with excellent essays.

Tips on Winning a Scholarship

The students that win the most scholarships may not have more positive qualities than you, but they use the following strategy to **get noticed** by the scholarship committees:

- **Get Prepared:**
 - Get letters of recommendation from teachers, guidance counselors or leaders in your community. Choose these wisely (make copies).
 - Get a copy of your high school transcript (make copies).
 - Get involved in your community or in school activities or in your church. If your time is limited due to personal circumstances, working to help with family expenses is also an advantage.
 - Start writing an essay about your goals and what you have done to date to achieve them. **Think about what makes you unique.**
 - Get a picture of yourself. A school picture is perfect. Anything smaller than a wallet size head shot, will do.
 - Buy some binders to have numerous packages made up ahead of time, ready to submit to the various scholarship committees. The package will include:
 - The scholarship application (you will have to insert this later when you have received each individual application)
 - Followed by an essay that gets you noticed
 - Followed by your transcript (some scholarships do not require this, but if it's impressive, send it)
 - Followed by letters of recommendation and then
 - Place your picture in the front inside cover(on top of the application) in the lower left hand corner (this is not a requirement, but it helps to put a face to the person, for the scholarship committee deciding who receives the awards)
- **Get Organized:**
 - Begin researching scholarships that match your criteria. Consider using a scholarship search service that does not sell your information and keeps your information private. There are many free scholarship searches. Check LISD's Counseling Website: ***Free Scholarship and College Information***
 - Once you have identified the scholarships for which you want to apply, keep track of the deadlines.
 - Create a chart to keep on top of all dates.
 - The chart should include:
 - Scholarship name and phone number
 - Date application must be received by scholarship committee
 - Date you requested the application
 - Date you received the application
 - Date application with above package was mailed
 - Date you called the Scholarship Agency to verify they received your application package
- **Get Noticed:**
 - As important as being prepared and organized, it is equally important that you have an essay that gets you noticed.
 - Even if you feel you master the English language, your essay should be critiqued by someone who has experience in essay writing.

For more helpful Scholarship Tips on scholarship applications, essays, and letters of recommendation go to www.scholarshipjunkies.com and www.gocollege.com

Financial aid administrators offer scholarship and financial aid advice to students

Families often hear about the millions of scholarship dollars that go unused each year, an anecdote that has been repeated so many times that it is accepted as fact. Unfortunately, this pot of scholarships at the end of the rainbow is a myth: While some scholarships go unused, much of the money included in that figure comes from employers' tuition remission programs. **There are scholarships out there, however, and you can increase your odds of winning one by following these eight steps:**

1. **Consult the financial aid office:** The largest amount of financial aid comes from federal, state, and institutional grants and tuition discounts. Your financial aid office can help you find information on available scholarships, grants, and loans according to your needs and background.
2. **Contact your academic department:** If you have already decided on a major, your academic department may be aware of awards designated for students in your area of study. The student aid office does not always have information on these highly specific programs, so be sure to check both.
3. **Use a free scholarship search engine:** Ask the student aid office to recommend free scholarship search sites other students have found useful. Online searches let you focus on scholarships that fit your personal characteristics, helping you target your search to only those scholarships for which you are most likely to qualify. Some sites bombard users with promotional scholarships that may turn out to be advertisements in disguise, however, so make sure you know what you are signing up for when and if you give out your personal information. ***Check LISD Counseling Website: Free Scholarship and College Information for search engines.***
4. **Never assume:** Don't believe that because you don't have straight A's and can't shoot a 3 pointer, there's nothing available to you. There are scholarships available based on hobbies, interests, background, financial need, etc. According to FinAid.com, there's even a \$1,000 scholarship for a left-handed student. Seek out local and national organizations and associations in your areas of interest to see whether any scholarship opportunities exist.
5. **Write the essay:** No one likes to write essays, so use that fact to your advantage. Scholarships that require essays receive fewer applicants, giving you a better chance of qualifying. Keep copies of all the application materials you submit; often essays and other application materials can be tweaked and used again for future applications. Be sure to thoroughly proofread before submitting each application.
6. **Stack up the small scholarships:** Studies show that families often overlook scholarships that are less than \$500. You may be thinking that these awards won't even make a dent in your college costs, but adding up multiple small awards can prove to be a benefit in your scholarship quest.
7. **Apply early:** The best time to apply is NOW! Waiting too long will result in missed deadlines. Seniors should start filling out applications to meet the early or mid-fall application deadlines. Don't wait to be accepted to a college to research and apply for private scholarships. If you don't receive a scholarship the first time around, don't get discouraged. Most scholarships are not limited to freshmen; you may have better luck the following year.
8. **Don't get scammed:** The Federal Trade Commission warns consumers about scholarship scams, which promise that, for a fee, they can help the family access more student aid. Similar scams charge students high scholarship search or application fees. According to the FTC, "Most scholarship sponsors do not charge up-front fees to apply for funding, and no legitimate scholarship sponsor can guarantee that you will win an award." The financial aid office at your school can help you apply for student aid, and free scholarship searches are available online.

Even without scholarships, families can still find ways to afford college. **Start by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** and contact your school's financial aid office to find out what federal, state, and institutional aid you might qualify for. Finding money for college is a lot like taking classes: The way to succeed is to do your homework.

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) is a nonprofit membership organization based in Washington, D.C. NASFAA is the only national association with a primary focus on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis, and training for financial aid administrators. In addition to its member Web site at www.NASFAA.org, the Association offers a Web site with financial aid information for parents and students at www.StudentAid.org.

The chart below includes a short list of upcoming scholarships, grants and college funding competitions.

This newsletter is updated as additional scholarships become available. Keep checking back

Scholarship	Description	Award Amount	Contact/application Information	Deadline
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Store	Make own Prom Outfit – Make own prom outfit, including accessory, with fabric and other products from Jo-Ann. Winning entries based on workmanship, originality, and level of detail.	\$1,000-\$50,000	www.joann.com/prom	6/15/10
Abbott & Fenner Scholarship	Essay - Scholarship award for those junior and senior students who have the desire and ambition to succeed. Requires one 500 to 1000 word essay on topic: What do you see as the long term impact of our current recession on the average family? How might it affect their future decisions?	\$1,000	www.abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm	6/19/10
Big Sun Scholarship	Athlete/Essay - Scholarship award to student athlete based on essay. All student athletes are eligible regardless of sport. More than one award winner.	\$500	http://www.bigsunathletics.com/	6/24/10
Men's Club of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church (Lewisville, TX)	Family registered at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, Lewisville – Must be an entering freshman registered and enrolled in a 4-year college degree program in an accredited university and whose family is registered at St. Philip the Apostle. Awarded based on: Overall high school scholastic performance; leadership and community involvement in the St. Philip and Lewisville-area community; one-page essay titled: "What my Catholic faith means to me as I transition from high school to college."	\$500	Entries should be submitted to: Scholarship Award St. Philip Men's Club 1897 W. Main Street Lewisville, TX 75067 Questions: W. J. Mildfelt at 972-436-7135	7/1/10
Phi Kappa Alpha Freshman Scholarship	Freshman Male attending Oklahoma University – No obligation to sign with, pledge, or become a member of the Phi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. GPA 3.0 or greater, incoming male freshman to University of Oklahoma in fall of 2010. Complete application.	\$500	www.lisd.net/counseling/college/apps/apppka.pdf	7/15/10
Marine Corps Scholarship	Military/Marines - Scholarship awards to students whose parents served or are serving in the Marines.	\$1,000 - \$12,500 annually	www.mcsf.com/site/c.ivKVLAMTLuG/b.1696095/k.9BB0/for_Students.htm	Materials available on website: Jan. 2010
Sallie Mae Scholarship Giveaway	Drawing - Scholarship awarded through a monthly drawing for any student who registers on the Sallie Mae Free Scholarship Search Website.	\$1,000 awarded monthly	http://www.collegeanswer.com/paying/scholarship_search/pay_scholarship_search.jsp	Monthly award
Slough Foundation Scholarship	Financial Need – Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA, be a US citizen, and be a Texas resident. Submit a Slough Scholarship Application, results of FAFSA, and a one page essay.	\$5,000 each year	www.midland.edu/slough_scholarship@midland.edu midland.edu/admissions/aid/forms/slough.pdf	Not stated
Texas Early High School Graduation Scholarship	DAP/Early Grad. - Scholarship grant to students who complete either the Texas Recommended or Distinguished Achievement graduation plans within 36 to 41 months. Must be a Texas resident.	Varies according to graduation completion date	www.collegeforalltexas.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=417 *Must review w/ your school counselor.	See website for details.
Academic Competitiveness Grant	Financial Need/Rigorous program - Grant for students who demonstrate financial need and have completed a rigorous program of study.	\$750	www.studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/AcademicGrants.jsp	Varies

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Fund	Military/Veterans - Financial assistance for children and spouses of deceased and disabled veterans, MIA's and POW's.	Varies	www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/CH35/C35_Pamphlet_General.htm	Varies
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	Hispanic - Scholarship awards for Hispanic American students - several opportunities available; check website.	Varies	www.hsf.net/Scholarships.aspx?id=426	Varies - check website
Elks Scholarships	Financial Need/GPA - Scholarship awards for students based on GPA, leadership, and financial need.	Varies	www.elks.org/enf/scholars/ourscholarships.cfm	Varies- Check website
James M. and Virginia M. Smyth Scholarship	Specific Degree - Scholarship award for students wishing to pursue a degree in the arts and sciences, human services, music or ministry.	\$2,000 annually for up to four years.	www.cfgreateratlanta.org/Grants-Support/Scholarships/The-James-M-Virginia-M-Smyth-Scholarship-Fund.aspx	2010 deadline not yet announced. Check website.
Paul Quinn College Scholars Program (Dallas, TX)	Merit based scholarship program – Graduate in top 25% of class; at least 3.25 GPA; at least 20 on ACT/1150 on SAT (verbal/math); submit typewritten essay; complete financial aid application process; execute the "Paul Quinn College Scholar's Letter-of-Intent; complete interviews with panel and college president	75% of annual tuition; renewable	Contact: Ms. Ann Machen 214-379-5525 amachen@pqc.edu	Admission deadline not given