

Needville High School Senior Newsletter/Scholarship Bulletin November, 2023

Writing a Winning College Admissions Essay

Your application essay is a great opportunity to give colleges a picture of who you are, in your own voice. Here are some tips to help you write an essay that will make you stand out from other applicants:

- Make it personal. Choose an interesting, defining moment from your life and use it to illustrate a positive quality you'd like to convey.
- Don't try to cover too much. By keeping your focus narrow, you'll be able to give your topic the attention it deserves.
- Don't write what you think they want to hear. Most admissions officers read too many essays about clichéd topics such as the charms of their university or overcoming adversity. Offer a unique perspective and your essay will be remembered.

Now that it's almost 2nd semester....

Time has flown by very quickly this school year. We are almost entering your final semester at Needville High School. There are several things that you need to keep in mind as we finish out the last 5 months of your schooling in Needville:

- If you have not finalized your plans for after high school, get busy. Deadlines are quickly approaching for college admissions to major universities. It is also time to begin applying to junior colleges. Finalize your housing accommodations for the fall. You don't want to be left without a place to stay.
- Keep up with scholarship applications. The majority of the applications will be due between February and April. Don't wait until the last minute to complete them. Work on them as you have time. Do not let them pile up, because you will become very overwhelmed.
- If you fail a major course that is required for graduation (i.e. Government, Economics, English IV, Speech, Computers, etc.) please come meet with Mrs. Orsak ASAP. Options need to be discussed so you are not left behind on May 17th. If you fail any course first semester, come by and check to see if you need the credit.
- The year is not over. Keep working hard and complete all of your assignments. Senioritis is a very contagious disease and can be fatal. Many seniors find themselves in a position where they cannot recover. Don't be caught off-guard. Stay up to date on all assignments and projects.

Scholarship Scams

Every year, students and their families fall victim to scams that offer solutions to pay for college expenses. Please be aware of these types of scams so you do not fall for their

tempting offers. On the website for the Federal Trade Commission, www.ftc.gov, students are cautioned to look out for the following statements:

- “The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”
- “You can’t get this information anywhere else.”
- “I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship.”
- “We’ll do all the work.”
- “The scholarship will cost some money.”
- “You’ve been selected by a national foundation to receive a scholarship.”
- “You’re a finalist” in a contest you’ve never entered.

A few websites which may have more information on fraud and scam protection include:

www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0713FinAidFraud.html
www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams/
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/misused/victim.html

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!!!

College Admissions Tests

Remember your deadlines when registering for the SAT and ACT. Don’t put off taking or retaking these tests.

SAT

Test Date

Digital SAT

March 9, 2024

May 4, 2024

June 1, 2024

Regular Registration Deadline

ACT

Test Date

February 10, 2024

April 13, 2024

June 8, 2024

July 13, 2024

Regular Registration Deadline

January 5, 2024

March 8, 2024

May 3, 2024

June 7, 2024

College Information

MeritAid.com – MeritAid.com is the first comprehensive Web site dedicated to helping students with the college search by matching them to merit-based scholarships from colleges across the country. Check out this web site and let MeritAid.com show you the money.

Frost National Bank – The Abe and Annie Seibel Foundation is a zero-interest educational loan program available through Frost National Bank in Galveston, TX. Qualified applicants must: be US Citizens and Texas Residents, graduate from a Texas high school, enroll full-time at a Texas college or university, working toward a degree. Graduating high school seniors entering as college freshmen are reviewed by high school

UT Dallas Eugene McDermott Scholars Program – The deadline for the McDermott Scholars Program is December 1st. For more information on the program, please visit www.utdallas.edu/mcdermott/application-process.

- **Texas State University** – BobCat Days will be held on campus February 17th and April 20th. Make plans to attend if you are interested in attending Texas State.
- **Stephen F. Austin State University** – Showcase Saturday will be held on February 17th, March 23rd, and June 22nd. Check out the campus website for more information.
- **Houston Christian University** – HCU Husky Preview will be held on February 17th. More information is available on the school website.
- **Mary Hardin-Baylor** – Sader Days will be held on November 17th and November 20th. Check out the campus and different programs that are available.
- **Texas A&M Corpus Christi** – Island Day will be held February 3rd and April 20th. Check out what A&M Corpus has to offer to you.
- **University of Texas at San Antonio** – UTSA Day will be held on February 17th and April 6th. Check out the website for more details and information.
- **Texas A&M University** – Aggieland Saturday will be held on February 10th. Registration begins in November.
- **Baylor University** – Baylor campus visits are being held in-person. Check out the website for more information.
- **University of Texas at Austin** – Information is listed on their website concerning campus visits.

Scholarships

- Be sure to check out www.StudentScholarships.org for many scholarship opportunities.
- Don't forget to check out your insurance companies for scholarships. Many companies including State Farm, Geico, and Liberty Mutual offer scholarships. Check the website of your insurance carrier.

- Also, check out www.scholarshipguidance.com and www.studentscholarships.org/newsletters for many scholarship opportunities as well.
- National College Resources Foundation – many scholarships are available at www.thecollegeexpo.org.

C. Jackson Grayson Scholarship

Scholarships are awarded to Houston area seniors. Recipients will receive \$25,000 each school year. Scholarship applications are available at <http://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/apqc/>. Deadline to apply is November 30th. The first 100 applications will be presented to the committee for review.

Hagan Scholarship Foundation

The Hagan Scholarship is a four-year need-based merit scholarship providing recipients with the opportunity to graduate college debt-free. Student must attend a public high school, have achieved a 3.5 GPA, enroll in an eligible college or university, must work 240 hours between January 1st and when college will begin, and must have an adjusted household income not to exceed \$85,000. Applications are available at www.hsfmo.org. Flyers are available in the Counselor's Office. **Deadline to apply is December 1st.**

Horatio Alger Association Scholarship Program

This scholarship program provides financial assistance to students throughout the nation who have financial need and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity. Scholarship criteria also includes high school graduation in the spring of 2024, commitment to pursue a bachelor's degree, have at least a 2.0 GPA, and United States citizenship. Applications are available at scholars.horatioalger.org. **Deadline depends on the type of scholarship applying for. There are several types of scholarships available.**

SPJST Scholarships

SPJST awards a state-wide scholarship for applicants that hold an insurance policy for at least one year and are a senior in high school. Applications are available at www.spjst.org. **Deadline for applying is February 1st.**

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Foundation

This foundation offers scholarships to students pursuing a degree in agriculture or an agriculture-related program. Applicants must be graduating seniors accepted to a program in Texas or Oklahoma. Applicants are selected on the basis of their interest in the industry, leadership, academic achievement and financial need. Applications are available at www.cattleraisersmuseum.org/scholarships-awarded. **Application deadline is February 2nd.**

George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation

Seventy \$20,000 scholarships based on financial need and academic achievement will be awarded. Applications and instructions may be obtained from the website www.hammanfoundation.org by clicking on the scholarship guidelines. Scholarships are based on financial need and academic achievement. **The Application must be received by February 16th.**

San Bernard Watershed Scholarship Program

Applicants for this scholarship must demonstrate a direct connection between the career they intend to pursue and the betterment of the environment. Possible career paths might include environmental sciences, environmental law, agriculture, certain engineering disciplines, science education, and scientific research. Applications are available in the Counselor's office or at <https://www.sanbernardriver.com/>. **Applications must be returned by April 1st.**

College Board Scholarships

Don't miss out on this opportunity. Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$40,000 will be awarded. Go to: <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/>

AXA Achievement Scholarship

To qualify, you must demonstrate: ambition and drive, determination to set and reach goals, respect for self, family, and community, and ability to succeed in college. Go to <https://www.college-financial-aid-advice.com/axa-scholarship.html> to learn more about the scholarship program. **Apply by December 15th.**

GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program

Exceptional student leaders are invited to apply for this scholarship. The program annually rewards up to 20 students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship with \$10,000 renewable scholarships (up to \$40,000). Additional information, eligibility requirements, and a link to the application are available at www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships. **Deadline to apply is January 4th.**

Fort Bend County Fair

The Fort Bend County Fair will award \$5,000 scholarships to graduating seniors based on Fair involvement, school activities, community involvement, and academic achievement. Requirements include: high school senior enrolled in a Fort Bend County school, must plan to attend a Texas college/university, technical school, or US Military Academy, be a US citizen with and address zoned to Fort Bend County, have participated in the Fort Bend county Fair Livestock, School Art Auction, Rodeo, FCCLA, Ag Mechanics, Horticulture Competition, Queen or have been a Volunteer of the Fort Bend County Fair, and must not have been disqualified from and FBCFA competition during grades 9-12. Applications are available at www.fortbendcountyfair.com. **Deadline to apply is January 18th.**

\$\$ Baylor University Carr P. Collins Scholars Program

This program was established to recognize and reward students who have demonstrated leadership and volunteer service abilities. To be considered for this program, applicants must: meet University requirements for admission, be in the top quarter of their graduating class, have a minimum score of 1310 (combined Math and Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing) on the SAT or 28 on the ACT, have a balanced college preparatory curriculum, and be a Texas resident. Applications are available at www.baylor.edu/admissions/CarrPCollins. **Completed applications must be postmarked by January 31st.**

\$\$ Fort Bend Junior Service League Scholarship Program

The scholarship is awarded to support a female student who has outstanding volunteer service performance. Applicants must be female, have a GPA of 2.5 or better, and must have completed at least 100 hours of volunteer service during high school. Applications are available at www.fbjsl.org. **Deadline to apply is February 1st.**

\$\$ Ronald McDonald House HACER Scholarship

This scholarship is for senior students who are eligible to attend a two or four year college and are legal U.S. Residents, Citizens, or a Dreamer/DACA recipient. Additional requirements include:

.RMHC/HACER – Applicant must have at least one parent of Hispanic heritage and must carry a minimum 2.8 GPA. More information is available at <https://www.mcdonalds.com/us/en-us/community/hacer.html>. **Application deadline is February 5th.**

\$\$ SPE-GCS Scholarships

To apply for the Gulf Coast section, students must be graduating seniors, plan to study science or engineering and have an interest in the energy industry, and be a US citizen. Applications are available at: www.spegcs.org/scholarship/. **Applications open December 1st and the deadline to apply is February 18th.**

\$\$ Society of Women Engineers – Houston Area

This scholarship is for female students at a Houston area school who plan to major in an engineering or engineering-related discipline at a four-year university. Applications are available at: www.houstonswe.org/scholarships.html. **Deadline to apply is March 1st.**

\$\$ Texas Association of Community Schools

The Texas Association of Community Schools will award the following scholarships for the 23-24 school year. You may apply for all scholarships if you meet the criteria: Bargas and Associates, A+ Food Service, Live Oak Public Finance, MWM Architects, Pearson Legal, Proximity Learning, Walsh Gallegos Trevion Russo & Kyle, Texas Association of Community Schools. Applications are available at: www.tacsnet.org. **Applications must be submitted by March 16th.**

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center Power of Life

The Blood Center awards eleven local area high school students a scholarship. The program focuses on the excellence of high school students and the importance of volunteering. For requirements, the application procedure, on-line application, and scholarship award criteria, go to www.giveblood.org/scholarship. **Application deadline is March 17th.**

\$\$ Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union

To be eligible for this scholarship, students must: be a current member of BVSCU in good standing or join by March 22, 2024, be a high school senior, have a 3.0 or better GPA, and be a US citizen or permanent legal resident. Applications are available in the counselor's office. Applications are also available at www.bvscu.org. **Applications must be submitted by March 22nd.**

MLK Scholarship Rodeo Fund

Applicants must have a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale, must be accepted as a full time student at a college, university or junior college/technical school, and must be active members of their church. Applications are available in the counselor's office. **Application deadline is March 31st.**

\$\$ SAE Engineering Scholarships

Seniors who will enter an engineering or related science major (math, chemistry, physics, biology, technologies, or computer science), have a minimum 3.75 unweighted GPA, and are U.S. residents are eligible to apply. Applications are available at www.sae.org/participate/scholarships. Scholarships become available February 1st. **The deadline for applying is March 31st.**

