

# Scholarship Season

All information related to scholarships can be found on the GVHS Guidance Google Classroom. Please use the following code to join: [pgvwwec](#)

You can search information related to senior year, financial aid, scholarships, and post-secondary planning by accessing the Guidance Classroom and clicking on "Classwork."

## Where to Access Scholarships:

1. **National Scholarships:** National Scholarships can be accessed through search engines such as the following: *Scholarships.com*, *Fastweb*, *Scholly*, or *Niche*, among others. For a complete list of reputable sites, please see the link titled "10 Scholarship Search Tools to Help You Find Money for College" by Rebecca Safier on the Guidance Google Classroom. This will require you to complete several layers of sifting to find scholarships available to you, but you can search these directories for majors, ACT score qualifications, GPA brackets, interests, etc.
2. **Local Scholarships:** Local scholarships can be found in the Grand Valley High School Guidance Office. This typically begins in January. We will host a spreadsheet which is updated weekly in the guidance office on the counter in an orange folder titled "2024 Scholarships." All original scholarship fliers will be in the notebook. Each original is numbered. Copies for students to take are placed in the black file cabinet by the GVHS bulletin board in the drawer labeled "Scholarships." (An explanation of this process is provided each January for seniors.) An updated copy of the spreadsheet can be accessed on the Guidance google classroom in the "Seniors" section.

## How to Prepare for Scholarship Season:

1. **FOLDERS:** Prepare folders to keep each of the essential scholarship documents in: *Transcripts, Letters of Recommendation, SAR Pages/Financial Need Documents, Essays, Envelopes...*
2. **TRANSCRIPTS:** Request self-view copies of your transcript from Parchment. Directions for transcript requests can be found in the Guidance Google Classroom under the "Seniors" section. To access Parchment, please go to the Grand Valley website, scroll to the bottom of the GV homepage to find a blue box labeled "Parchment: Order Transcripts Online." Print 10 copies of this transcript view.
3. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Request at least two letters of recommendation. Asking in person for a letter of recommendation is the best etiquette. If the individual agrees to write you a letter, give them a resume/"list of awesome" with accomplishments, activities, work experience, a high school course list, community service, etc. included. Be sure to request 10 signed copies of each document.

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4. **FINANCIAL NEED:** Print the SAR (Student Aid Report) from the FAFSA website. For directions, please see the “Scholarship” or “Seniors” section of the Guidance Google Classroom. Be sure to have 10 copies of the form.
5. **ESSAYS:** Prepare generic essays that can be conformed to various essay prompts related to your scholarship search. For example, write about a great obstacle you overcame, the reason for choosing a specific future path, or why you are the best scholarship recipient candidate.
6. **ENVELOPES:** Be sure to label a pile of envelopes with your return address, so you can easily prepare packets when mailing the scholarships to the appropriate places.
7. **STAMPS:** Have stamps on-hand for documents that must be sent via US mail by a specific date. If it is more than 3 or 4 pages, you are likely to need to pay more in postage. The mail will weigh the envelopes if needed at the local post office. For some very important scholarships, you may consider sending them with a signed receipt through the postal system to ensure they are received.

Please be sure to see specific portions of the Guidance Google Classroom including “Tips on How to Read Your Award Letter” and the Financial Aid Appeal Letter.”