



Senior Notes

February 2026

This newsletter is e-mailed monthly to all Seniors who provided a functional e-mail address in the 'Senior Profile' assignment in the Class of 2026 canvas course available to all Seniors. If the student provided a functional e-mail for a parent/guardian, we also e-mail it to that address. This newsletter is also available on the HRHS website main page and is posted to the Class of 2026 canvas course.

Counselors work with students based on last name

Ms. Dunn	Last Name A-E	Keya.dunn@cabarrus.k12.nc.us
Ms. Dusch	Last Name F-K	Danah.dusch@cabarrus.k12.nc.us
Ms. Habjanic	Last Name L -Q	Kathy.habjanic@cabarrus.k12.nc.us
Mr. Whalen	Last Name R-Z	Damon.Whalen@cabarrus.k12.nc.us

Save the Date for HRHS Prom 2026

HRHS Prom 2026 will be on *Saturday, April 11th* from 7:00 – 11:00pm. Please remember school fees must be paid before you can purchase tickets. More details will be available soon.

Class of 2026 Graduation!

Scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at 12:30pm at the Cabarrus Arena. Details about the ceremony will be communicated in future editions of this newsletter. Stay tuned...

Senior Award Ceremony

Scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th in the HRHS Auditorium. Doors open at 6:00pm. The ceremony will begin promptly at 6:30pm. Cap/Gown should not be worn to this event. Attire is business casual/dressy. If you are receiving an award and/or a scholarship you earned is being announced, your parents/guardians will be notified by e-mail in advance of the ceremony.

Mark your calendars! Class of 2026 Senior Walks are scheduled.

- April 10th @ 830am - Bethel (only students who attended Bethel)
- April 27th @ 9:10am - Hickory Ridge Middle School
- April 29th @ 8:30am - Patriots, Harrisburg, and Hickory Ridge Elementary
(transportation by buses)

Scholarship Reporting 2025-2026

Scholarships that you have earned and reported to HRHS will be recognized at the Senior Award Ceremony in May. Please report all scholarships [here](#). Scholarship Reporting can also be found online and in the senior Canvas course.



Scholarships!

Scholarships will be advertised throughout the school year in this newsletter. You will find them at the end of this newsletter every month. Please read through them every month because some of the biggest dollar amounts come with Spring scholarships. You will also find scholarship search engines listed at the end of this newsletter. When we learn about a scholarship with a quick deadline, we will advertise it by making an announcement in your senior canvas course.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2026 - 2027 year

All financial aid for college begins with completing the FAFSA! Every two-year or four-year college bound senior should complete the FAFSA to get access to loans, grants and work-study opportunities. Some scholarships require completion of the FAFSA too. Complete the FAFSA as soon as you can because aid is distributed as applications are received. To find some helpful tips for filling out the FAFSA, visit studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out.

What Happens After
Submitting Your
FAFSA® Form?

What happens after submitting your FAFSA form?

Visit youtu.be/ijRzVjle0tw?si=Vul7zFz1DtAyF5tX

to watch a few short videos that will help you understand the process.

Financial Aid Packages

If you have applied to several colleges and been accepted to more than one, you have a decision to make about which college you will attend. It's wonderful to have choices, but it may be hard to decide because there are so many factors to consider. One important factor is cost. If you have completed the FAFSA, each college will send you a financial aid offer. The offers can be confusing because each college communicates in their own manner. Here's some info to help you compare financial aid offers:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/get-help-paying-for-college/scholarships-grants-institutional-aid/how-review-compare-financial-aid-awards>

College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) offers many resources to understand the financial aid process. Visit www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/fafsa-101 for more information about paying for college.

Senior Exam Exemption

Seniors who have had a successful semester can choose not to take their final exam(s) in December and/or May under these circumstances:

1. Have been absent from that class no more than 3 times during the semester. This includes excused and unexcused absences. Remember: 4 tardies equal 1 absence.
2. Have an average final grade of 80 or higher just before the date of the exam.
3. The exam is not a state exam or a CTE exam that requires proof of learning. If you're not sure, ask your teacher.
4. No suspensions during the semester.

Selective Service

Every male student has 30 days after he turns 18 years old to register with the selective service. Do so online at www.SSS.gov Did you know that registration provides access to college loans/grants, job training programs, all Federal and many state government and contractor positions?

Military

If you are planning to join a branch of the military after high school, take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. This is a 'qualifying' test that helps determine your eligibility for careers within the service. This is a self-paced, online test taken on the campus of Central Cabarrus High School. More information found [here](#). The October administration of the exam has passed, but there will be another administration of the ASVAB on April 8, 2026. That sign up link will be posted closer to the April 8th date.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Vocational rehabilitation is a program that assists individuals with disabilities or serious health conditions in preparing for, obtaining, maintaining, or returning to suitable employment. Services, managed by state and federal programs, can include vocational counseling, skill assessments, training, assistive technology, and job placement to help people achieve economic independence and overcome barriers to work. More Info at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/eipd>. Or contact Madena Ratliff (Rehabilitation Counselor) at madena.ratliff@dhhs.nc.gov.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Use these online tools to find scholarships. In addition to these search tools, some 'featured' scholarships are listed below and included at the end of every edition of the Senior Notes.

<https://www.myscholly.com/>

<http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>

<http://www.onlineschools.org/financial-aid/minority/>

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships>

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

<https://scholarshipamerica.org/students/browse-scholarships/>

CACRAO Scholarship Directory found [here](#).

Army ROTC Scholarship Award: \$5,000/semester to apply toward tuition OR room/board.

Requirements: senior planning to enroll in a 4-year participating university. Students do not have to be in ROTC in high school to apply for this scholarship. Apply and earn admittance at university and pass an Army physical. Students join ROTC as an elective. No commitment to service in your first year. After your first year, you are asked to commit to the Army active duty or reserve. For more information (including which colleges participate), visit

<https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/find-your-path/army-officers/rotc/scholarships>

Deadlines: March 16, 2026.

Bethel Enrichment Center (BEC) Community Impact Scholarship Award: \$500.

Requirements: Senior with plans to further their education after high school. Minimum weighted GPA 3.0, outstanding character, leadership, scholarship and service to the community, at least one parent of African American or Caribbean heritage. More information found at www.becscholarship.org/ Deadline: February 22, 2026.

Children of Warriors Scholarship Award: \$5,000. *Requirements:* Senior planning to pursue higher education who is a direct descendant of a veteran. 50 hours of community service during high school. Applications are evaluated based on character, leadership, essay quality and academic achievement. For more information and to apply:

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Scholarships/Children-of-Warriors> Deadline: March 1, 2026.

Charlotte Knights Scholarships Award: \$1,000. *Requirements:* Different requirements for each available scholarship. Scholarships include **Eddie G.G. Burton Scholarship** (Deadline: February 27, 2026); **Charlotte Knights Healthcare Scholarship** (Deadline: April 6, 2026), **Charlotte Knights STEM Scholarship** (Deadline: April 6, 2026); and **Caballeros de Charlotte Scholarship** (Deadline April 6, 2026). For more information and to apply, visit:

www.milb.com/charlotte-knights/community/scholarship

Charlotte Metro Area Relocation Council (CMARC) 2025-2026 Scholarship Award:

\$1,000 *Requirements:* high school senior who relocated more than 50 miles into the Charlotte area sometime between grades 9 (after 8th grade graduation) and 12; have a cumulative GPA of 3.0. Application and more information, visit: [here](#). Deadline: March 2, 2026.

Clare Johnson Marley-Mary Earle Berger Fine Arts Scholarship

Discipline: Merit. Award: \$2,000 non-renewable. *Requirements:* Senior, enrolling in 4-year university with plans to major in fine arts. Top 20% GPA, minimum SAT score 1220 **OR** ACT score 25, good character, video submission of talent in fine arts, extracurricular activities. For application, visit: [The Clare Johnson Marley-Mary Earle Berger Fine Arts Scholarship 2026 Application](#) Deadline: March 1, 2026.

College Board Opportunity (Big Future) Scholarships Award: \$500-\$40,000. You can earn a chance at scholarships when you complete tasks to prepare for college. Log into your SAT/College Board account and complete tasks.

Visit <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/bigfuture-scholarships#>. Every task you complete puts your name into a drawing for scholarship money. The earlier you start, the more chances you have to win. Drawings are done at the end of every month through February 2026.

Big Future
Scholarship
tasks:

1. Start your career list
2. Build your college list
3. Start your scholarship list
4. Strengthen your college list
5. Complete the FAFSA
6. Apply to colleges

DeMayo Law Arrive Alive Scholarship *Award:* \$5,000. The purpose of the DeMayo Law Offices Arrive Alive® Scholarship is to create unique and compelling peer to peer messaging that speaks to teenagers. Application requires a presentation in one of the following forms: essay, Billboard, Brochure/ booklet, Website Homepage, or Music Video. Visit <https://demayolaw.com/scholarship-program/> for more information. *Deadline:* March 23, 2026.



Dewalt Trades Scholarship *Award:* \$5,000.
Requirements: senior with a minimum unweighted GPA of 2.0 who plans to enroll in a two-year college, vocational/technical school pursuing a high-demand skilled trade in construction, industrial, motor/power sector, mechanics, or technology. This includes but is not limited to the following fields: Automotive Technology, Aviation Technology, Carpentry, Construction, Diesel Technology, Electrical Technology, Fire Science, Heavy Equipment Operation, HVAC, Machinery, Manufacturing, Pipefitting, Plumbing and Welding. Apply at: webportalapp.com/sp/login/dewalt-trades-us
Deadline: February 28, 2026.

Eunice Riggins Memorial Scholarship *Discipline:* Merit. *Award:* \$2,000 non-renewable.
Requirements: Female, Senior, enrolling in 4-year university in NC. Top 10% GPA, minimum SAT score 1220 **OR** ACT score 25, good character, extra-curricular activities. For application, visit [Eunice Riggins Memorial Scholarship 2026 Application](#) *Deadline:* March 1, 2026.

Florence Kidder Memorial Scholarship *Discipline:* Merit. *Award:* 1st place \$3,000. 2nd place \$1,000. Non-renewable. *Requirements:* Senior planning to attend a university in NC in Fall 2026. Original essay required. See the prompt and learn how to apply at: <https://www.ncdames.org/florence-kidder-memorial-scholarship> *Deadline:* February 8, 2026.

Foundation 649 Scholarship *Discipline:* need/merit *Award:* \$1,000 renewable up to 4 years. *Requirements:* high school senior who identifies as Asian American/Pacific Islander. Financial need, involvement in AAPI communities, issues or causes. Application includes a 1-5 minute video submission. To apply or for more information visit: www.foundation649.com
Deadline: March 1, 2026.

Harrisburg Arts Scholarship *Award:* \$1,000. *Requirements:* Senior graduating from a Cabarrus County public, private, or virtual high school or home education program in the Spring of 2026. Intent to study in the field of art at university level. For more information, visit: www.harrisburgnc.gov/722/Harrisburg-Arts-Scholarship *Deadline:* April 24, 2026.

Holcomb Family Scholarship

Discipline: Need/Merit. *Award:* \$5,000 renewable each year for four years. *Requirements:* High School senior enrolling in a 4-year college. GPA of at least 3.0 unweighted, financial need, academic merit and ability, involvement in school and community activities and leadership ability. To apply, visit: ftcscholarships.communityforce.com/Funds/Search.aspx
Deadline: February 27, 2026.

Horatio Alger Association Scholarship Programs *Award:* ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000. One of the nation's largest need-based scholarship programs for high school students who have overcome significant adversity and are committed to earning a bachelor's degree. High school students with financial need who display integrity, perseverance, and a clear determination to turn challenges into opportunities to pursue their American Dream, should consider applying for the scholarship. By filling out one application, you will be considered for all scholarships for which you are eligible, except for some Specialized Scholarships. To learn more and to apply, visit www.horatioalger.org/scholarships. *Deadline:* February 15, 2026.



One Scholarship. Endless Opportunities. 600+ scholarships. Up to \$25,000 each. Horatioalger.org/scholarships

McDonald's HACER Scholarship *Award:* varies. *Requirements:* senior with minimum unweighted GPA 2.8 who has at least one parent of Hispanic heritage. Must be a US Citizen, US Resident, or a DREAMER/DACA recipient. Demonstrated efforts in community service. More information found at www.mcdonalds.com/us/en-us/community/hacer *Deadline:* February 17, 2026.

Mary Rose Mills-Linda Rankin Memorial Scholarship

Discipline: Merit. *Award:* \$2,000 non-renewable. *Requirements:* Senior, enrolling in 4-year university. Ranked Top 10% of class, SAT 1290 **OR** ACT 27 minimum, good character, extracurricular activities. For application, visit: [Mary Rose Mills-Linda Rankin Memorial Scholarship 2026 Application](#) *Deadline:* March 1, 2026.

NC Community Foundation Scholarships *Award:* varies. *Requirements:* senior attending a 4-year university, a community college, or a career/technical school. Students fill out one NCCF Universal Application to be matched with multiple scholarships that they may qualify for. More information can be found at www.nccommunityfoundation.org/scholarships. *Deadline:* March 3, 2026.

NC Alpha Delta Kappa Student Achievement Scholarship *Discipline:* Merit. *Award:* \$2,000 non-renewable. *Requirements:* Senior, planning to major in a field of education at a school of higher learning, unweighted GPA in range of 2.5 to 3.5, minimum SAT score of 990 to 1030 or ACT Composite Score of 20 to 24, good character, integrity, leadership potential and service to school, community and church. To apply, visit: www.nccommunityfoundation.org/scholarships *Deadline:* March 3, 2026.

NC Need-Based scholarship to private Colleges in NC *Award: varies. Requirements:* senior planning to attend a private university in NC. Expected family contribute as measured by the FAFSA of \$15,000 or less. To apply, complete the FAFSA. *Deadline:* the earlier the better.

NC Next Scholarship *Award: \$3,000 minimum. Requirements:* senior attending a public university in NC or an NC Community College in the Fall of 2026. Family income \$80,000 or less. To apply, complete the FAFSA. *Deadline:* the earlier the better.

Rothschild Family Scholarship Fund *Discipline: need. Award: \$2,000 renewable each year. Requirements:* Senior with a cumulative GPA between 2.8 and 3.3 who plans to further education through vocational school, community college or 4-year university. GPAs below 2.8 or above 3.3 will not be considered. To apply, visit: fftscholarships.communityforce.com/Funds/Search.aspx *Deadline:* February 27, 2026.

Pearls of Purpose Scholarship Pearls of Purpose Foundation In partnership with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Gamma Epsilon Zeta Chapter awards scholarships to Cabarrus County high school seniors (excluding Kannapolis schools) entering a four-year college or university in Fall 2026. *Requirements:* senior graduating from Cabarrus County high school. Attending 4-year college or university. Have an unweighted GPA for 3.0 or higher. Completed community service activities. Application can be found at tinyurl.com/2025popapp. *Deadline:* March 22, 2026.

Rover College Scholarship *Award: \$2,500. Requirements:* senior, submit a 400/500- word essay on the following topic: 'How did growing up with a pet in your life impact the person you are today?'. The pet can belong to a family member or friend. To apply, visit: <https://www.rover.com/college-scholarship/> *Deadline:* May 1, 2026.



SECU Foundation 'People Helping People' Scholarship

Discipline: need/merit. *Award:* \$10,000 over 4 years. *Requirements:* senior who is a member of the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) or eligible to be due to parent/guardian membership. **Accepted to one of the 16 constituent campuses of the University of NC system (NC Public Universities) and planning to attend full-time.** US citizen and NC resident. FAFSA completed showing financial need. Student demonstrates leadership, excellence of character, integrity and community involvement. GPA 2.5 or higher (unweighted). *Deadline to submit application packet to HRHS:* Monday, March 2nd by 2:15pm.

Click below to view links:

[PHP Application Process](#)

[Eligibility Criteria](#)

[FAQ](#)

[HRHS Submission Link](#)

Union Power Cooperative College Scholarship *Award: \$1,000. Discipline: need / merit.*
Requirements: senior who lives in a home powered by Union Power, attending a 4-year college in NC in Fall 2065, active in school and/or community extracurricular activities. To apply,
<https://union-power.com/educational-programs/college-scholarships> *Deadline: March 1, 2026.*