

MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Connecting Students with Scholarship Opportunities

A Guide for MCHS Families

Applying for college scholarships can be time consuming. It can also be very rewarding. This information packet is designed to encourage MCHS families to make the most of the variety of scholarship opportunities available to students each year. Scholarships can significantly reduce the cost of college, but they require effort and organization. Start early, stay proactive, and make the most of the resources available to you. Good luck!

Scholarship Resources

Local scholarships will be posted on the Senior Google Classroom and in the Academic Resource Center (ARC). Students should regularly check for updated information. [Senior Google Classroom](#) To join, use code: wphi2qk

District 111 Foundation Scholarships:

- [Academic Excellence Scholarship](#)
- [Career & Technical Education Scholarship](#)
- [Most-Improved Scholarship](#)
- [Outstanding Community Service Scholarship](#)
- [School Spirit Scholarship](#)
- [Sara Strache Agricultural Education Legacy Scholarship](#)

Third Party Websites:

- [Fastweb](#) - This site is an excellent free scholarship search database.
- [Colleges and Scholarships](#) - This web site is designed to offer college bound students and parents easy access to information on colleges and universities throughout the United States, free college and financial aid searches, SAT and ACT test preparation tips, and more.
- [Going Merry](#) - Going Merry is a free scholarships and financial aid website. Students can find and apply to scholarships directly from the website.
- [Student Scholarships](#) - Student Scholarships has been providing scholarship information to students and scholarship management services to companies since 2003
- [Raise Me](#) - A new way to earn money for college. With *RaiseMe*, anyone can earn money for college starting in 9th grade based on their achievements in school and life.
- [Apply](#) - Apply is a one-stop destination that helps students and parents make smarter decisions about admissions and financial aid by providing free and easy-to-use tools for the discovery, application, decision and payment process.

Minooka Community High Schools do not endorse any of the above third-party websites. We are providing them here as a starting point/resource for students & families, if they would like to use them.

Helpful Tips

When applying for college scholarships, applicants are encouraged to remember the following helpful tips:

- Start the application process early, including requests for recommendation letters and transcripts. Waiting until the last minute to complete and proof-read your applications or request items from others can jeopardize your ability to meet stated deadlines, which can in turn nullify your application.
- Read and answer questions **thoroughly** while staying within stated length parameters.
- Create and save a file of responses to essay questions for use on later applications (since many applications ask for similar information).

- Be mindful of due dates, especially when requesting letters of recommendation from teachers and other adults.
- When answering all questions use a **pen** to write legibly, or type the answers on a separate sheet of paper.
- Do not fold the completed applications. Place them in a manilla folder or a large envelope.
- Get involved in your school and community early.
- Be honest and sincere in your responses to essay questions.
- Be prepared to send thank-you letters to scholarship providers if you are awarded with a scholarship of any kind.

MCHS Resources

There are several resources in place at MCHS to help families identify and apply for college scholarships. These resources include, but are not limited to:

School Counselors

Each student at MCHS is assigned a school counselor to help plan their high school and post-high school plans. While students may only have one or two planned meetings each year with their counselor, students are invited to schedule additional meetings as needed to address college plans and questions. The counselors at MCHS can be reached by telephone or e-mail at:

School Counselor Junior/Senior Telephone/E-Mail

Bobbi White (A - Fe): 815-467-2140, ext. 5072 bwhite@mchs.net

Kristin Carlson (Fi - Li): 815-467-2140, ext. 5058 kcarlson@mchs.net

Jessica Hopkins (Lo - Re): 815-467-2140, ext. 5084 jhopkins@mchs.net

Angela Ferro (Rh - Z): 815-467-2140, ext. 5091 aferro@mchs.net

Academic Resource Center at MCHS - Central Campus

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) at MCHS - Central Campus is a resource room for all students, parents and staff. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize the information in the ARC during resource periods and any other free time to explore and research information about college and career information. In addition to serving as the primary location for college and career presentations, the ARC provides information and resources on college applications, university/college catalogs, financial aid & scholarship information/applications, career planning, and national testing information.

Frequently Asked Questions About College Scholarships

What types of scholarships are available to students planning to attend college after high school?

MCHS students are encouraged to pursue three different types of college scholarship opportunities available to them. These opportunities are broken down into three general categories: local, national, and college/career specific.

National Scholarships: Careful and detailed research on the Internet and in the MCHS Academic Resource Center can connect students with a variety of scholarships made available on a national level by corporations and other organizations such as McDonalds, Target, WalMart, Discover, AXA Equitable, and Wendy's.

College/Career Specific Scholarships: Finally, students are encouraged to pursue scholarship opportunities made available specifically through colleges and universities. These scholarships are typically dependent upon majors and courses of study. Once students have selected a college or university and have declared a major, they should contact their college or university for more information.

How do I research and identify potential scholarship opportunities?

In addition to general searching on the Internet, there are a number of resources in place at MCHS to help students and families identify various scholarship opportunities. **Many scholarships are posted on the Senior google classroom for students throughout the year.**

Students should always begin their scholarship search with a member of the Student Services Office staff, such as their school counselor or the ARC manager. This will not only help get you started in the right direction, but these staff members may know of specific scholarship opportunities available based on your college and career plans.

Next, the ARC offers students links to useful websites, such as Fast Web (www.fastweb.com), Illinois Student Assistance Commission (www.isac.org), Scholarships (www.scholarships.com), Scholarshipowl.com, FAFSA (www.fafsa.gov), and other career and scholarship identifying tools. MCHS is pleased to announce we now have an Illinois Assistance Commission (ISAC) representative to assist students with questions ranging from college applications to scholarships. Students are encouraged to sign up in the ARC to reserve a meeting time. The ARC can provide students with information on how to access these and other similar resources.

Finally, students should inquire with their parents' employers for any available scholarship opportunities that may be available for children of employees.

When and where are local scholarship applications made available to students?

Local scholarship applications are made available to students in February of each year. Applications can be obtained in the ARC at Central Campus or visit the www.mchs.net and select Class of 2025 from the Students & Parents menu. For more information about local scholarships, please feel free to contact the ARC Manager at 815-467-2140 ext.5022.

When are scholarship applications typically due?

Scholarship application due dates vary. While local scholarships have a common due date of late February or early March each year, other national and college/career specific scholarships due dates can differ drastically. Applicants are urged to check with each scholarship provider for specific due dates.

What do scholarship providers typically look for in an applicant?

Scholarship providers look for a number of characteristics and qualities when considering applicants. Most scholarship providers ask applicants to provide information in the following general areas:

- G.P.A.
- college plans/course of study
- class rank
- community activities
- in-school activities
- community service
- extra-curricular activities
- identified goals

They also look for applicants who demonstrate:

- volunteerism
- leadership
- sincerity
- a dedication to activities

Some providers also look for applicants with expressed financial need. While information such as G.P.A. and class rank is accumulated throughout your high school career, don't wait until senior year to become involved in your school and community. The sooner you get involved, the more personal experiences you will have to cite as examples on why leadership and community service are so important.

I have been accepted into a college, but I haven't declared a major yet. Should I still apply for scholarships?

Until you declare a major, it is best to apply for scholarships that do not require applicants to have declared a major. Because the declaration of a major will be considered a prerequisite on some applications, your application may be viewed as incomplete if you have not indicated a declared major.

I have applied for admission into a college, but I have not yet been notified of acceptance. Should I still apply for scholarships?

As long as you have applied for admission into a college or university, you should begin the application process for any general scholarship opportunities that are of interest to you. Because some scholarship applications are available early in your senior year, you may not have yet received official acceptance from a college or university.

When are scholarship winners notified?

Notification of scholarship winners varies by scholarship provider. While all local scholarship winners are announced on the same day each year (MCHS Seniors Honors Night, May 2025), other announcement dates vary by provider. MCHS suggests applicants refer to each scholarship application for specific notification dates. If you are awarded a scholarship, please be sure to share this information with the Academic Resource Manager, so that your accomplishments are recognized in future school publications and in the graduation program. Please call 815-467-2140 ext. 5022