



Counseling Newsletter- September 2024

Please refer to the Counseling Newsletter each month for scholarship opportunities, college deadlines, and other important information! Information will also be shared on the AHS Counseling website (ahs.mcps.org) and through the following:

Join us for Remind updates

- | | | | |
|---------------|------|---|----------|
| • Seniors: | text | @seniors25 | to 81010 |
| • Juniors: | text | @eaglesco26 | to 81010 |
| • Sophomores: | text | @2027mcps | to 81010 |
| • Freshmen: | text | @eaglesco28 | to 81010 |



Students & Families - join the AHS Counseling Google Classroom

Class code: **erkp65l**

Seniors - join the *SENIOR Class of 2025* Google Classroom

Class code: **x3w6tav**

Request to Speak to your Counselor: [Fill out Google Form](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday, September 26th, 2023



Parents and
Students of the
AHS Class of 2025,
you are invited to:

**ACCE & SENIOR
PARENT NIGHT
2024**

**ACCE, FAFSA, COLLEGE
APPS AND MORE!**

Come hear from
NRCC experts and
your Senior School
Counselor about all
things **SENIOR YEAR!**

**September 26th
AHS Auditorium- 6:00pm**

Seniors and parents, come here from your Senior School Counselor and NRCC ACCE Representatives! PLUS - important info including ACCE, college app day, FAFSA, helping your child learn about employment/educational opportunities as you plan for life after high school.

Field trips:

-Careers in Criminal Justice field trip to NRCC (Dublin campus): **Friday, September 6th.** Space is limited...sign up in the counseling office, permission forms were due back last Friday.

COLLEGE FAIR AT NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE - Friday, September 13th!!! Juniors and seniors, you don't want to miss this opportunity. LOTS of colleges and universities will be represented...you'll have a chance to talk to admissions counselors and learn about programs offered. We will leave AHS by 9:15am and return by 12pm.

-Careers in Engineering field trip to NRCC (Christiansburg site): *Wednesday, September 25.* Sign up in the counseling office.

-Careers in the Trades field trip to NRCC (Dublin campus): *Thursday, October 17.*

College Admissions Visits:

Sign up in the school counseling office! We will sign you out for SOAR that day. Visits are during SOAR 10:15-10:55am, in the Career Center.



-University of Virginia, September 12th

-Massachusetts Institute of Technology, September 19th

-James Madison University, October 7th



COMING SOON!!! FREE COLLEGE APPLICATIONS 2024-2025

All seniors expected to graduate in 2025 will receive assistance with applying for admission to at least one college or university. **MCPS will pay the application fee(s) to 2 colleges for each student who submits an application!** Once the school receives the payment information, you can set up an appointment with Ms. Heft or Ms. Sullivan to assist you in paying for your 2 applications. Additionally, you will receive a Commit To Graduate t-shirt. This event is possible due to the collaborative efforts of the administration, faculty, and staff at AHS and MCPS, & other volunteers.

Virginia Tech Onsite

Opportunity to hear your VT Admissions Decision by Thanksgiving!!!

Applications Due: October 7th

See Ms. Sullivan for Details.

3.5 GPA Required!

Radford Tuition Promise

Did you know? Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, incoming freshmen and transfer students with Virginia residency whose families have an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$100,000 or less according to their 2023 federal income tax and a Student Aid Index (SAI) of less than \$15,000 as determined by the FAFSA will receive federal, state and gift aid

to cover the cost of their tuition at Radford University.
Find out more [Here!](#)

Testing Opportunities:

ASVAB TEST

September 25th at 9:00am at AHS

Sign up in the counseling office or email Ms. Sullivan at elizabethsullivan@mcps.org

You've heard taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is your ticket to a great U.S. military career. If you're serious about joining the military, then it's time to get serious about taking the ASVAB by using [ASVAB practice tests](#).

The ASVAB is a timed, multi-aptitude test, which is given at more than 14,000 schools and [Military Entrance Processing Stations \(MEPS\)](#) nationwide.

You can start preparing now by taking our ASVAB practice tests (click or tap on the test links in the header above). These tests will give you an idea of how you'll score and identify areas for improvement. Then, use our suggested resources and ASVAB study guides to learn how to prepare for the ASVAB test.

PSATS!!!!

Attention Sophomores and Juniors!! On Wednesday, October 9th, 2024, all MCPS 11th grade students will take the Digital Preliminary SAT at no cost. The benefits of taking the PSAT as juniors include: providing practice taking the SAT; identifying skills for improvement; increasing participation in Advanced Placement Programs; providing online college and career planning tools; encouraging students to challenge themselves; providing links to free, personalized SAT practice programs; to gain additional practice before taking the SAT in the spring of their junior year. Juniors who take the PSAT may be eligible to compete for scholarships in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

The cost for sophomores to take the PSAT is \$18, payable by cash, check or money order to AHS.

2024-2025 SAT Schedule

Test Site:	Date
Blacksburg High School—SAT	August 24, 2024

Blacksburg High School—SAT	October 5, 2024
Blacksburg High School—SAT	November 2, 2024
Blacksburg High School—SAT	December 7, 2024
Blacksburg High School—SAT	May 3, 2025
Blacksburg High School—SAT	June 7, 2025

Other Opportunities:

-Ladies interested in careers in the construction industry (including architecture, engineering, etc): participants are needed for a [bed building blitz](#), sponsored by the New River Valley Home Builders Association on *Saturday, September 14*.

-Ladies interested in engineering, check out the opportunity to participate in a [high school visitation at UVA](#) on *October 19*. Applications are due September 19...more info can be found by visiting the link.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

-Interested in playing sports in college? Make sure you've created a FREE profile page with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) *before* you start talking to college coaches. For more info, check out NCAA's publication, [Want To Play College Sports?](#)

The [Small Town and Rural Student \(STARS\) Network](#) which is a national consortium of 32 top colleges and universities dedicated to increasing pathways to higher education for rural and small-town students.

Thinking about college? Workforce? Still not sure? It's never too early to start preparing. Your search for opportunities following high school begins with habits you form now. **EVERYONE** can start with these simple but important steps:

- Attendance - be here. Setting this habit early will carry over and help in the workplace AND in the college classroom.
- Stay organized - there are lots of tools, tips and tricks to help with this. If you're not sure where to begin, talk with your teachers, parents and/or your school counselor.
- Keep up with your work - turning assignments in on time, being prepared for tests, asking questions if you don't understand....keep up with powerschool, google classroom, remind. Remember, you are responsible for your grades, but the adults in your life can help.
- Preparation - goes hand in hand with organization and work completion. Don't have what you need? Not sure where to start? Come on down, your school counselors are here to help!
- Know your resources - sometimes, things get hard. That's part of life. Inside and outside of school, things outside of our control can make it difficult to do what we need to do. Your teachers/administrators/counselors are here to help.

Great resources for college/career preparation, broken down by grade level:

✓ lists for: [Freshman year](#) [Sophomore year](#) [Junior year](#) [Senior year](#)

SENIORS -

- A few [additional checklist considerations](#), including your [HS transcript](#), [letters of recommendation](#) (you'll need these for college applications, scholarships, etc), [NCAA Eligibility](#) (for college bound student athletes).
- Lots of info to consider for those [preparing for college](#), including college searches, your college essay, the campus visit
- Planning on going straight into the workforce? Check out some ideas for [preparing for the world of work!](#)
- Thinking about the military? Keep your eyes and ears open for announcements regarding military recruiter visits. Representatives from the different military branches visit Auburn High School on a regular basis. The recruiters will be in the dining area on a rotating basis during the school year to meet with interested students.

NASA STEM OPPORTUNITIES

FREE NASA STEM programs for high school students in grades 10-12. These programs provide unique opportunities for students interested in space exploration, climate science, and NASA missions to engage deeply with these subjects through online courses AND in-person residential experiences at NASA facilities.

We're excited to announce that applications for our programs—Virginia Space Coast Scholars (VSCS), Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS), and Virginia Earth System Science Scholars (VESSS)—are now open. Applications close on October 24th.

About Our Programs:

1. [Virginia Space Coast Scholars \(VSCS\)](#) – 10th Grade:

VSCS is a FREE program for high school sophomores focusing on the science, technology, engineering, and math integral to current missions at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport. Scholars participate in an online course from November to March, gaining insights into NASA's innovative work. Top-performing students are invited to a 7-day residential summer academy at NASA Wallops, where they collaborate on mission design projects.

[Apply to VSCS Here](#)

2. [Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars \(VASTS\)](#) – 11th & 12th Grade:

VASTS centers on human space exploration. Scholars design upgrades for the ISS, create a new crew exploration vehicle, and engage in space-related discussions. The program follows a similar

format to VSCS, with online coursework and a summer academy at NASA Langley Research Center.

[Apply to VASTS HERE](#)

3. Virginia Earth System Science Scholars (VESSS) – 11th & 12th Grade:

VESSS focuses on NASA's climate change research, exploring satellite missions that enhance our understanding of Earth's systems. Scholars participate in an online course and a summer academy at NASA Langley, much like VASTS.

[Apply to VESSS HERE](#)

Key Details:

- **Application Deadline:** Open Now – Close October 24th, 2024
- **GPA Requirement:** 2.7 or higher
- **Counselor Verification & Teacher Recommendation:** Required for all programs
- **Program Cost:** Free!

The Society of Women Engineers at the University of Virginia invites high schoolers to apply to our High School Visitation program on **Saturday, October 19th, 2024**. The program gives young women (cis and trans) and non-binary high school students a comprehensive look at engineering fields and UVA's engineering curriculum through informative speakers and interactive design activities. The program is designed to benefit participants with all levels of engineering experience, but we particularly target those students who are not yet familiar with the field and may be interested in applying to engineering schools or pursuing a STEM career.

To apply, students should complete the HSV Fall 2024 Application which can be found [here](#). Students who have previously applied to HSV, are in the targeted grade level, and demonstrate a strong interest in engineering through their short answer question will receive priority acceptance. The event is planned to be held in-person at the UVA campus in Charlottesville, VA. The attached flier provides more information about the event and instructions on how to apply online through our [website](#).

DEADLINE: The application must be completed online by 11:59 pm on Thursday, September 19th, 2024.

Planning on taking the **SAT** or **ACT**? You can take a **FREE** practice SAT through your [College Board](#) account, and link your practice test to your free [Khan Academy](#) account for personalized practice before you take your official test. You can take a free practice ACT test through your [ACT Student](#) account, too.

Need a resume? Still looking for some direction following graduation? You have access to your [Major Clarity](#) account (login with Google, using your school email), where you can do career readiness activities, college searches, even create a resume if you don't have one yet.

\$ CHOLARSHIP \$

Listed below are scholarship announcements that the AHS Counseling Office has received. It is early in the school year, but as additional scholarship information is received it will be posted on the Auburn High School Counseling web page. Students and parents are encouraged to check the web page regularly for updates.

Scholarships with September deadlines - check links for additional eligibility information:

The Coke Scholars Application is Open
for High School Seniors

Each year, the **Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation** awards 150 college scholarships worth **\$20,000** to high school students across the United States through the Coca-Cola Scholars Program.

Students need a 3.0 GPA and to complete an **online application** that requires no essays, no recommendations, and no transcripts **by September 30, 2024**, at 5 p.m. Eastern.

We hope to see applications from your school this year!

To share the application for this \$20,000 scholarship for high school seniors in your area, **access the School Marketing Toolkit**, which includes:

- a printable PDF flyer
- a selection timeline
- a press release template
- sample social media posts
- photos and videos to use in your posts, including a ready-to-share reel
- a new video that explains the selection process

*If you have trouble opening the **School Marketing Toolkit** **hyperlink**, try copying and pasting it into your browser. If you still have trouble or if any additional materials would be helpful, **let us know**.*

The 2024-25 application is open to high school seniors until 5 p.m. Eastern on September 30, 2024. This is earlier than previous years.

See **program details**, a **selection roadmap**, and **last year's Coke Scholars**.

Scholarship Program

Award Deadline: Sep 30, 2024 **Scholarship Value:** \$2,000 **Awards Available:** 125

The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap and support communities impacted by natural disasters. The Foundation has pledged to invest \$50 million in training the next generation of skilled tradespeople and bridging the opportunity gap through its Path to Pro program. We want to help create the next generation of skilled trade leaders by providing scholarships to further your education.

To be considered, you must:

- A) Be a high school senior, high school graduate or have a GED equivalent.
- B) Plan to enroll, or be enrolled, in an approved trade-related program at an accredited two-year school (technical/vocational school or college) in the United States.
- C) Not be an employee or dependent of an employee of the The Home Depot. Employees of The Home

Depot and their dependents are eligible to apply for a scholarship from The Homer Fund.

D) Focused on Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, or Construction Management

United States Senate Youth Program Scholarships —VDOE will select two student delegates to represent Virginia in the 62nd Annual [United States Senate Youth Program \(USSYP\)](#) sponsored by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Each delegate will receive a \$10,000 scholarship and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for Washington Week March 2-9, 2024. Qualified public and private high school Juniors and Seniors may submit an application using the [Online Student Application Portal](#). Additional resources are [available on the VDOE website](#).

DEADLINE: 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 29, 2024.

AES Engineering Scholarship— This program awards scholarships to students who plan to enter an engineering—related field. Qualified students will submit an essay on the topic that appears on the scholarship page of the web site

APPLY HERE: <http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.php>

AMOUNT: \$500

DEADLINE: September 30, 2024

National Agricultural Aviation Association Support Scholarship - [eligibility/information](#)

AMOUNT: \$3000

DEADLINE: September 15, 2024

No Essay Smart Owl Scholarship - [eligibility information](#)

AMOUNT: \$1000

DEADLINE: September 29, 2024

Caring Community Scholarship - [eligibility information](#)

AMOUNT: \$2000

DEADLINE: September 30, 2024

American Trucks Student Scholarship - [eligibility information](#)

AMOUNT: \$2500

DEADLINE: October 15, 2024

Heisman High School Scholarship —The Heisman Memorial Trophy is renowned for symbolizing the pursuit of excellence with integrity. The Heisman High School Scholarship extends the Heisman prestige to our nation's most esteemed male and female high school seniors by recognizing and rewarding outstanding scholar-athletes who understand that the most important victories not only happen on the field, but in their schools and communities. These remarkable young leaders set the example and make a game-changing difference every day, paving the way to greatness for everyone around them.

APPLY: <https://heismanscholarship.com/>

AMOUNT: Varies

DEADLINE: October 17, 2024

Aspiring Attorney Scholarship - [eligibility information](#)

AMOUNT: \$1000

DEADLINE: October 31, 2024

Scholarships with November deadlines - check links for additional eligibility information:

Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship awards \$2.4 million in college scholarships to a total of 500 high school seniors nationwide. The Pulaski, VA, Elks Lodge #1067 sponsors the local scholarship. Interested students may go online and review the award criteria and submit an application.

APPLY HERE: <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/MVS.cfm>

AMOUNT: \$1,000-\$12,500 (amount varies)

DEADLINE: November 13, 2024

Levine Scholars Program — UNC Charlotte's premier merit scholarship, is accepting self-nominations from students who demonstrate intellectual curiosity, capacity for ethical leadership and commitment to community service.

DEADLINE for [self-nomination](#) is October 15; *UNC Charlotte admissions application* deadline is November 1; [Levine Scholars](#) application deadline is November 15, 2024.

Scholarships with December deadlines - check links for additional eligibility information:

Raise Me: Over 1 million high school students are earning no-essay college scholarships for their grades, activities, & other achievements. Sign up for a free [RaiseMe](#) profile & see how much you can earn! **DEADLINE:** December 1, 2024

Ron Brown Scholar Program — The Ron Brown Scholar Program seeks to identify students who will make significant contributions to society. Applicants must excel academically, show exceptional leadership potential and make an impact on their communities through service to others.

APPLY: <https://ronbrown.org/apply/ron-brown-scholarship/>

DEADLINE: December 1, 2024

Horatio Alger Association Scholarship — JUNIORS!!! This scholarship program provides financial assistance to students who have financial need and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity. Eligible students must be high school juniors who are United States citizens and who are committed to completing a bachelor's degree. Scholarships are awarded to deserving students each year and range in amounts from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

APPLY: <https://scholars.horatioalger.org/horatio-alger-scholarship-applications/>

APPLICATIONS OPEN: December 1, 2024

*****Please note:** Colleges are the best sources for scholarships and financial aid. You can receive information about a college's specific scholarships and financial assistance by contacting the college Admissions Office or Financial Aid Office. You can also go online and search for scholarships by type such as academic, art, music/drama, sports or ROTC.

ONGOING - check out these resources and consider creating accounts for scholarship announcements through some of the following:

TAG — Tuition Assistance Grant — The TAG program of the Commonwealth of Virginia provides annual grants to Virginia residents who are full-time students at eligible, non-profit, private colleges and universities in Virginia. The award amount is based on the number of eligible students and the amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly. If you are applying to a private college in Virginia, be sure to ask the admissions or

financial aid office of your college for a TAG application.

Fastweb: check out www.fastweb.com for a large list of scholarships that you can receive via email based on what scholarships apply to you and your plans!

Going Merry: check out <https://www.goingmerry.com/> to search for scholarships for free!

Raise Me: check out [Raise Me](#) for micro-scholarships you can start applying for now! PS - VT is a participating school!

Student Scholarships: check out <https://studentscholarships.org/2021scholarships.php> to search for scholarships!

QuestBridge connects academically outstanding high school seniors from low-income backgrounds with full four-year scholarships to the nation's leading colleges such as Stanford, Yale, Amherst, Duke, and UChicago. These scholarships are worth over \$200,000 each, cover the full cost of attendance, require no parental contribution, and are loan free. The application is September 26th, 2024. Email Ms. Heft at theft@mcps.org if you are interested. <https://www.questbridge.org/high-school-students/national-college-match>

THE JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA invites seniors at Auburn High School to participate in the 2024—2025 competition for Jefferson Scholarships to the University of Virginia. Jefferson Scholarships — full scholarships to the University — are granted to individuals on the basis of merit-alone; financial need is not a consideration in the selection process. The Foundation pays directly to each recipient a stipend sufficient to cover the full cost of attending the University. AHS is asked to nominate one student from the senior class who best exemplifies excellence in the Jeffersonian ideals scholarship and citizenship. The Jefferson Scholars Foundation seeks to identify the most highly talented students in the world, and all that is asked of these students is a willingness to participate fully in the selection process. Prior interest in the University of Virginia and financial need should not be factors in selecting a nominee. The Jefferson Scholars Foundation does require as a condition of nomination that each nominee agree not to make an application to a college or university under a binding early decision plan. Any senior who wishes to apply to a college or university under a non—binding early admission plan would be eligible to compete and win a Jefferson Scholarship. Any senior who would like to be considered as Auburn's nominee for a Jefferson Scholarship should email Ms. Sullivan at elizabethsullivan@mcps.org