

The University of Akron * **The University of Alabama** * AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts * American University * **Arizona State University** * The University of Arizona * **University of Arkansas** * Art Center College of Design * Auburn University * Augsburg College * Ball State University * Baylor University * Bellarmine University * **Belmont University** * Beloit College * **Benedictine College** * Berklee College of Music * Bethany College * Birmingham-Southern College * Boston University * **Bradley University** * **Brigham Young University** * Buena Vista University * Butler University * University of California at San Diego * California Baptist University * California College of the Arts (San Francisco) * Carleton College * Carthage College * Cedarville University * University of Central Florida * **Central Methodist University** * **University of Central Missouri** * Centre College * College of Charleston * University of Cincinnati * **Clark Atlanta University** * Clarke University * **Clemson University** * Coe College * University of Colorado at Boulder * Colorado Mesa University * Colorado Mountain College * **Colorado School of Mines** * **Colorado State University** * **Columbia College Chicago** * Concordia College – Moorhead * **Concordia University Wisconsin** * Cornell College * **Cottey College** * Creighton University * **Cuesta College** * **Culver-Stockton College** * University of Dallas * **University of Dayton** * **Denison University** * **University of Denver** * **DePaul University** * DePauw University * Dominican University * **Drake University** * Drexel University * **Drury University** * East Tennessee State University * Eastern Illinois University * **Elon University** * Emerson College * Emmaus Bible College * University of Evansville * **Fairfield University** * Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising * The University of Findlay * Florida State University * University of Florida * Fontbonne University * Fordham University * **George Mason University** * Goucher College * **Graceland University** * Grand View University * Grinnell College * Hampton University * Hannibal-LaGrange College * Harding University * University of Hartford * Hendrix College * **Hickey College** * High Point University * **Hope College** * Howard University * University of Illinois at Chicago * **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** * **Illinois College** * Illinois State University * **Illinois Wesleyan University** * **Indiana University at Bloomington** * Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis * University of Indianapolis * Iowa State University * **The University of Iowa** * James Madison University * **Kar**nt State University * **Community College** * **Indiana State University** * **Marist College** * **Marquette University** * **Memphis University** * **Miami University, Oxford** * **University of Miami** * **Michigan State University** * University of Michigan * Middlebury College * Midland University * **Millikin University** * **University of Minnesota, Twin Cities** * Mississippi State University * **University of Mississippi** * **Missouri Baptist University** * **Missouri State University** * Missouri State University, West Plains * **Missouri University of Science and Technology** * Missouri Valley College * **Missouri Western State University** * **University of Missouri Columbia** * **University of Missouri, Kansas City** * **University of Missouri, St. Louis** * Monmouth College * Mount Holyoke College * Murray State University * **University of Nebraska at Lincoln** * New Mexico State University * University of New Mexico * **New York University** * Newman University * **North Carolina State University** * North Central Missouri College * **University of North Texas** * **Northeastern University** * University of Northern Colorado * Northern Illinois University * University of Northern Iowa * Northern Michigan University * **Northwest Missouri State University** * Oberlin College * University of Oregon * Otterbein University * **Oxford College of Emory University** * **Ozarks Technical Community College** * **Purdue University** * Quincy University * **Ranken Technical College** * Regis University * **Rhodes College** * Ripon College * University of Rochester * **Rockhurst University** * Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology * **Saint Louis University** * Saint Louis University, Madrid * **Samford University** * San Diego City College * University of San Diego * Santa Clara University * **Santa Fe College** * Santa Fe University of Art and Design * Savannah College of Art and Design * School of the Art Institute of Chicago * **Smith College** * University of South Carolina * **South Dakota State University** * University of South Florida, Tampa * **Southeast Missouri State University** * **Southern Illinois University, Carbondale** * **Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville** * **Southern Methodist University** * **Southwest Baptist University** * Spring Hill College * St. Edward's University * St. John's University - Queens Campus * **St. Louis College of Pharmacy** * **St. Louis Community College** * St. Olaf College * Stephens College * **The University of Tampa** * **Temple University** * **Tennessee State University** * **University of Tennessee, Knoxville** * University of Tennessee, Martin * Texas Christian University * Texas State University * The University of Texas, Austin * The Ohio State University * University of Toledo * Transylvania University * **Truman State University** * University of Tulsa * **United States Military Academy** * Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University * Washington State University * **Washington University in St. Louis** * **Webster University** * West Virginia University * **Western Illinois University** * **Western Kentucky University** * Westminster College * **Wheaton College IL** * Whittier College * Wichita State University * College of William and Mary * **William Jewell College** * William Woods University * **University of Wisconsin, Madison** * The College of Wooster * **Xavier University** * **Xavier University of Louisiana** * **Yale University** * The University of Akron * **The University of Alabama** * AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts * American University * **Arizona State University** * The University of Arizona * **University of Arkansas** * Art Center College of Design * Auburn University * Augsburg College * Ball State University * Baylor University * Bellarmine University * **Belmont University** * Beloit College * **Benedictine College** * Berklee College of Music *

Kirkwood High School

College Planning Guide

College Planning Guide

Kirkwood High School's CEEB Number: 261782

College Counseling Website:

http://khs.kirkwoodschoools.org/pages/Kirkwood_High_School

(Click on "Guidance and Counseling")

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Junior Year Planning Calendar

August

- Create a preliminary list of colleges
- Use Naviance Family Connection and start working on resume

September

- Meet with College Reps at KHS – sign up in GAC or Naviance
- Attend Junior Parent Coffee
- Practice ACT at KHS
- Attend Collaborative College Fair at Meramec

October

- PSAT
- Fall College Fair at SLU

November/December

- Counselors in classrooms for College & Career Planning
- Maintain Grades
- Prepare for the ACT – ACT Prep
- Begin using Naviance “*Super Match*” as you create a list of schools

January

- Course selection senior year
- Schedule a meeting with your college counselor
- Sign up for ACT/SAT

February

- Begin visiting college campuses
- Continue creating a list of schools
- Strive for strong GPA
- Sign up for ACT/SAT and prep

March

- Attend College Information Night at KHS
- Talk with teachers about recommendation letters
- Continue to talk with your college counselor and do ACT Prep

April, May, June

- Take the state ACT at KHS
- Prep & sign up for June ACT
- Visit college campuses
- Work on college essays
- Strengthen and add to your resume

Senior Year Planning Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- Continue to take a full course load of challenging, college-prep courses and keep working hard in order to earn the best grades possible.
- Continue your extracurricular involvement!
- Meet with your College Counselor to discuss whether you need to take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests or ACT in the fall. Sign up as necessary.
- Talk to your counselor, teachers, and parents and finalize your college list.
- Visit websites to identify all application requirements for each of your schools.
- Create a spreadsheet or calendar to help keep track of deadlines.
- Make sure you have an **appropriate e-mail address** for communications with colleges. Consider creating an email just for college materials- and make sure you check it regularly!
- Check the upcoming college visit lists which are posted in the guidance hallway and GAC, and read the scrolling announcements, Naviance website, and guidance website for dates and times of visit to our school. Attendance at these meetings is important!! Ask Questions!
- Save copies of **EVERYTHING**.
- **Teacher Recommendations.** Many private colleges require letters of recommendation from teachers and your counselor. Ask two core academic course teachers who know you well if they will write you a positive academic recommendation. Provide them with the appropriate form (available in the guidance hallway) and instructions about submitting their completed letters. Make sure you allow your teacher(s) at least two weeks and provide them with your specific deadlines as well!
- **Counselor Recommendations.** If you need a counselor recommendation or a secondary school report, make sure you check in with your college counselor. You will need to turn in the Counselor Recommendation Questionnaire (available in the guidance hallway) and meet with your counselor multiple times. Please notify your college counselor **at least 2 weeks** before your application is due in order to allow her sufficient time to write the glowing recommendation that you deserve! ☺
- Encourage your parents to attend the **Senior Coffee** in **September**.
- Register for your FSA ID. Your FAFSA information cannot be submitted until after October 1st, but you and your parent will need FSA ID to complete the on-line form.

OCTOBER

- Application deadlines begin popping up this month. Check and double-check each school's website to stay ahead of your timeline.
- Make sure you have secured teacher and counselor recommendations. Follow up with your references as necessary (but do not harass them!).
- Make sure your counselor receives any school report forms required by your colleges/ universities.
- After conferring with your counselor, request that the testing agency (ACT or College Board) send your official test scores to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Take the ACT, SAT, and SAT Subject Tests if necessary.
- Finalize your essays and applications. Have another person proof everything. Continue to make copies!
- Attend the **College Fair** at Meramec in **September** and the **National College Fair** at Saint Louis University in **October**
- If you decide to apply for a priority deadline, submit college applications for Early Decision admission and Early Action BEFORE the November 1 or the November 15 deadline. Pay attention to early financial aid deadlines associated with these priority applications.
- Submit the FAFSA (FREE Application for Federal Student Aid) and any additional financial aid forms requested by the colleges. **DO THIS ASAP!!!** Follow up with your schools to make sure they have all of the information and forms needed.
- Attend **KHS Financial Aid Night** in **October** at KHS

NOVEMBER

- Continue to submit applications as needed. Make sure to observe ALL application and scholarship deadlines and **do not wait until the last minute**. This can communicate lack of interest in your schools.
- Keep up your grades– colleges do pay attention to your 7th semester grades.
- Take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests, if necessary.
- Register for the December ACT if advised by your counselor.
- Submit materials for December 1 deadlines before Thanksgiving Break.

DECEMBER

- Be sure to submit applications with January 1 deadlines at the beginning of December in order to allow time for processing in the midst of winter break.

JANUARY-MARCH

- Visit the Guidance Activity Center and KHS Guidance website regularly to stay informed of community-based scholarship opportunities.
- Complete and submit all remaining applications.
- Follow up and check to make sure that colleges received all of your application information, including recommendations and test scores.
- Re-visit colleges if you are still trying to make your college decision. Many schools sponsor admitted student events during this time of the year and into April.
- Maintain contact with your admissions representative at each college/ university. Demonstrate that you are truly interested in their school.
- Remember to check your email! This is how many schools will communicate with you.
- Parents and/or students attending **College Information Night** in **March**.

APRIL-MAY

- Notification of decisions by colleges under regular decision guidelines usually occurs around this time.
- Notification of financial aid packages from colleges and universities to which you have been accepted are typically mailed out during this period of time.
- Compare financial aid packages.
- Continue applying for community-based scholarships.
- It may help to make up a chart of the positives and negatives of each school. Discuss with your family, or your college counselor, or both!
- **Make your final choice and NOTIFY your school by May 1st**. Send a deposit to your chosen school. Failure to do this may result in a revocation of your spot and/or financial aid package. Notify all of your schools of your final decision. This may open up a spot in the freshman class for someone who is on the waitlist!
- **Inform the Guidance Office of your final decision** by turning in your senior survey. This mandatory form will tell us where to send your official final transcript.
- **MAINTAIN STRONG SECOND SEMESTER GRADES**– Colleges have the right to withdraw an acceptance offer based on your final semester grades and YES, they do exercise this option!!

KHS Application Procedures

During the next few months your son or daughter will be responsible for applying to colleges, seeking scholarships, visiting college campuses, and continuing to research careers/majors; all while successfully completing senior year! The key to a smooth process is to start early and stay organized. We will assist students and parents with the information you need throughout the year via college counselor meetings, senior parent night and other special programming, e-mails, and information through our website and twitter. Please keep this guide as a reference as questions arise in the coming months. We look forward to an exciting year assisting your students with their planning for life beyond high school. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions that may arise during the school year.

Step 1 - How do I apply to a University?

Each university has an application that every hopeful first time freshman must complete. Some universities have more than one way to apply. Some universities have their own application that a student will fill out through their websites while others will be members of the common application. Schools do not care what application you use, please do what is most convenient for you.

University website applications - These are found on the schools website under an icon that says "Apply Now!" They will require you to create an account in order to ultimately submit that application. Usually each application has a fee, which you will pay after completion of such application.

Common Application - The common application is found at www.commonapp.org. Over 900 universities are members, meaning that if a school is a member that you can complete one application and send it to as many schools as you want; pending they are members. On the main common app page there is a list of universities that accept it, please refer to that to make your decision. Your college counselors recommend that you DO use the common application if you are applying to two or more schools that are members. You will create an online account and use the website to develop your college list, complete, and submit your applications.

Step 2 - Send Your High School Transcripts

After you have submitted your application to a university, you will need to alert your college counselor to send your transcript. Universities DO NOT ask KHS for your transcripts, you are responsible for requesting it. Be aware, sometimes it takes up to two weeks to process a transcript even if they are sent electronically. Do not wait to apply!

Transcript Release Form - In order for a college counselor to send you transcripts you must complete a transcript release form. You can find the form online (INSERT LINK) or in the guidance hallway. The release form only needs to be done once no matter how many universities you apply to.

Applying via University Website - If you apply to a university through their website, you will need to request your transcript by emailing your college counselor. You will need to include this information: Which schools do you need your transcripts sent to? When did you submit the application? Please confirm your college counselor has received your request.

Applying via Common Application - If you are using the common application you will invite your college counselor to submit your transcript. You can find the invitation section under "My Colleges" and "Recommenders and FERPA." Your college counselor will receive an email confirming your request. Your one request will suffice for all universities that you apply to. Please confirm your college counselors has received your common application request.

KHS Application Procedures Continued...

Step 3 - Send Your Standardized Test Scores

It is the student's responsibility to send their test scores to each university they apply to. Many schools (**including Mizzou and Saint Louis University**) now only accept ACT/ SAT scores directly from the testing agency. You may have these sent by listing your colleges of choice when you register for the exam. You may also send them after the fact by logging back into your ACT student (www.actstudent.org) or College Board (www.collegeboard.com) account. There is a fee associated with the second option. Familiarize yourself with each school's testing policy. Do they require ACT vs. ACT with writing? Do they require SAT Subject tests? If so, do they ask for specific subjects? How many are required? Even though you are sending each score electronically it does take up to three weeks to process it.

Recommendation Letters

Some universities require letters of recommendation from a counselor or a teacher to complete the application process.

Counselor Recommendation Letter - If a letter from a counselor is required, students will need to meet with their college counselor to review the process. Please allow up to two weeks for letter submission. It is mandatory that students fill out a Counselor Questionnaire to receive a letter of recommendation. To obtain the questionnaire please e-mail or see your college counselor.

Teacher Recommendation Letter - While some colleges do not require teacher recommendations, it is important to plan ahead and check each school's application requirements. Junior year teachers are great references, as they have worked with you recently, and for an entire year. Make sure to ask **core academic teachers**, unless you are pursuing a major or a program that require letters from a specific subject area (for example, ask an art teacher if you are applying to an art program or school of art and design). Teachers receive numerous requests for recommendations each fall. Therefore it is extremely important that you provide your teachers with **2-3 weeks notice** before your deadlines. **It is your responsibility to track the progress of these letters with your teachers!**

Final Tips for Completing Your Application

- Students are responsible for their application: Securing the application, meeting deadlines, and following up to ensure everything was received by each college/ university
- Read the Directions and follow them EXACTLY.
- Be aware; your kirkwood email address does block incoming correspondence that it does not recognize. Please use another email address or create a college-only email account to help track and manage your applications.
- PROOFREAD. Spelling and grammatical errors are UNACCEPTABLE.
- You should ALWAYS WAIVE YOUR RIGHT to see any recommendations written on your behalf. Colleges are much more receptive to recommendations they know you have not seen. After all, you are not going to request a recommendation from anyone who will not provide an accurate and positive letter, right!
- If you have questions, review them with your college counselor. We are here to help you.
- If you have a question about a particular school, make contact with the college representative. The sole purpose of his/her job is to help you! Sometimes this communication may also be helpful when applying to highly selective schools. Do NOT have a parent make contact. You are applying for college, NOT your parent!

Tips for using the Common Application

Visit www.commonapp.org

Use the “Explore” feature to see if the schools you want to apply to accept the Common Application.

Create your own student account. You will be prompted to enter your email address and create a password. Make sure you enter an email that you check on a regular basis. Be aware; your kirkwood email address does block incoming correspondence that it does not recognize. Please use another email address or create a college-only email account to help track and manage your applications.

College Search

Use this tab to begin developing your college list. Search for your schools, then select “add” to create the list of schools to which you are applying.

Common App

Under this tab, you can access the Common Application itself. There are seven categories to complete: Profile, Family, Education, Testing, Activities, Writing, Course and Grades.

*Under the Education section please use your college counselor’s information **NOT** your grade level counselor*

This is where you will answer questions about yourself (demographics, high school education, extracurricular activities).

Dashboard

This tab allows you to track your progress through each school’s application requirements. Use the grey arrow to view details about your progress with each school’s requirements.

My Colleges

Through this tab, you can see a snapshot of the school’s general deadlines and application requirements, such as application fees, testing policy, and letters of recommendation. Additionally, you can view school-specific essay prompts and questions. Finally, you will assign your college counselor and specific recommenders to each school. It is through this tab that you will actually submit your applications to each school.

Common App Tips Continued...

Transcripts and Letters of Recommendation

- **Common App schools require a counselor recommendation from your college counselor.** Inviting your College Counselor will automatically generate an email through which they can upload the secondary school report form and a copy of your transcripts.
 1. Go to the “My Colleges” Tab
 2. Select the drop down area for a school
 3. Click “Recommenders and FERPA”
 4. Click “Invite Counselor”
 - Josh Jaworowski - joshua.jaworowski@kirkwoodschoools.org Last Names A-K
 - Abby Peterson- abby.peterson@kirkwoodschoools.org Last Names L-Z
 5. **If a school requires a counselor letter of recommendation turn in your completed Counselor Questionnaire at least two weeks before your deadline.** To obtain the questionnaire please e-mail or see your college counselor. This form is required before your college counselor can write your letter of recommendation. You may also want to have a parent complete a **Parent Brag Sheet (See College Counselor)** if you are not sure what to share with your counselor.

- **Request teacher recommendations, if necessary.** Some schools will require one or two teacher recommendations. To view which schools require Teacher Recommendation Letters:
 1. Go to the “My Colleges” Tab
 2. Select the drop down area for a school
 3. Click “Recommenders and FERPA”
 4. If a Teacher Recommendation is required, click “Invite Teacher”
 5. You must then “Assign” that teacher for each school
 - a. Assigning must happen to alert teachers of your request.
 - b. As a student, it is your responsibility to assign teachers to each school you want their letter to go to.
 6. Be sure to also speak to your teacher in person to request the letter. Once your teachers receive emails inviting them to your account, you will be able to see when letters of recommendation have been uploaded on your behalf.
 - a. If you would like this letter to be on file for use at other, non-Common App schools, ask your teacher to provide an electronic copy to your college counselor as well.

Standardized Admission Testing

Since most schools accept both tests, all students are highly encouraged to explore whether the ACT or SAT is the right test from them. Taking practice tests for both the ACT and SAT is a great way to explore which test is best for you. While this will require some time investment on your part, it will help you identify your strengths and weaknesses. Your college counselor can help you differentiate between the exams if you have any questions.

Although many students first take these admissions exams in the spring of their junior year, most students will retake the ACT and/or SAT early in the senior year. Nearly every school in the country accepts both the ACT and the SAT; however, many schools specifically request the ACT with writing. Highly selective colleges may also require the SAT Subject Tests (see below for details). These tests fit well at the completion of AP exams. Please check with each individual school to determine which specific tests are required/ recommended.

A brief description of each test is given below. We encourage you to go directly to the ACT website (www.actstudent.org) and College Board website (www.collegeboard.com) for detailed information on the ACT and SAT/SAT Subject Tests, respectively. You will also need to visit these websites to register for the exams. Registration deadlines are approximately a month in advance of the test.

****Students participating in the free/reduced lunch program will be eligible for two fee waivers.
See your college counselor to obtain this waiver.****

ACT (www.actstudent.org) The ACT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. It focuses strictly on knowledge. The multiple choice test covers four skill areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The Writing test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay. Each individual test score ranges from 1-36. The total of the four sections divided by four results in the composite score. The writing section is scored separately on a 2-12 scale. Students considering out-of-state schools are encouraged to take the optional writing section. Please refer to the ACT website for a complete updated list of colleges that require or recommend the optional writing component.

SAT (www.collegeboard.com) The SAT is a measure of the critical thinking skills you will need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses your reasoning ability. The SAT includes two sections comprised of three tests: Reading, Writing & Language, Math and an optional Essay. The Math section is worth 800 points. The Reading and Writing sections together are called "Evidence-Based Reading and Writing" and account for 800 points. The Essay is optional and scored separately (your essay score doesn't affect your Evidence-Based Reading & Writing score). A perfect score on the SAT is 1600.

SAT Subject Tests (www.collegeboard.com) Students take Subject Tests to demonstrate mastery of specific subjects within the areas of English, History, Mathematics, Science, and Foreign Language. The tests are independent of any particular textbook or method of instruction. The tests' content evolves to reflect current trends in high school curricula, but the types of questions change little from year to year. Schools that require the Subject Tests include: Princeton University, MIT, Carnegie Mellon University. Schools that strongly recommend Subject Tests include: Northwestern University, Vanderbilt University, Oberlin College.

2019-2020 Standardized Testing Calendar

2019-2020 ACT Test Dates

TEST DATE	REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION* (FEE APPLIES)
September 14, 2019	August 16, 2019	August 17-30, 2019
October 26, 2019	September 20, 2019	Sept. 21- Oct. 4, 2019
December 14, 2019	November 8, 2019	November 9-22, 2019
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020	January 11-17, 2020
April 4, 2020	February 28, 2020	Feb. 29 - March 13, 2020
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 9-22, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020	June 20-26, 2020

2019-20 SAT Test Dates

TEST DATE	TEST OFFERED
August 24, 2019	SAT & Subject Tests
October 5, 2019	SAT & Subject Tests
November 2, 2019	SAT & Subject Tests
December 7, 2019	SAT & Subject Tests
March 14, 2020	SAT ONLY
May 2, 2020	SAT & Subject Tests
June 6, 2020	SAT & Subject Tests

The College Essay

(Collected from the “WOW Writing Workshop”)

The College Essay is about YOU!

It’s about how a person, a book, or experiences have affected you or important life lessons during ordinary life moments. Think about your audience...that person wants to know how you think and if you will succeed on their campus.

At its core, the college essay is all about reflection, why does it matter to you?

Most readers will never meet you and will need ways to get to get to know you the essay provides such insight to who you are as a person.

Key Questions

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you funny?• Are you serious?• Do you write in short concise sentences?• What happened?• Why does it matter?• What comes next?• What makes you tick / what do you love?• Who are you?• Who do want to become?• Who are you right now and how did you get to this place?• How do you learn?• Who do you learn from?• Why is this topic so engaging?• Who do I talk to about ideas?• How do I research such things and why are they meaningful to me? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where do you come from?• How do you spend your time?• Who is important to you?• Are you industrious, shy, curious, funny, risk taker?• How do you deal with unexpected complications?• Have you learned to be a leader?• How have you changed through your experiences?• A significant conversation?• When was a moment when you realized something important about yourself?• How do you problem solve?• What role would you play in a future solution?• Can you focus on something that sparked growth or understanding? |
|--|---|

Brainstorming Exercises

Exercise 1:

Make a list that includes what readers might already know when reading your app.

What do you want readers to learn that they can't find out from the rest of the application?

List some of your best characteristics.... think about how other people might describe you.

Exercise 2:

Set a timer for 10 minutes and start writing about what you did this morning...write down as much as you remember using all of your senses. Be specific and write in fragments, lists, paragraphs, whatever, gather details and don't judge what you write, keep moving forward.

Your voice will shine through the most when you are able to just relax and let it flow.

Now find three segments that really sound like you a few words or a few sentences...something you always say do or think....

*Something you always say, do, or think

*A description of something that screams "my house!" or "my room!" or "my personality!"

*A phrase you like or detailed description

*Something specific that sounds just like you

Highlight bold or underline those examples and this is your voice!

Pause and find the lines that sound the most like you!

Exercise 3:

Ask a friend or a family member to interview you and ask you what three traits you would use to describe yourself.

Exercise 4:

Keep a journal to write down quick snap-shots to remind you of an experience. Just a few sentences to remember the moment and the scene. Be specific. The setting of the story is less important than the story about you. Focus on you. Stay focused on the moment. Consider yourself a story-teller with you as the subject.

Exercise 5:

Write down the prompt you are addressing and include the topic/idea summarized in a few words with a few key details.

Remember...

- Don't repeat what is already in your application.
- Trust yourself. Trust that what you have to say matters.
- Know who are you and listen to your writing voice, that voice will set you apart.
- Your story will show something genuine that they can't see by test scores or GPA.
- Don't get distracted by the thesaurus. Its ok to sound like a high school student...don't let an adult take away your voice! Your voice will help you stand out!
- What happened?
- Why does it matter?
- What do I want readers to know about me that they couldn't find out elsewhere?
- What comes next?
- THESE ARE KEY QUESTIONS!
- Revision, Feedback, and Proofreading! Remember that punctuation is important!

Preparing for the Campus Visit

Helpful Hints for an Effective Campus Visit

1. Call the Admissions Office to schedule a campus tour, and an information session/ interview with an admissions officer. If possible, sit in on classes, eat the cafeteria food, sleep in the dorms.
2. Do not schedule more than two schools per day. Give yourself ample time to roam the campus before or after the interview.
3. Be punctual! Make sure you have given yourself a cushion time to accommodate any missed turns, traffic jams, or foul weather. If, despite your best efforts, you are still going to be late, call the Admissions Office to inform them of your situation.
4. Be sure to note the name of the admissions officer you meet. Direct future phone calls and correspondence to him or her. (REMEMBER TO WRITE A THANK YOU LETTER!)
5. Read the campus newspaper to discover the burning school issues.
6. Scan the bulletin boards and kiosks for announcements and for messages; these sorts of communications reveal a great deal about the tone of the school.
7. Talk with students on your own, without parents and without the admission representatives, when their answers will be more candid. The way you are received will also give you some indication of the friendliness of the community.
8. Be aware of walking distances. Is it easy to get around campus?
9. Take time to explore the area surrounding campus. Would you feel comfortable walking in this area alone? Is there a clear divide between the area and campus? Is there enough to do in the area around campus?
10. Take pictures!!

Questions to Ask Your Tour Guide

1. How large are all of your classes?
2. Who teaches you in these classes? (Graduate assistants or professors?)
3. Does this school have a core curriculum? How restrictive is it? Is there a world language requirement?
4. How adequate is the library? The computer facilities?
5. When do you have to declare your major? What are the most popular majors?
6. What experiences have you had with the advising system? How well do you know your advisor and how were you matched with him/her?
7. How do I register for classes? How likely is it that I will be shut out of a class I need?
8. How accessible is the faculty?
9. How competitive are the students? Are people grade-driven or do they enjoy actually learning the material?
10. Are some dorms much better than others? Are dorm rooms wired? Is housing guaranteed? Do many students live off campus? Why?
11. Can you tell me anything first-hand about the _____ department?
12. What's the biggest issue in local campus politics?
13. What percentage of students study abroad at some time?
14. What impact do fraternities/sororities have here? Athletics?
15. What are weekends like? Are there alternatives to the typical party scene?
16. How active is student government? What activities are popular? Are the arts supported here?
17. What is the greatest shortcoming of this college? What are students' biggest complaints?
18. What do you like best about your experience and education here?
19. Where do students come from? Is this a diverse community?
20. Why did you choose this school? Where else did you apply?
21. What kinds of kids are happiest here? Least happy? What is the typical student like?
22. If you could attend another college now, where would you go? Why?
23. What are some unique traditions at the school?

How to Create a Resume

WHAT IS A RESUME? A resume is a document that highlights your accomplishments. Typically resumes are one page in length. A resume is a living document. You want to add to and delete from it as you achieve different milestones. For example, your current resume will include the year of your graduation from high school because you have not yet graduated. However, upon graduation, you will update your resume to include your graduation date.

WHY SHOULD I HAVE A RESUME? It is an easy way for a person, organization, or company to view your credentials on paper. As you will see, many of your college admissions applications and most scholarship applications require information on grades, activities, organizations, etc. If you have already created a resume, you don't have to fill out this information each time you apply to a college or complete a scholarship application. Often writing, "see attached" will suffice for the application and the process will be a lot easier on you. However, make sure you read the instructions. If the application requires you to fill out the information on their application- do that! You can at least reference your resume to assist you in completing the application, which is still an easier process than starting from scratch each time. Taking the time to complete a resume will make your senior year that much easier.

HOW DO I GO ABOUT COMPLETING A RESUME?

1. Look at the sample on the next page. It is your job to create the resume that will highlight your accomplishments. Resumes are flexible. Therefore, the order of the sections you include will vary based upon your involvement. The education section should always come first. After that, sections should come in order of importance. As a Rachel Toor, former Duke admissions counselor said in her book, Admissions Confidential:

We also look at what you do and how you spend your time. We look for well-rounded kids, but we also look for "well-lopsided" kids. If all you do is music-you don't do sports, you don't do community service, you don't do student government, you just do music-that's fine.

Scholarship committees, like admissions committees, often want to know that you are using your time wisely and not spending 30+ hours a week in front of the gray box in the family room.

2. Brainstorm first. Develop headings such as the ones on the sample resume and list everything you can beginning with your freshman year. Anything prior to that would have to be unbelievably outstanding for you to include it - such as developing the cure for the common cold while in Mr. Petrie's 5th grade science class ☺

3. After you have brainstormed, begin to prioritize your accomplishments by putting the best and most important items first. For scholarship and admissions applications, **academics always come first**. After that, it is your choice. Under each category you prioritize as well. As you can see from the sample resume, this fictional student earned National Merit recognition and was a recipient of the Lamp of Learning award- obviously the National Merit comes first. Make sure you explain activities that are not common to all schools. One example might be Link Crew. We know the club at Kirkwood, but colleges will not.

4. Take the resume to the English lab, a teacher, coach, music instructor, or your college counselor to review it. Have your resume proofed by at least one other quality source! In business, if there is a spelling error on a resume it often gets tossed out regardless of the information. Details are important. Take your time with it and make it good. If you can't give a good first impression in person, do it on paper with your resume!!!

Sample RESUME for college visits or college/scholarship applications

This is an example. Include information that highlights YOUR strengths!

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Phone #

Email Address (make sure it is appropriate!)

Education

Kirkwood High School

College Major/ Career Goal:

(include this only if you have one)

Expected Graduation: May 2015

G.P.A. (only if good)

ACT: same

SAT: same

Honors and Awards

- National Merit Semi-Finalist (12)
- Lamp of Learning Academic Achievement Award (9, 10, 11)
- Missouri All State Choir, (10,11)

High School Activities

- Pioneer Yearbook Staff (10, 11, 12)
 - Editor in Chief (12)
 - Spend approximately 10 hours per week leading a staff of 75 students.
- KHS Swim Team (10, 11, 12)
 - Varsity Team Captain (12)
- KHS Choir (9, 10, 11, 12)
- Spanish Club (9, 10, 11)

Community Activities

- Meals on Wheels Volunteer (Summers, 2012-Present)
 - Deliver 3-5 meals to senior citizens every Saturday throughout the year.
- Church Youth Group (9, 10, 11, 12)
 - Coordinated over 100 youth members for a 2-week mission trip to Tijuana.

Work Experience

- Kirkwood YMCA Summer Gymnastics Camp Instructor (2012-Present)
 - 20 hours per week during the school year and 45 hours per week in the summer.
 - Promoted to lead instructor after only 6 months of employment.
- Kirkwood Library (2011-12)
 - Approximately 10 hours per week during the school year.

"In our file room there's a saying that's sort of mean, but also true: the thicker the file, the thicker the kid. If you're padding your application with letters or with copies of every little prize you won since junior high school we're going to wonder if you're a weak applicant."

- Rachel Toor, Former Duke Admissions Officer and Author of "Admissions Confidential"

Preparing for the College or Scholarship Interview

Generally, college interviews are optional. If the school you are visiting offers an on-campus interview, take advantage of the opportunity! A local alumni interview may be another option. Check with the college for interview deadlines.

What you can do to prepare:

1. Read all available material on the college beforehand. Do not ask questions answered in the bulletin.
2. Be prepared to comment on particular programs related to your talents and interests.
3. Be ready for cryptic questions (e.g. "Tell me about yourself.")
4. Remember- you are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you. The final decision is yours.

Sample Questions from College Admissions Interviewers:

1. How do you like KHS? What has been the most positive/ negative experience you have had? What would you change about KHS?
2. What is your role in the school community? What would your teachers say about you as a person/ student?
3. What is the most significant contribution you've made at your school?
4. What are you looking for in a college? How did you become interested in _____?
5. What are some of your goals – personal and career – for the future?
6. Tell me about a particular class or assignment that was especially meaningful to you.
7. What is your reason for participating in (athletics/student government/newspaper)?
8. In what ways do you plan to transfer your high school contributions, achievements/ activities to the college level?
9. What has been your favorite subject in high school? Why? What might you study in college?
10. What books/ authors have made lasting impressions on you? Have you read deeply into any one author or field?
11. What event(s) has been most critical in your life thus far? Who has most influenced you?
12. What pressures do you feel operating on you to conform? Describe ways in which you "go your own way."
13. How have you spent your summers? Your free time?
14. What are your reactions to current events?
15. How would you describe yourself as a person?
16. Have you ever thought of not going to college? What would you do instead?
17. Why do you think you are a good match for this college?
18. Describe your ideal college/ university.
19. Many qualified students apply to our school. What characteristics make you unique?
20. Are there any holes in your transcript?
21. Do you have any questions? (Have some in mind.)

Questions to Ask the Interviewer:

1. Who will teach me? (full-time faculty vs. graduate students)
2. How big are freshman classes? (not simply faculty-student ratio)
3. What is distinctive/ unique about your school?
4. What is the retention rate? Retention rate of freshmen?
5. Would I have been accepted last year? What is the profile of the freshman class? How do you choose students?
6. Can you tell me about your _____program? _____major? _____team?
7. How large is the school's endowment? What percentage of alumni donate to the school?
8. What scholarship opportunities are available? What deadlines should I be aware of?
9. What type of first year programs are in place to help with the transition into college?
10. Tell me about the career services office and internship opportunities.

After the Visit:

1. Write a thank you note to any admissions officer who interviewed you. If you chatted with an admissions officer who conducted an information session, direct a thank you to him/ her as well. (Some schools track these contacts!)
2. Some tour guides will provide business cards/ contact information as well. If they do so, thank your tour guide too!
 3. Take notes as soon as you step off campus, while the visit is still fresh in your mind. Sometimes colleges blend together, so taking notes after each visit can help to distinguish between similar schools.

Financial Aid Overview

Majority of information below taken from the Missouri Department of Higher Education

Phone: 1-800-473-6757

www.dhe.mo.gov

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID? Financial aid is money for education (4-year or 2-year public or private institution, career school, or trade school) that comes from sources other than the family. It is meant to supplement what the family can contribute to the total costs involved in attending school. Federal aid covers school expenses, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Aid can also help pay for a computer and for dependent care. There are three categories of federal aid: grants, work-study, and loans. Please see definitions on the following pages.

WHAT IS THE FAFSA? The FAFSA stands for the **Free Application For Federal Student Aid**, emphasis on FREE APPLICATION. Never pay someone to complete this. Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st of the student's senior year.

WHAT IS THE CSS PROFILE? Some selective colleges require the profile. Those schools requiring PROFILE will indicate this in all of their literature. This profile will be available <http://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp> starting October 1st. Visit the website after that date and make sure you meet the deadline of the particular college to which you are applying.

WHAT IS A FAMILY EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE? Financial need is determined by subtracting what the parent and student can afford (Expected Family Contribution-EFC), from the total cost of attendance. If an institution determines that the family has a demonstrated need, the college then attempts to bridge the gap by using federal and institutional dollars to make the college an affordable option. As a first step, the parent(s) may want to use a financial aid calculator to estimate the amount of expected family contribution (EFC).

SHOULD MY SON/DAUGHTER APPLY TO SCHOOLS THAT ARE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN MISSOURI STATE SCHOOLS? Remember that admission comes first and financial aid comes second. Do NOT discount a school based on the "sticker price" advertised. Wait until you receive your financial aid packages from each school before making a final decision. Unless a student has applied early decision, national commitment date isn't until May 1st.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO SUBMIT? Many schools do require that students submit additional paperwork, especially if your family's financial situation is even a little complicated. Be sure to check in with each school to make sure they have every bit of information they need. However, do not submit additional documentation until it is requested.

**Once a student has been accepted and has decided which school he/she would like to attend, develop a relationship with the financial aid office at that school so they know your personal situation. The government awards money based on your FAFSA (Free Application For Federal Student Aid). Colleges use this information as a base and may or may not be able to adjust your aid package once awarded. Financial Aid packages may contain one or more of the following if awarded: grants, loans, and work-study. Financial Aid packages can vary from school to school.

How and when do I apply?

1. The student and parent should apply for a PIN (personal identification number) in **the Fall**. If you create your own PIN, it can be ready immediately. Otherwise, you will receive your PIN in 3-5 business days. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to apply for the PIN. If you don't have a personal computer, please use a computer in the Guidance Activity Center or one at the local public library.
2. Find out what documents you need, including income tax returns and W-2 forms and other records of income at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/filling-out#documents>. ***If your tax return is not completed at the time you apply, estimate the tax information, apply, and correct the information later!!!!
3. **As close to October 1st as possible**, complete the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/fotw1718/pdf/fafsaws17c.pdf> (this optional worksheet was designed for students who feel more comfortable filling something out on paper before going online to enter their application information.)
4. Fill out the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov
5. After you apply, you'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), containing the information reported on your FAFSA and usually including your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC measures your family's financial strength and is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information ASAP and make any necessary corrections or changes. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA will get your SAR data electronically. Check with each school's financial aid office to ensure your SAR has been received.
6. If you are selected for verification, your school's financial aid office will ask you to submit tax returns and other documents. Be sure to meet the school's deadline, or you will not be able to get federal student aid.
7. Whether you are selected for verification or not, make sure the financial aid office at the school has all the information needed to determine your eligibility.
8. Make sure the financial aid office at each school in which you are interested has all the information necessary to determine your eligibility. If you are eligible, each school will send you an award letter outlining the amount and types of aid (from all sources) the school will offer you. You can compare award letters from each of schools. Decide which school to attend based on a combination of a) how well the school suits your needs and b) its affordability after all aid is taken into account.

How do I receive help completing my FAFSA?

There are many ways to seek assistance in completing your FAFSA, some options are listed below.

- * In the spring, KHS hosts an annual financial aid evening at the high school. This program provides families with an overview of the financial aid application process.
- * Each year Saint Louis University will hold FAFSA completion workshops on their campus during the fall and spring. Call SLU's financial aid office for more information: 314-977-2347
- * Several area colleges sponsor financial aid workshops throughout the fall and spring. Don't forget to stop by the Guidance hallway for details!
- * Annually, the State of Missouri sponsors FAFSA assistant workshops throughout the state. Visit www.collegegoalsundayusa.org for more information.
- * Call the Federal Student Aid hotline: 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

Financial Aid Deadlines

-The FAFSA (and the CSS PROFILE or any school-specific forms) should be submitted as soon after October 1st as possible to make sure you are considered for aid.

-If you are applying **early decision** or **early action**, your CSS PROFILE may be due in the fall! Check and double-check each school's requirements closely.

What are the Award Options & What do they Mean?

(Information gathered from studentaid.ed.gov)

Grants are a form of financial assistance that *does not* need to be repaid.

Federal Pell Grant. It is available almost exclusively to the undergraduates. The maximum award for the 2016-2017 school year is \$5815. The amount you receive depends on your demonstrated need, the cost of attendance at your institution of choice, among other criteria.

(Visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PellGrants.jsp> for more information)

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; priority is given to Federal Pell Grant recipients who apply early; funds depend on availability at school. Awards range from \$100-\$4,000 per year.

(Visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/FSEOG.jsp> for more information)

TEACH Grant Program Available to students pursuing a degree in education in an area designated as “high need.” Students must also commit to teaching in a low-income area. Additionally, students must meet certain academic criteria and enroll in a school that participates in the program. Maximum grant award per year is \$4000. Contact the financial aid office at your college/ university for more information.

(Visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp> for more information)

Federal Work Study is a form of financial assistance that *does not* need to be repaid.

Federal Work Study While schools may handle Federal Work Study (FWS) differently, the FWS program allows students to hold part-time positions and use the money they earn to help pay tuition costs. Students will earn at least minimum wage for their work. Jobs are usually located on campus, but may also be located in the community at a not-for-profit organization related to your area of study or community interest. While there are no annual or maximum award amounts, the amount earned in a FWS position cannot exceed your total FWS award.

(Visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/work-study> for more information)

Award options continued...

Loans are a form of financial aid that must be repaid.

Federal Perkins Loan Loans at 5% interest for both undergraduate and graduate students; payment is owed to the school that made the loan. You can borrow no more than \$5500/ year. After graduating from a full-time program, you have a 9-month grace period before you must begin repayment.

(Visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/loans/perkins> for more information)

Federal Direct Loans

(Visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/studentloans.jsp> for more information, as well as the most up-to-date loan rates) During recent school years, freshman loans were capped at \$5500, \$3500 of which can be subsidized loans. The current interest rate for both subsidized and unsubsidized loans is 3.76%.

Subsidized Loan Student must be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible. Subsidized means the U.S. Department of Education pays interest while borrower is in school. Financial need must be demonstrated. Loan amounts vary based on the grade-level.

Unsubsidized Loan A student must be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible. If you do not qualify for financial need, then you may receive an unsubsidized loan. Unsubsidized means the borrower is responsible for the interest accrued during the life of the loan. Your school determines the amount you can borrow.

PLUS Loan This loan is available to PARENTS of dependent undergraduate students enrolled at least half time. The maximum amount is the cost of attendance minus any other financial aid the student receives. Interest (currently set at 6.41%) begins to accrue at the first aid disbursement, and repayment of the loan must begin within 60 days of the completion of aid disbursement. This loan also carries a 4.276% loan origination fee.

(Visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/parentloans.jsp> for more information)

Need help comparing schools?

College Data (www.collegedata.com): website offers a wide range of statistics on colleges/ universities from around the country

College Reality Check (www.collegerealitycheck.com): Compare net cost, graduation rate, and average debt/ loan payment among your potential colleges/ universities

College Affordability and Transparency Center (<http://collegecost.ed.gov>): Numerous resources provided by the federal government to help you make educated decisions about your post-secondary plans

Glossary of Terms

- **Cost of Attendance (COA)** A student's cost of attendance at a postsecondary institution includes: tuition and fees, room and board, book allowances and supplies, transportation, loan fees for federal student loans if applicable, dependent-care costs, costs related to a disability, and other miscellaneous expenses.
- **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** Calculated using a formula established by Congress; the amount that a student's family is expected to be able to contribute toward the student's cost of attendance. The EFC is used to determine whether a student is eligible for need-based aid. It is printed on the front of a Student Aid Report (SAR), SAR Acknowledgement and Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR). An EFC Estimator is included in the FAFSA on the Web and Renewal FAFSA on the Web as well at www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
- **Financial Need** The difference between a student's cost of attendance (COA) at a school and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). (COA-EFC = student's financial need.)
- **Gapping** When a school provides a student with a financial aid package that does not fully meet (gaps) the family's calculated need.
- **Need-Award** Schools with limited resources look at their budget carefully in accepting a freshman class. This tends to affect the student accepted into the class later during the application cycle, as well as those students who have been waitlisted.
- **Need-Blind** This is a process where the admission decision is separate (blind) from the financial aid process. The admission application is evaluated, a decision made, and those accepted are then sent to the financial aid office for review.
- **Student Aid Report (SAR)** A federal "output" document sent to a student. The SAR contains financial and other information reported by the student on the FAFSA. The student receives a link to online SAR information if he or she provides a valid e-mail address on the FAFSA. The student's EFC is included on the SAR. All information reported on the SAR is also sent to schools listed on the FAFSA.

Scholarships: Top 10 Tips

1. Most scholarships will come from the individual schools to which you apply. Information on these scholarships and financial aid is obtained by searching the website or contacting the Director of Financial Aid at each college or university. Check with the department head or dean of your specific college major for scholarship opportunities within that department or college. SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES ARE OFTEN BEFORE ADMISSIONS DEADLINE. BE AWARE!!!! Schools handle scholarship applications in various ways. While some schools require a separate application, some do not. Other schools require a separate application for specific scholarships, but still consider you for automatic scholarships based simply on your applications for admission. Make sure you read the fine print!

2. Make copies. Keep a binder of all scholarship applications that you WANT to apply for and keep a copy of EVERYTHING you submit.

3. Read the Directions. I know this sounds basic, but if you don't do EXACTLY what is required of you, then your application may be disqualified from consideration.

4. Meet the Deadline. In fact, pretend the deadline is actually 2 weeks prior. Most applications say "postmarked by", however some say, must be "received by". "Received by" applications should be mailed two weeks in advance. This will allow you time to correct any unforeseen problems should they arise.

5. Keep it Neat. Make a copy of the application and complete it in pencil. Correct all errors AND then complete a final copy in black ink unless another color is allowed. Do not use blue or red ink. What you submit should look professional and neat.

6. Essays. Make sure you answer the question asked. Be thoughtful in your response and make sure you edit it for any spelling and grammatical errors, not only using your computer's spell-check. Read your essay out loud. Have English Lab teachers or your college counselor read it and advise you.

7. Letters of Recommendation. Often applications require letters of recommendation. The application may or may not specify from whom you should seek these letters. If it is not specified, ask a person who knows you VERY WELL.

8. Thank you. Thank the people who are writing you letters with a thank you card. A verbal "thank you" does not suffice. It doesn't have to be formal or fancy; just buy some inexpensive thank you cards or write a note on loose-leaf paper if money is an issue. DO NOT shortcut this process with an e-mail. They are taking the time for you, show your appreciation by taking a small amount of time for them.

9. Resume. You should have your resume completed at the beginning of senior year. This is a living document. Therefore, keep it updated with any accomplishments you achieve throughout the year. See the example in this packet for tips on completing a resume.

10. Scholarship Listings. Stop by the Guidance Activity Center at least once a week. You can find these updated lists of current scholarships on the scrolling announcements or on the KHS Website under Guidance & Counseling. New scholarships trickle in fairly frequently, so check in regularly!! If a website is listed for a scholarship, please visit the website for application instructions. If there is not a website listed, please take an application for the Scholarship Drawer in the GAC.

Outside Scholarship Opportunities

Although we publicize many scholarships, the range of scholarships available seems endless. Therefore, we encourage you to spend time researching outside scholarships as well. Below are some links that might be helpful. Some of these websites allow you to create an account while others are simply search engines. As always, it is important to monitor the information you provide to any outside organization. If it doesn't seem legitimate, it may be better to pass on that scholarship application.

St Louis Graduates: <http://www.stlouisgraduates.org/students-families/scholarships>

College Board: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

Cappex: <http://www.cappex.com>

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

Affordable Colleges: <http://www.affordablecolleges.com/>

Remember your unique qualities!!

Various companies and organizations offer very specific scholarships. There might be an organization looking for a student who meets your exact profile! Below are just a few of the categories to consider.

Major

Do you know what you want to study? Your colleges/ universities might sponsor specific scholarships based upon your major. Did you also know that many professional associations offer scholarships for students pursuing related degrees as well? State organizations like Missouri Bankers Foundation and national organizations such as National Federation of Independent Business are a couple of examples.

Resilience

Some of you have overcome great adversity in your life. Scholarships exist for cancer survivors, students who have lost parents, and young people who have faced a variety of challenging obstacles. Some pharmaceutical companies even sponsor scholarships!

Demographics

Many scholarships are restricted to students who meet certain demographics. This might mean scholarships targeting male students, Asian students, Catholic students... However you identify, there may be a scholarship for you!

Parent Company

Companies often sponsor scholarships for children of employees. Have your parent check with his/her human resources department to inquire about any opportunities. Some of these scholarships may have additional qualifications/ competition requirements.

Special Talents

Are you an artist? Athlete? Musician? Dancer? Be sure to look for scholarships targeting students who excel beyond the classroom as well.