

# COLLEGE & CAREER CONNECTION

SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL'S COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

## ASK FOR HELP!

Happy December, Simley! We have made it to the final month of 2020. Saying it has been a trying, confusing, different year would be an understatement. It's been a tough year.

Despite the plethora of challenges that we have all been faced with, it wouldn't be fair to say it has been entirely negative. Students have shown tremendous resilience and tenacity in the face of all of this adversity. I have been so impressed with the progress and determination that all students, but specifically, seniors, have shown through these last months. It makes me proud to be a Spartan hearing about so many post-secondary plans coming together, acceptances being received, and hard work being put into the process.

To students, please know, there are so many people that care about you and that are here to listen, support, and help you in any way possible. Please, lean on your teachers, coaches, counselors, parents, and friends. Personally, I am here to help with anything I am able to regarding anything related to post-secondary planning. I want nothing more than for each of you to have a plan you are confident in and excited about. The process of sorting everything out can be overwhelming, so use your resources, ask questions, and don't hesitate to reach out!

Ms. Kimble



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENIOR CHECK-INS

Last week, Ms. Kimble sent all seniors an email. The email included some information on where post-secondary planning resources could be found and a brief survey. The purpose of the survey is to check-in with each student and where they are at in the post-secondary planning process. It also allowed time to connect, ask questions, set-up Zoom meetings, and hear about acceptances and plans!

If you are a senior and haven't yet completed the survey or can't find it, please do so ASAP so that I can better help you and understand where the senior class is at with planning. The survey can be found here: <https://forms.gle/SRYjuknStw1N7fsi9>.

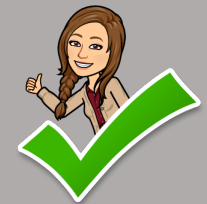
The overwhelming majority of surveys that have come back so far have shown students are looking for financial aid information, specifically scholarship opportunities. See pages 3-6 for this information. Additionally, there were still a few transcript questions. [Here is more transcript information.](#)

### PSAT EXAM SCORES

If you took the PSAT exam in October, your scores will be available at your College Board account by December 8<sup>th</sup>. You can also find your scores at: <https://studentscores.collegeboard.org/home>.

To understand your score report, see this pdf: [Understanding Your PSAT Scores](#) or check out this video: [Understanding PSAT Scores Video](#). If you have questions please reach your counselor or Ms. Kimble.

## DATES & DEADLINES TO NOTE:



**Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>:**  
First day of second trimester

**Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>:**  
PSAT Scores released

**Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>:**  
Simley's winter break begins

### January:

Need help with your post-secondary plan? See your counselor or Ms. Kimble!

### January/February:

Junior post-secondary planning meetings with Ms. Kimble

**Ongoing-February 18<sup>th</sup>:**  
Virtual Christian College Fairs  
(see next page for info.)

### Late February:

Watch for BEST Foundation Scholarship information

**Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>:**  
ACT offered to all Simley juniors

## POST-SECONDARY & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY FASHION COMPETITION

The St. Catherine University Department of Apparel, Merchandising, and Design invites you to participate in the first annual fashion competition! The St. Catherine University Fashion Competition is for young, aspiring fashion designers in their junior or senior year of high school. The competition places an emphasis on social responsibility as we challenge high school students to design a fashion piece (a face mask or t-shirt) that engages a social justice message, uses sustainable materials, or incorporates the engineering of a piece that's comfortable to wear. Engage your creativity, see the designs of other high school students, and get to know St. Kate's and the faculty of our fashion department. There will be cash prizes, and registration is free!

COST: FREE

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 8, 2021

To register, complete [this google form](#)

For more information, go to: <https://www.stkate.edu/newswire/news/virtual-fashion-competition>

WINNERS SELECTED: February 16, 2021

Join us from 5:30–7 p.m. for a virtual announcement of the winners!

Use Google Meet to join: <https://meet.google.com/jxh-ktbp-cvw>

*COMPETITION GUIDELINES: High school juniors and seniors are eligible to participate in St. Kate's Fashion Competition. Students may design either a mask or a t-shirt. To enter, submit photos of your design along with a 200-word or less description, including details of the design aesthetic, materials, and design category. Designs will be submitted via Dropbox, and a link will be sent out after each participant registers.*



**Virtual Fashion Competition**

Showcase your unique fashion design skills.

The St. Catherine University Department of Apparel, Merchandising, and Design invites Minnesota high school juniors and seniors to design a t-shirt or face mask for an opportunity to win cash prizes!

Submit your design in one of four categories: social justice, sustainability, wearability, or most innovative. Winners will be announced in a virtual session:  
**February 16, 2021, 5:30–7p.m.**

GOOGLE MEET  
[Meet.google.com/jxh-ktbp-cvw](https://meet.google.com/jxh-ktbp-cvw)

To participate in the contest, register for free at [stkate.edu/fashion-competition](https://www.stkate.edu/fashion-competition)

ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY  
stkate.edu



## VIRTUAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FAIRS



**45 Free Live Events**

NOVEMBER 9-FEBRUARY 18

**\$10,000** in scholarships!  
The more fairs you attend, the better your chances.

- Free
- Easy
- Informative

Register to attend NOW and get email reminders.

Details and Register at [VirtualChristianCollegeFairs.com](https://www.VirtualChristianCollegeFairs.com)

Here's a chance for students to win up to \$10,000 in scholarship money all while exploring their options in Christian Higher Education.

Students can connect with Christian colleges & universities that offer a wide variety of locations, majors, athletics and special programs.

These are free, informative and designed with students in mind. This [slate of events](#) will run from November 9–February 18. In addition to the college booths, there will be a series of 13 webinars addressing overarching topics such as paying for college, helping student-athletes get recruited, and essay writing advice from The College Essay Guy.

Once registered, students will have access to booths, school sessions, and live topic sessions. Plus, registrants will receive reminder emails for upcoming events, and also have access to recordings later, should they not be able to make it to the live session. Check out all the details at:

[www.virtualchristiancollegefairs.com](https://www.virtualchristiancollegefairs.com)

## FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE

There are four types of financial aid available for post-secondary education, which fall into two categories. There is gift aid ([scholarships and need-based grants](#)) and there is self-help aid ([loans & financing and student employment](#)). For the most part, need-based grants, loans & financing, and student employment are all determined and awarded based on the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). This free application awards any all federal and state funding within those three categories to students for higher education. *The last type of aid, [scholarships](#), are discussed in the next section.*



### HOW DO I COMPLETE THE FAFSA?

**Step one** of completing the FAFSA is to create an *FSA ID*, which is a unique ID that confirms your identity when you access and electronically sign financial aid documents. Both the student and one parent need an FSA ID. To create an FSA ID, go to: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>. Use this [FSA ID worksheet](#) to assist you in creating your FSA ID.

**Step two** of completing the FAFSA is by going to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>, logging in with your FSA ID and completing the application. The application typically takes around 45 minutes to complete and using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool is highly recommended.

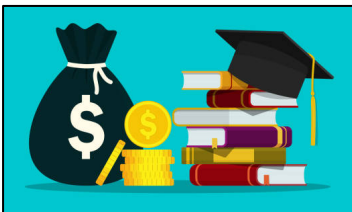
The FAFSA can be started, saved, and completed at a later time as well. **If you have questions or need assistance, you are encouraged to contact the financial aid office of any of the schools in which the student is applying.** Up to 10 schools can be listed on the FAFSA, so a student does not need to have confirmed admission to complete the application.

### FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

- Watch super helpful videos about paying for college, completing the FAFSA, financial aid, creating a FSA ID, and more at this [Paying for College YouTube channel](#).
- Check out this site: [Student Aid](#) for all of the most up-to-date resources and information on financial aid.
- This [Financial Aid Basics](#) guide by the MN Office of Higher Education covers Financial Aid Basics, and is a great place to start learning about paying for college.

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE FAFSA IS SUBMITTED?

After you submit the FAFSA you will receive a [Student Aid Report \(SAR\)](#) to the email you provided on the application. The SAR is just a summary of the information you provided and a chance to make sure no changes need to be made to your application.



The SAR is then shared with any college or university the student listed on their FAFSA.

The student will then receive [financial aid award letters](#) from each school they applied to and listed on their FAFSA. This award letter will list the amount of grants, loans, work study, and institutional aid you could receive at their school based on their cost of attendance and your *expected family contribution* calculated from your FAFSA. It is smart to wait for all of your award letters to compare costs and see what the net cost for each school is before making a

### MINNESOTA DREAM ACT

In Minnesota, if a student is undocumented, they are eligible to complete the [MN Dream Act application](#) which will provide them with in-state tuition costs, state grants, and other benefits. Please note, if you are a student with an undocumented parent but you are a citizen, you are eligible to still complete the FAFSA. For more information, go to: [The MN Office of Higher Ed. Dream Act Site, take a look at this information sheet \(Spanish\)](#), and [check out this helpful video](#).

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## WHERE TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are the fourth and final type of financial aid and the only one that doesn't run through the FAFSA. Scholarships are a great way to help pay for college. There is an abundance of money available, but there is also a lot of hard work that goes into applying for scholarships. So, where should you look to find them?

**1. The more local a scholarship, the more likely the chance (typically) of receiving an award. So, think local first!**

- ✓ IGH B.E.S.T. Foundation (application information will be released at the end of February- don't miss this one!!)
- ✓ Church or other religious affiliations
- ✓ Workplace (yours, parents)
- ✓ Community businesses (restaurants, banks)
- ✓ Anything else you are involved in- it never hurts to ask if they offer a scholarship!

**2. It's also extremely smart to check the financial aid websites of each of the colleges you are applying.**

- ✓ Most schools will consider students for merit or academic based scholarships as a part of the admission process.
- ✓ Many schools will have additional scholarships available through a separate application process. Typically, admitted students will be invited to apply for these additional scholarships.
- ✓ It's best to understand the process of each school and be aware of the different deadlines, so be sure to look for these additional opportunities!

**3. The last category is national scholarships.** This is where you use a scholarship search engine to get matched with scholarship opportunities. These are a good way to go because they offer legitimate scholarships and an easy way to stay organized. There are a wide range of sites to use; the ones listed below are some of my favorite, go-to sites.

**Note: most of the sites listed below also offer apps.** This makes it even easier to search, organize, and apply for scholarships. Best tip- if you are planning to use any of these search engines- **create a separate email address just for scholarships.** This will keep you organized with everything going to one spot and you won't get flooded with unwanted marketing in your regular email.

- ✓ **RAISE.ME**      [raise.me/join](https://raise.me/join) Raise.me is a free micro-scholarship platform where you can earn money for doing well in your classes, visiting colleges, and participating in extracurricular activities. You can begin to earn money as early as 9<sup>TH</sup> grade! Check out the website for specific schools that will accept raise.me scholarships.
- ✓ **GOING MERRY**      [www.goingmerry.com](https://www.goingmerry.com) One-stop-shop for applying for scholarships. This one is unique in that you apply for scholarships all within the site. Once you complete your profile it will fill in your basic information within applications for you, rather than taking you to outside sites to set up additional accounts and fill everything out again. This one also bundles like scholarships together for you to make applying easier!
- ✓ **FASTWEB**      [www.fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com) This is one of the larger scholarship search engines. User friendly, fair number of ads.
- ✓ **BIG FUTURE**      <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search> This is run by College Board- use the same login if you already have an account. User friendly and easy to use. Great college planning resource as well!
- ✓ **UNIGO**      <https://www.unigo.com/> Easy to navigate; another one of my personal favorites!
- ✓ **SCHOLLY**      <https://myscholly.com/> Another good one! Scholly uses a score to quickly indicate how strong of a match a scholarship is to you, based on your profile information.



**4. Every month, I put together this newsletter. It typically includes scholarships from multiple categories above.** I try to keep them more local or regional as possible but anything that has been sent my way or brought to my attention is included. *It will always be posted on the Schoology Grade 12 course, posted on the Simley College & Career website, and emailed out to those who subscribe to receive the Simley announcements. When we are in-person, hard copies are available in the Student Center.*

**BEST SCHOLARSHIP TIPS AND STRATEGIES**

- Create a separate email address specifically for scholarships so that your primary email isn't flooded.
- Read the directions. Follow the directions.
- It's a numbers game- be strategic with where you are spending your time. Apply more to win more.
- You CANNOT win if you don't apply.
- It gets easier after the first 6 applications.
- Be open, honest, and yourself! Make it personal.
- Don't throw out small scholarships- they add up!
- Tailor your application to meet the sponsor's goals
- Create a resume/activity list so that you don't have to recreate it each time.
- Reuse your essays! If it is the same topic or similar question, be efficient and reuse essays.
- Be diligent and set aside time to specifically work on scholarships.
- The more local you can stay, the better.
- If a scholarship looks like a lot of work, consider applying, as typically these have less competition.
- NEVER pay to be considered for a scholarship.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AS OF DECEMBER 7, 2020**

Sponsor/Amount	Deadline/how to apply	Eligibility/requirements
Science Ambassadors Scholarship Sponsored by: Cards Against Humanity  Full tuition scholarship (1 scholarship)	December 14, 2020  <a href="https://www.scienceambassadorscholarship.org/">https://www.scienceambassadorscholarship.org/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a full-ride scholarship for a woman studying science, technology, engineering, or math.</li> <li>• Film a 3-minute video of yourself explaining a STEM topic you're passionate about.</li> <li>• See video for examples, past winner submissions, and video requirements.</li> </ul>
Equitable Excellence Scholarship Sponsored by: Equitable Foundation  \$2,500 (300 recipients) \$10,000 (52 recipients and of those 52, 10 will be selected to receive an additional \$15,000)	December 15, 2020 <i>(only the first 10,000 applications will be accepted- apply early!)</i>  <a href="https://equitable.com/foundation">https://equitable.com/foundation</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate courage, strength, and wisdom as shown by community impact through volunteer service</li> <li>• Be a high school senior planning to attend an accredited 2-year or 4-year college or university in the United States.</li> <li>• Be a U.S. citizen or legal resident</li> <li>• Winners come from a wide range of backgrounds and experience, but are united by their drive, determination, and strong character.</li> </ul>
Youth Financial Literacy Foundation Scholarship Program (YFL) Sponsored by YFL  1st place - \$30,000 2nd place - \$27,000 3rd place - \$25,000 4th place - \$22,500 5th place - \$20,000 6th - 15th place - \$15,000 each 16th - 25th place - \$10,000 each 26th -35th place - \$7,500 each 36th - 65th place- \$5,000 each	December 19, 2020  <a href="https://uces.memberaccount.net/YFL/EnrollOnline.aspx">https://uces.memberaccount.net/YFL/EnrollOnline.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The YFL Scholarship Program is available to current high school seniors and first year college freshmen.</li> <li>• Fill out required scholarship application form to be presented with a PDF download that contains 30 multiple choice questions and 3 essays regarding financial literacy (choose 1 of 3 essays and write a maximum of 500 words on that topic).</li> <li>• Applicants with the highest exam scores and strongest essays will receive a scholarship.</li> </ul>

<p>2020 First Amendment Freedoms Art &amp; Essay Contest Sponsored by the Anti- Defamation League (ADL)</p> <p>\$5,000 (first prize for each grade/category) \$1,000 (second prize for each grade/category)</p>	<p>December 31, 2020</p> <p><a href="https://chicago.adl.org/files/2020/09/2020-Contest-Entry-Form-v1-Web-12.31-v2.pdf">https://chicago.adl.org/files/2020/09/2020-Contest-Entry-Form-v1-Web-12.31-v2.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://chicago.adl.org/fivefreedoms-entryform/">https://chicago.adl.org/fivefreedoms-entryform/</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only students who reside in MN, WI, ND, SD, IL, and IN are eligible to apply. Open to students in grades 6-12.</li> <li>• Applicants are asked to submit either a two-page essay or create a work of art that best addresses the following prompt: Using a personal example or experience, describe or portray how one of the five freedoms in the First Amendment affects your daily life.</li> <li>• See linked PDF or webpage for complete details and how to submit your application.</li> </ul>
<p>School Band and Orchestra Magazine Essay Contest Sponsored by: SBO Magazine</p> <p>\$1,000 (5 scholarships for grades 9-12)</p>	<p>December 31, 2020</p> <p><a href="https://sbomagazine.com/essay-contest.html">https://sbomagazine.com/essay-contest.html</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winners will be selected based off their 250-word essay answering the following question: <i>How has playing an instrument changed for you during the pandemic?</i></li> </ul>
<p>Top Ten List Scholarship Sponsored by: UNIGO</p> <p>\$1,500 (1 scholarship)</p>	<p>December 31, 2020</p> <p><a href="https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/top-ten-list-scholarship">https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/top-ten-list-scholarship</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants must be: 14 years of age or older and a legal U.S. resident</li> <li>• Submit an online written response (250 words or less) to the question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Create a Top Ten List of the top ten reasons you should get this scholarship.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>College Covered Scholarships Sponsored by: Discover Student Loans</p> <p>\$5,000 (1 scholarship per month, 12 times per year)</p>	<p>December 31, January 31 (Students can enter one time per month per promotional period)</p> <p><a href="https://scholarship.collegecovered.com">https://scholarship.collegecovered.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign up for emails to get helpful college tips and resources, and enter for the chance to win a scholarship. Throughout the year, 12 eligible students or parents will be randomly selected to win a \$5,000 Discover Student Loans Scholarship Award to help cover college expenses.</li> <li>• You can enter once per month per promotional period.</li> </ul>
<p>Better Business Bureau Student of Integrity Scholarship Sponsored by: BBB Torch Awards for Ethics</p> <p><i>***These scholarships are only open to MN and ND high school seniors. Awards vary. Last year there were 4 recipients of \$2,500 each and there were roughly 250 total applicants.</i></p>	<p>January 7, 2021</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbb.org/minnesota/torch-awards-for-ethics/student-of-integrity-scholarship/">https://www.bbb.org/minnesota/torch-awards-for-ethics/student-of-integrity-scholarship/</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBB is proud to award scholarships to high school seniors who personify aspects of high moral character in their personal lives.</li> <li>• Applicants will complete the online application, submit one letter of recommendation, and a 1,000-word original essay about a time you were challenged and overcame a difficult situation by applying personal ethics, along with other general information.</li> <li>• See website for full details and application.</li> </ul>

<p>Foot Locker Scholar Athletes Sponsored by: Foot Locker</p> <p>\$20,000 (20 scholarships)</p>	<p>January 8, 2021</p> <p><a href="https://www.footlockerscholarathletes.com/">https://www.footlockerscholarathletes.com/</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarships are awarded based on student athletes' excellence in their schools, on their sports teams, and in their communities.</li> <li>• To be eligible to apply, a student must: be entering college in the fall of 2021 as a freshman at an accredited 4-year institution for an undergraduate degree, be currently involved in high school sports, intramural sports, or community-based sports, have a minimum GPA of 3.0, be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and must not be an employee of Foot Locker.</li> <li>• See website for full details, judging criteria, and application.</li> </ul>
<p>Technology Addiction Awareness Scholarship Sponsored by: Digital Responsibility</p> <p>\$1,000 (1 scholarship)</p>	<p>January 30, 2021</p> <p><a href="http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/technology-addiction-awareness-scholarship/">http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/technology-addiction-awareness-scholarship/</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an application form including a 140- character message about technology addiction (prompt: <i>Instead of spending time with technology, I'd rather...</i>)</li> <li>• Must be a current high school student (9-12) or college student and must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.</li> <li>• Top 10 applications will be selected as finalists. Finalists will be asked to write a full 500-1,000-word essay about technology addiction.</li> </ul>



**Megan Kimble**

College & Career Counselor

Email me at [kimblem@isd199.org](mailto:kimblem@isd199.org) or message me on Schoology

Check out the Simley College & Career website at:

[https://www.isd199.org/schools/simley/college\\_career](https://www.isd199.org/schools/simley/college_career)