

# SENIOR LETTER

## JANUARY 2017

### 1. SUBMIT YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS NOW!!

\*\*\*The most convenient way to apply is online. After you have submitted your application, your transcript will need to be sent in. Some colleges accept emailed or faxed transcripts while others require it to be mailed in. Please see Mrs. Bazen for the correct way to send in your transcript. Note: Many applications and scholarships require recommendations from teachers, principal, or counselor. Allow one week for these recommendations.

### 2. FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION:

-The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) should be completed by all students intending to go to college. This form is available to submit beginning October 1 and received by March 1. This is FREE and available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You can also download a "FAFSA ON THE WEB WORKSHEET" which will help you in filling out the form online. **PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FOR SUBMITTING THE FAFSA.** In years past the FAFSA could be submitted beginning in January and you needed your taxes for the previous year done. Now, the process begins in October and you will submit "prior-prior" years' taxes. When submitting the FAFSA for the 2017-2018 school year, you will be entering your 2015 tax information. The sooner you submit this form, the earlier you will find out how much financial aid you will receive. Money does run out so apply as soon as possible!!!!

-The State of Michigan has valuable resources and information available at their website. Tips on planning for college, loans, scholarships, grants, and eligibility for all types of financial aid can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid](http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid).

### 3. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME:

**American Legion Scholarships** - There are various scholarships available to seniors. Visit the website [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org) to obtain scholarship information. Deadlines vary depending on the scholarship.

**America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders** – This new scholarship opportunity, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, will be awarding over \$500,000 in scholarships. Students must meet certain criteria. Apply online at [ffa.org/scholarships](http://ffa.org/scholarships). Deadline is February 1.

**2016/17 Blood Drive Scholarship** – To be eligible for this scholarship a student must 1) be a senior, 2) have donated, or attempted to donate blood at least once during his/her high school career, 3) write a 200-300 word essay persuading fellow high school students to donate blood. See the counseling office for a form that must be attached to your typed essay. Deadline: April 21.

**Calvin College** offers sixteen Howard Hughes Medical Institute scholarships (\$2,500 per year for student in sciences or mathematics – February 1 deadline). Applicants must be admitted to and attend Calvin College. Students who plan to major in biology, chemistry, physics, or mathematics and plan to pursue a career in research or post-secondary education are eligible for this scholarship. Applications are available from their website at [www.calvin.edu/offices-services/financial-aid/types/scholarships/howard-hughes-medical-institute-scholarship](http://www.calvin.edu/offices-services/financial-aid/types/scholarships/howard-hughes-medical-institute-scholarship).

**Calvin College Alumni Association Scholarship** - Candidates who have demonstrated evidence of commitment in areas of leadership, volunteerism, and service to the community will be considered for this scholarship. Most alumni scholarships are \$1,000 awards. Deadline: February 1. Apply at [www.calvin.edu/go/alumni-scholarships/](http://www.calvin.edu/go/alumni-scholarships/).

**CollegeSTEPS Program** - This program created by Wells Fargo gives seniors the opportunity to win \$5,000 toward college tuition. Go to [www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps](http://www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps). Enroll between now and June 30, 2017. There are random drawings during this time period and no essays or applications are required.

**GRCC Honors Program** – The GRCC Honors Program is accepting applications beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a competitive application process accepting 24 students who will start the program together beginning Fall 2017. As a member of the program, students will develop leadership, service, research and creative scholarship skills all while earning an associate degree. The application can be found at:

<https://orgsyn.com/80770/forms/223528>.

**Grand Rapids Community College Scholarships** – Applicants are considered for over 300 different opportunities by completing the general application. Access to the scholarship application is at [www.grcc.academicworks.com](http://www.grcc.academicworks.com) and log in using your GRCC Blackboard login credentials. Deadline is March 15.

**Grand Rapids Community Foundation Scholarship** - a variety of 60 scholarships are offered via one application. Awards are based on academics, financial need, a statement of aspirations and goals, and outside activities. Applications must be postmarked by April 1. Awards average between \$1000 to \$2,500. Scholarship information is available at [www.grfoundation.org](http://www.grfoundation.org).

**Junior Achievement Scholarships** – These scholarships are available to seniors who have taken part in a high school Junior Achievement program during any year in their high school tenure. Visit their website at [www.westmichigan.ja.org](http://www.westmichigan.ja.org) for more information. Deadline: March 24.

**Lake Michigan Credit Union Lloyd F. Hutt Scholarship** - To be eligible for one of ten \$2,000 scholarships, students must be members or dependent children of Lake Michigan Credit Union members. A short application and a 750 to 1500 word essay are required. Applications are available in the counseling office or at [www.lmcu.org/hutt](http://www.lmcu.org/hutt). Deadline: January 31.

**Mary Jane Dockeray Science Scholarship** – At least two \$1,500 scholarships sponsored by the Regional Math & Science Center at Grand Valley State University are available to students pursuing a career in science. Deadline: March 3. Applications are available online at [www.gvsu.edu/rmsc](http://www.gvsu.edu/rmsc).

**Michigan Society of Professional Engineers** - The Michigan Society of Professional Engineers offers numerous scholarships to high school seniors interested in pursuing an engineering degree at an Accreditation Board of Engineering Technology accredited Michigan college or university. A 3.0 minimum GPA for 10th and 11th grade and a SAT score are required. Deadline: February 3. Applications are available on the MSPE website [www.michiganspe.org](http://www.michiganspe.org).

**Prospective Teachers:** For students who are baptized or professing members of First Netherlands Reformed Congregation (Beckwith) specific funds are allocated to assist students who are going into the field of education. See Mrs. Bazen for details.

**Roger B. Chaffee Scholarship Fund** - recipient is awarded \$3,000 toward his or her higher education. This scholarship is a continuing memorial to the Kent County astronaut who lost his life in the tragic Apollo I - NASA shuttle fire January 27, 1967. This award has been given for the past 49 years to an outstanding student who wishes to pursue an education in the sciences or engineering related to space technology with a minimum GPA of 3.5. All applications should be sent no later than February 28. Application forms are available at [www.rogerbchaffeescholarship.org](http://www.rogerbchaffeescholarship.org).

**Ronald McDonald House Charities** - This program offers scholarships to students who do not have the finances necessary to attend college. Applications are available at [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org). Deadline: January 18.

**University Club of Grand Rapids Scholarships** - Three scholarships will be awarded to students who express a strong desire to remain in West Michigan upon completion of their studies. Applicants may attend any school: in-state, out-of-state, two year or four year education. Each \$1,000.00 scholarship is renewable for three more years. Application deadline is February 1. Forms are available in the counseling office or go to [UniversityClubGR.com](http://UniversityClubGR.com).

**University of Michigan Club of Grand Rapids Scholarships** - Sixty scholarships will be awarded to students who will be enrolling at the University of Michigan. Each \$3,750.00 scholarship is renewable for four years. Scholarships are awarded for high academic achievement, outstanding citizenship as reflected by participation in extracurricular activities, and financial need. Deadline: February 10. Go to <http://grandrapids.umclubs.com> to apply.

4. VISIT COLLEGES - Examine the place you are going! If you decide to visit a college, you must fill out an excused absence form (available in the office) two days prior to your visit.
5. **GRCC Job Training Programs** – GRCC offers eight Job Training programs. These are non-credit programs that run 18-22 weeks and students attend classes for 34 hours per week. Once a student has completed their program, they are ready to work! For a list of programs visit: [www.grcc.edu/jobtraining](http://www.grcc.edu/jobtraining).

**Questions?????? Send me an email at [sbazen@plymouthchristian.us](mailto:sbazen@plymouthchristian.us).**