Waverly High School

Commitment to Excellence

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Counselor
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January 27, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Listed below you will find valuable information regarding your seniors' end of the activities. Please read all of the information included carefully. There is also a presentation that will be shared with students in person and through email.

1) SENIOR MEETING

Your senior student's last days of high school are quickly approaching. We will meet with seniors throughout the day on Friday, February 3rd. We will address future plans; explain and demonstrate the Foundation for Education local scholarship application process; students will be emailed their most current transcript again for use when completing scholarships; complete a graduation survey; and discuss graduation, diplomas, and other end-of-the-year housekeeping details.

2) FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Please see the FFE attachment included.

3) PARENT REPORT FORM

In order to provide the most accurate information for the Senior Honors Convocation (where scholarships will be announced) and graduation, we request that you complete the **Parent Report**. The report asks you to:

- 1) Identify your student's future plans.
- 2) Specify his or her next place of study or employment.
- 3) List any scholarships that he or she has been selected to receive (please include the college name along with confirmation from the college who is awarding the scholarship), for recognition at the Academic Honors Event.
- 4) Sign your name.

The Senior Honors Convocation will include all verified scholarship names (those that have provided confirmation from the college or the scholarship provider), but will exclude scholarship amounts. If verification is not provided a reported scholarship will not be listed or announced. Local scholarships through the Foundation for Education do not need to be reported. However, you should report any local scholarship not on the Foundation for Education's local scholarship list.

NOTE: Please list scholarships only. Grants will not be included in the program.

The **Parent Report Form** is included as a PDF for you to download.

Please return the form by:

- Emailing to Brandi Deatrich at brandi.deatrich@ditrict145.org
- Having your student return to Brandi in the Counseling Office
- Mail to: Brandi Deatrich

Waverly High School PO Box 426 Waverly NE 68462

Please return the Parent Report by Thursday, April 13, 2023. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

NOTE: As additional scholarships are awarded on or beyond Thursday, April 13, 2023, we request that you inform Brandi in the Counseling Office, providing the scholarship's full name and amount along with confirmation from the college or provider awarding the scholarship. Announcements made after Friday, April 21, 2023 will not be listed for the Honors but may be listed on the website and will be listed on the final scholarship bulletin.

We encourage all students planning to attend any two-year or four-year college or training program to apply for scholarships that match individual needs, areas of study, and strengths.

Soon your senior will receive his or her high school diploma. Please let us know if we can be of assistance along the way.

Sincerely,

Jason Boitnott TJ Wynn

Kelly Verkamp



Date: January 27, 2023

To: Parents of Waverly High School Seniors

From: Sara D. A. Martin, Executive Director, School District 145 Foundation for Education Amy Schmidt, FFE Scholarship Committee Chair

Re: School District 145 Foundation for Education Scholarship Information

Greetings from the School District 145 Foundation for Education (SD145 FFE)!

We know your seniors are likely busy preparing for graduation, which includes exploring funding opportunities for their continued education. The SD145 FFE Scholarship Committee is responsible for administering the collection, review, and ranking of applications submitted by graduating seniors for dozens of local scholarships totaling over \$30,000. This letter describes the processes, policies, and timeline for the 2022-23 academic year FFE Scholarship Program.

We want to make sure all senior students are prepared to apply for these scholarships and understand what is required for the awards to be processed. Please read through this letter carefully and reach out to us if you have questions. We have strict guidelines to follow for awarding scholarships and want to help your student(s) be prepared to accept any scholarship funds they are awarded.

Key Dates

Senior Scholarship Meetings at WHS
Online Scholarship Application Portal Opens, 8:00 a.m. CT
Online Scholarship Application Portal Closes, 11:59 p.m. CT
Formal Invitation of Scholarship Recipients to Honors Convocation
Honors Convocation (Scholarships Awarded)
Awardee Documentation Due

Friday, February 3, 2023 Friday, February 10, 2023 Friday, February 24, 2023 Friday, April 14, 2023 Wednesday, April 26, 2023 Wednesday, May 17, 2023

If we need to delay the opening of the application portal (e.g., due to technical issues), we will communicate this to students and adjust the closing date accordingly!

For some of the scholarships we manage, the donor(s) supporting them wish to review applications and select the recipient(s) of their award. We cannot announce any scholarship recipients until we have confirmed all recipients, and sometimes we must wait on a donor decision before notifying recipients.

Application Process

The SD145 FFE has partnered with Kaleidoscope, an online platform for scholarship applications and reviews. Your student(s) will receive information at the Senior Scholarship Meetings on February 3rd about available awards and eligibility criteria for each, required information they will need to enter in the application, standard essay questions that will need to be answered, and the timeline for the application and review process. Make sure you ask them about this when they come home that day!

Scholarship Acceptance Process

Attendance at Honors Convocation on Wednesday, April 26, at 6:00 p.m is required for students to receive their scholarship(s). Please make sure your student(s) block this event on their schedule so that they do not have work or other conflicts that prevent them from attending Honors Convocation. Many of our generous donors attend this ceremony to honor recipients of their scholarships and our expectation is that recipients will be present to accept their scholarship award(s) and meet the donors that make these awards possible.

All students selected to be awarded scholarships will be notified by our target date of Friday, April 14, with an invitation to attend Honors Convocation. At Honors Convocation, FFE Scholarship recipients will be asked to check in at a designated table following the ceremony to pick up their award packet(s). Award recipients (and their guests) will then be directed to a reception with donors where they will be photographed with the donor(s) of their award(s), if present. Students who do not check in and have their picture taken will not be awarded their scholarships. Again, the FFE greatly appreciates our generous donors, and we are dedicated to honoring their generosity by allowing them to meet the recipients of their scholarships.

In the packets students receive following Honors Convocation will be their certificates for each scholarship they have been awarded, a blank thank-you card for each scholarship they have been awarded, and instructions for submitting these required items to accept their scholarship(s):

- Hard copy of acceptance letter to their intended institution or program of professional study
- $\bullet~$ ID # for post-secondary institution they will be attending or SSN
- Hand-written thank-you note to the donor(s) of each scholarship they are awarded
- High-quality personal photograph (e.g. senior photo; not a selfie!) e-mailed to <a href="maileograph-of-senior-notation-notatio

These items must be submitted by May 17, 2023, or their awards will be forfeited and awarded to the next eligible student! We highly recommend that students save their acceptance letters or e-mails to the college or professional program that they plan to attend so that this documentation is readily available if they are awarded scholarships. If your student is notified that they have been selected to receive a local scholarship and this documentation has not yet been received, they should reach out to their institution or professional program to request this documentation as soon as possible. We cannot award scholarships without this proof of acceptance. The FFE office manager, Mary Havlovic, and members of the FFE Scholarship Committee will be available at graduation practice on May 17, 2023 for students to turn in these required items.

Scholarship awards will be paid directly to institutions by the end of June. Please have your student(s) check with their institution in August to confirm that the funds have landed in their account.

NOTE: Any student switching institutions after turning in their paperwork must **immediately** contact the FFE Office Manager, Mary Havlovic, at <u>officemanager@dist145ffe.org</u> to ensure that funds get redirected to the correct institution. If a student delays entry into a post secondary program beyond the 2023-24 academic year, the scholarship will be withdrawn.

Please be aware that the FFE administers thousands of dollars in scholarships each year to our WHS seniors and we need your help making sure that your student(s) fulfill all requirements by the designated deadlines to receive their awards. While we never want to withdraw a scholarship from a student, it is not reasonable for our office staff to track down students who fail to submit the required materials. We work with multiple institutions, each with requirements and deadlines for receiving scholarship payments, and must focus our efforts on processing award materials efficiently.

Thank you for supporting your senior(s) as they prepare to graduate and pursue their professional goals! While the process of applying for and accepting scholarships should be their responsibility, we value your role in helping them prepare and submit required materials on time. Please reach out to the SD145 Foundation for Education office with any questions by calling (402) 786-2321, ext. 8.