

Senior Update

Columbus High School

February 20, 2026

No school March 2 & 25-for seniors

**Senior Awards Night has been scheduled for Wednesday,
May 6, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

All local (and only local) scholarships will be presented.

**Neatness does count when completing scholarship
applications.**

**Type your application if possible. If you must hand write
it, use blue or black pen. Write neatly so your
application is easy to read.**

**If you have someone write a letter of recommendation for
you and they email it to you, you need to take it to them
to sign. The letter is not complete without a signature.**

**Letters of recommendation should come from professional
people who know you in a professional setting. Not family
and friends.**

**Be sure to request letters way before the scholarship deadline, so those
writing the letters for you have plenty of time to get them written. Do
not ask people at the last minute to write you a letter. That is not fair
to the letter writer.**

When completing applications – label each sheet of paper with your name – type the prompt at the top of your essay page. Make sure you have someone proof read your essay and written responses to prompts.

Do not write like you talk. Write in a professional manner.

A few other tips:

- **Try not to use the words “things” and “a lot”.**
- **Try to use “I” as few times as possible. Reword a sentence, if possible, without using “I”.**
- **Write about your own personal experiences. Don’t write about others nor write in 3rd person.**
- **If it requires to – sign your name (in blue or black ink) don’t just type your name.**
- **Make it easy for the reader to read. Use paragraphs.**
- **If you need letters of recommendation give the writer a copy of your resume and a copy of the scholarship application to help them with the process of writing your letter.**
- **Presentation counts. Type your application. Put it together in the order the application directions specify. Type a cover sheet.**

Scholarships:

Montana Clerk & Records Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 13, 2026

Scholarship: 2-\$1000

Criteria: plan to attend a Montana college

Application available in black box.

NILE Foundation Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 1, 2026

Scholarship: \$1,000 or \$2,000

Criteria: Must have participated in NILE activities, currently enrolled in 4-H or FFA.

Application available at <https://www.thenile.org>

Montana Farmers Union Scholarship:

DEADLINE: April 3, 2026

Scholarship: Varies

Criteria: Montana Farmers Union family membership dues must be current. So, ask your parents if they belong to the union. Judged on scholastic achievement, school involvement, community involvement, Farmers Union involvement, Short essay.

Application available online at:

<https://montanafarmersunion.com/education/scholarships-grants/>

Town & Country Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 20, 2026

Scholarship: 4 - \$1,000

Criteria: preference is given to students planning to attend post-secondary schooling in the field of agriculture and have a family member who is an active member of Town & Country Supply Association.

Application is in the black box.

Chase Hawks Memorial Association**Frank Chesarek Memorial Scholarship:**

DEADLINE: March 27, 2026

Scholarship: 1(\$2,500), 1(\$2,000)

Criteria: planning to pursue high education, knowledge of Chase Hawks Memorial Association. Research, by googling, the Chase Hawks Memorial Association before completing your application. Application available in the black box or online at www.chasehawks.com.

Chase Hawks Memorial Association**John Ostlund Memorial Vocational Scholarship:**

DEADLINE: March 27, 2026

Scholarship: \$1,000

Criteria: planning training or higher ed in the trades (certificate, trade school, or apprenticeship). Research, by googling, the Chase Hawks Memorial Association before completing your application. Application available in the black box or online at www.chasehawks.com.

Billings Masonic Center Charitable Fund Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 31, 2026

Scholarship: 5 - \$1,000

Criteria: based on need, character, leadership, scholastic achievement, work history and extra-curricular activities must be attending a college in Montana.

Applications available in black box.

Annin Youth Fund Scholarship:

DEADLINE: April 1, 2026

Scholarship: Varies

Criteria: is currently enrolled in 4-H or FFA. Attending some type of training beyond high school. 3 letters of recommendation.

Application available in black box.

Stillwater County Homemakers' Scholarship:

DEADLINE: April 1, 2026

Scholarship: \$500 now and \$1500 if continue college sophomore year

Criteria: GPA or 2.0 or higher, have participated in at least 3 years of 4-H or FFA, or FCCLA. 3 letters of recommendation.

Application available in black box.

Project Hope - Lyle and Deanna King Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 26, 2026

Scholarship: \$1,000

Criteria: active volunteerism, planning to attend high education.
Scholarships available in black box.

Project Hope - Mary Kuehn

DEADLINE: March 26, 2026

Scholarship: \$1,000

Criteria: Demonstrated commitment to social justice through participation, organization and/or leadership of a project or activity in support of a social issue, possibly for the betterment of your community.
Scholarship available in black box.

Kane Russell Memorial Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 26, 2026

Scholarship: 5 - \$2,000

Criteria: GPA of 2.0 or above, involved in extra-curricular activities.
Scholarship available in black box.

Columbus Booster Club Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 26, 2026

Scholarship: 1 male and 1 female \$500 each

Criteria: participation in at least one extra-curricular activity each year of high school.
Scholarships available in black box.

Kober Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 26, 2026

Scholarship: 4 - \$1,000

Criteria: These scholarships were established by Alvin & Judy Kober in honor of their 4 daughters. There are 4 scholarships in specific fields of study (engineering, medicine, math, science and education). Students must be attending or plan to attend college in Montana.
Scholarships available in black box.

Jonn Beer Memorial Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 26, 2026

Scholarship: 2 - \$2,500

Criteria: 2.00 GPA, write short essay
Application available in black box.

Montana Silversmiths Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 26, 2026

Scholarship: 2 - \$2,500

Criteria: have a connection to Montana Silversmiths, short essay on your core values, 2 letters of recommendation.
Application available in the black box.

Katie Gneiting Memorial Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 26, 2026

Scholarship: \$1,000

Criteria: participated in the fine arts in high school (music, art, drama, speech, debate etc)

Application available in the black box.

Vinny B. Scholarship:

DEADLINE: March 26, 2026

Scholarship: \$500

Criteria: Stillwater County Resident, planning to attend high education, been serviced under an IEP in high school.

Application is available in the black box.

Sibanye Stillwater Mining Company Employee Scholarship:

DEADLINE: April 10, 2026

Scholarship: \$1,000 per semester - renewable

Criteria: dependent of a fulltime Sibanye Stillwater Mining Company employee, GPA 2.00, attending some form of higher education.

Scholarship available in the black box. Or online at: www.stillwaterfamily.org/financial-benefits/scholarship/

Omit the TAX ID#. If you are unsure of your college, leave it blank, when you know for sure then call the office and tell them.

Sibanye Stillwater Mining Company Non-Employee Community Scholarship:

DEADLINE: April 10, 2026

Scholarship: More than one – up to \$1,000

Criteria: GPA 3.50, you do not have a parent working for the mine.

Application available in black box to look at but, talk to me about having the application emailed to your school email so you can type it by filling it out online. Complete application online, print it and give all application documentation to Ms. Whiting.

Karen Krueger-Cox Memorial Scholarship:

DEADLINE: April 15, 2026

Scholarship: 2 - \$1,000

Criteria: This scholarship was established by Karen's parents to recognize her talent and passion as a teacher. Applicant must be a Stillwater County resident and plan to attend a Montana college and pursuing a degree in education or the medical field.

Applications available in black box.

MT Sheriffs & Peace Officers Assoc. Scholarships:

DEADLINE: April 15, 2026

1. Scholarship: 2 - \$1,500

Criteria: child of a member of the MSPOA and seeking to go into law enforcement, merit based

2. Scholarship: 5 - \$1,000

Criteria: child of a member of the MSPOA, random selection

Go to: <https://www.mspos.org/scholarships> for both applications.

Nemont Scholarships:

DEADLINE: April 6, 2026

Scholarship: \$1,000

Criteria: be a Nemont customer, at least a 2.0 GPA

Go to: <https://nemont.com/about-us/scholarships/#available-scholarships> for the application

MT State Golf Assoc. Scholarship:**DEADLINE:** March 15, 2026**Scholarship:** \$2,500**Criteria:** have MSGA membership with active GHIN# & handicap index (you can still sign up),Go to: <https://www.msgagolf.org/msga-scholarship/> for application.**Dakota Supply Group (DSG) Scholarship:****DEADLINE:** March 31, 2026**Scholarship:** Varies**Criteria:** be attending school for a trade (ex. Electrician, plumber, automotive, welding etc)Go to: www.findingmytrade.com for application.**2026 YWCA Salute to Student Scholarship:****DEADLINE:** April 1, 2026**Scholarship:** \$5,000**Criteria:** female seniors attending college in the fall, 3.0 GPA, two letters of recommendation, in-person interview if selected as a semi-finalist.Scholarship available at <https://www.ywcabillings.org/salute-to-students>**Montana Association of Conservation Districts Scholarship:****DEADLINE:** April 17, 2026**Scholarship:** 2 - \$1,000**Criteria:** attending college in Montana in the fall, at least 3.0 GPA, Enrolled in or planning to pursue a course of study related to Montana's natural resources. Appropriate courses of study include agriculture, agribusiness, animal science, range science, forestry, environmental science, land resource science, plant science, etcScholarship available at: <https://macdnet.org/programs/scholarships/>**Bob Donaldson Memorial Scholarship:****DEADLINE:** March 27, 2026**Scholarship:** \$1,000**Criteria:** Must have at least a 3.0 GPA, attending college in the fall of 2026, requires short essay and two letters of recommendation.

Applications available in black box.

Bear Creek Downs Scholarship:**DEADLINE:** May 1, 2026**Scholarship:** \$8,000**Criteria:** This scholarship is funded through the Pig Races at Bearcreek Downs. Applicant must be a Stillwater County resident, plan to attend a Montana college and be a member of 4-H or FFA.

Applications available in black box.

Go to: reachhighermontana.org -for scholarship opportunities for Montana students.

Remember to continue researching other scholarship options besides the ones from the counselor's office.

Remember if you receive a scholarship, give Ms. Whiting a copy of it for recognition in the graduation program.

TIPS

Because of the new FAFSA process you will receive your financial aid packages from the colleges later than normal. Hopefully, it will be by late March. Go to: <https://studentaid.gov/complete-aid-process/receive-aid> to help understand the financial aid information.

Make sure you contact the colleges you choose not to attend so they can redistribute the money you are not accepting.

You may accept as much or as little of the student loans offered as necessary. Remember you do pay interest on the loan so don't take more than you need.

Complete your dorm application ASAP to ensure your first choice. Try to attend the earliest orientation possible to ensure your first choice of courses.

When you give someone a graduation announcement, they feel obligated to give you a gift. So, make sure to take the time to address each envelope to the person you are giving the announcement to. It is most proper to take the time to write the person's name on the envelope.

PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES.

PLAN AHEAD SO YOU ARE NOT SCRAMBLING TO COMPLETE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AT THE LAST MINUTE.

March 1, 2026	NILE Foundation	\$1,000
March 1, 2026	Midland Empire Credit Union	\$1,000
March 13, 2026	Montana Clerk & Records	\$1,000
March 13, 2026	Yellowstone Valley Electric Co-op	\$1,000
March 13, 2026	YVEC Marlene Amen Memorial	\$1,000
March 13, 2026	YVEC-Ray Michels Memorial	\$1,000
March 14, 2026	Montana Food Distributors	Varies
March 15, 2026	AMT Montana Public Criminal Justice	\$500
March 15, 2026	MUS Honor Scholarship	Tuition
March 15, 2026	MUS STEM/Healthcare Scholarship	Varies
March 15, 2026	Horatio Alger Scholarship	\$15,000
March 15, 2026	Montana State Golf Assoc.	\$2,500
March 18, 2026	YVEC Luck of the Draw	\$500
March 20, 2026	Town & Country Scholarship	\$1,000
March 26, 2026	Jonn Beer Memorial Scholarship	\$2,500
March 26, 2026	Kober Scholarship	\$1,000
March 26, 2026	Katie Gneiting Memorial	\$1,000
March 26, 2026	Kane Russell Memorial Scholarship	\$2,000

March 26, 2026	Columbus Booster Club Scholarship	\$500
March 26, 2026	Montana Silversmiths Scholarship	\$2,500
March 26, 2026	Project Hope - Lyle & Deanna King	\$1,000
March 26, 2026	Project Hope - May Kuehn	\$1,000
March 26, 2026	Vinny B. Scholarship	\$500
March 27, 2026	Rimrock Pediatric Dentistry	\$1,000
March 27, 2026	Chase Hawks Memorial	Varies
March 27, 2026	Bob Donaldson Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000
March 31, 2026	Montana Community Foundation	Varies
March 31, 2026	Billings Masonic Center	\$1,000
March 31, 2026	Dakota Supply Group (DSG) Scholarship	Varies
April 1, 2026	Stillwater Republican Women	\$2,500
April 1, 2026	Billings Clinic Foundation	Varies
April 1, 2026	Annin Youth Fund Scholarship	Varies
April 1, 2026	Stillwater Co. Homemakers'	\$1,000
April 1, 2026	WYCA Salute to Student	\$5,000
April 2, 2026	Blewett Wrestling Scholarship	\$1,000
April 3, 2026	Montana Farmers Union Scholarship	Varies
April 6, 2026	Nemont Scholarship	\$1,000
April 10, 2026	Sibanye-Stillwater Mng Comp Employee	\$1,000
April 10, 2026	Sibanye-Stillwater Mng Comp non-employee	\$1,000
April 15, 2026	Karen Krueger-Cox Memorial	\$1,000
April 15, 2026	MT Sheriffs & Peace Officers - career	\$1,500
April 15, 2026	MT Sheriffs & Peace Officers - child	\$1,000
April 15, 2026	YVW Empowered Women	\$1,000
April 17, 2026	Montana Association of Conservation	\$1,000
May 1, 2026	Bear Creek Downs Scholarship	\$8,000