

Post-Secondary Opportunities for the Class of 2017

Dear Graduant:

Post-secondary education, as I'm sure you've heard, does not come cheaply. Nor does it come without a lot of information and very strict deadlines. Because every student is unique in his or her personal background, work experience, school success to date, future education and career interests, etc, the school cannot hope to make each student aware of all of the potential opportunities which may be available to them. Because of this reality, the majority of the information search and application process is the responsibility of you, the student. High school staff will be willing to help you - but the onus is on you to get started in your information search about the colleges/universities and scholarships/bursaries/student loans which might interest or apply to you. Planning ahead for a successful entry into post-secondary education involves:

- ❖ taking control of your future now
 - do your best in school now - your best efforts now will help prepare you for your future studies, and may boost your marks into the kind which may have scholarship potential
 - listen for tips from your teachers about note-taking, avoiding plagiarism, studying, etc., since these are intended to help you succeed both now and in your future course work
 - complete and submit the SMS Grad Award Nomination Data Collection Form
 - ensure that you submit an email address for yourself on the school's Student Information Update form - I will forward emails regarding university and scholarship information to grade 12's who provide an email address for "Student's Email" on this form.

- ❖ being responsible
 - read over the bulletin board posters of university/college information
 - schedule a meeting with the school counsellor to review your options and progress
 - watch carefully for the deadlines for university/college and scholarship applications - note these in your agenda and consider your applications as major assignments
 - saving money to pay for your education (and more immediately for your application fees, which are in the range of \$80 to \$100 per institution!)
 - attending all college and university information sessions offered at St. Maurice School*
 - communicating your findings with your parents - whether they will be helping to pay for your schooling or not, they are a valuable resource for guidance and support
 - ask your referee for reference letters *at least a week in advance* of the due date for the application. Provide the referee with the name of the program/award, any details which may help them write the letter of recommendation, and whether their letter is to be returned to you (sealed or open) or directly to the institution (via mail*, email, etc). Choose referees who know you well and can write an honest, substantial letter about your strengths. (*provide your referee with a fully pre-addressed, stamped envelope)

- ❖ completing applications accurately, completely and submitting them early
 - please deal directly with each institution's admissions office regarding any questions or concerns - their personnel are best equipped to get you the correct answer or assistance
 - most colleges and universities are now using an on-line application process. Paper application copies may be available from the information sessions offered at St. Maurice School; else these may be downloaded from an institution's website. One reference copy (paper) is kept in the school library from institutions which provide them to us.
 - apply using your legal name as it appears on your government identification documents
 - out-of-province applications require careful review for the required criteria and information; these may also have earlier deadlines than for local applicants
 - ensuring that you receive a timely confirmation of your application (and eventually of your anticipated acceptance).
 - Hint: Keep a photocopy of your applications, especially for scholarships - having all your information in one place makes completing other similar applications a lot easier!
 - create a professional email address specifically for all of your university, scholarship and job apps

*** College and University Information Sessions at St. Maurice School, Fall 2016**

It is strongly suggested that you attend all of these sessions - you may discover something new that appeals to you, perhaps at a college or university you had so far not been considering. All presentations run during the high school lunch, 11:25-12:10, in Room 201. Be prompt. Bring your lunch.

University of Manitoba Mon. Nov. 14th Note this session runs until 12:45

Canadian Forces Booth Set Up Tuesday Nov. 15th

University of Winnipeg Thur Nov. 17th

Red River College Friday Nov. 18th

St. Paul's College (U of M) TBD

Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) - Not offered this year

Booth University - Not offered this year

Local Universities - Deadlines for Admission Applications for Fall/Winter Session 2016

Consult with the university's Admissions Office directly for updated deadlines and more detailed information.

	Web Link to Important Dates	Entrance Scholarships Deadline
University of Winnipeg	http://uwinnipeg.ca/awards/dates.html	February 1, 2017
University of Manitoba	http://umanitoba.ca/student/fin_awards/1716.html	March 1, 2017
Red River College	Varied! Many different programs and deadlines.	

St. Maurice School Scholarships <http://www.stmaurice.mb.ca/pdfs/9-12%20%20Awards%20Info%20Posting.pdf>

St. Maurice School offers a number of scholarships to graduating students and it also nominates students to outside organizations which offer scholarships specifically reserved for the graduates of St. Maurice School. For most of these, there are no specific application forms for the student to submit, although the information collected on the SMS Grad Award Nomination Data Collection Form will be considered by the staff member committee. In general, these scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic standing and participation in school and other activities, particularly where the student carried out a leadership role. See Mr. Doiron for the application forms for the Matthew Schwegel '04 Airborne Ranger Promise Award and the The St. Vincent de Paul Award.

School-Sponsored Applications for Scholarships

Some major scholarship programs require that the applicant be nominated and/or sponsored by their high school. Students seeking a school nomination for a scholarship application will be required to complete the entire application form provided by the scholarship fund/organization and submit it to the St. Maurice School Administration. All students who submit their scholarship application to the St. Maurice Administration at least two weeks before the deadline for the application will be considered for sponsorship. The St. Maurice School Administration will have sole discretion of which students, if any, are sponsored for any such scholarships.

General Entrance / Special Entrance Scholarships

These scholarships are awarded by colleges and universities on the basis of some of your high school marks (eg. Based on the average of your top five 40S credit level marks from a listing of approved courses). There is usually no scholarship application form and little for you to do, except to apply on time to the colleges and universities of your choice. St. Maurice School will be asked to forward your Grade 12 marks directly to the institution.

Scholarship Websites

Aside from scholarship information, many of these websites also offer a wealth of information about attending a

university or college, tips on financing your education, links to post-secondary institutions in Canada, etc. These web links will be posted on the St. Maurice School website to simplify your web searches.

Service Canada	www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/audiences/youth/index.shtml
Manitoba Student Aid	http://www.gov.mb.ca/educate/sfa/pages/sfaFrontDoor_en.html
School Finder	www.schoolfinder.com
Student Awards	www.studentawards.com
YouthLink: Awards, Bursaries, Fellowships Grants and Scholarships	www.youth.gc.ca
Sign-up scholarship/award web-sites	www.scholarshipscanada.com www.scholarshipfinder.com www.fastweb.com
University of Manitoba Awards/Scholarships	www.umanitoba.ca/student/fin_awards/
University of Winnipeg Awards/Scholarships	www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards
Manitoba Youth Leadership Scholarship	http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/youth/leadership/youthleadershipscholarship.html
Girl Guides of Canada scholarships	www.girlguides.ca/scholarships
LORAN Award	www.loranaward.ca
Canadian Nuffield Agricultural Scholarship Association	www.nuffield.ca/
RE/MAX of Western Canada Quest of Excellence Bursary Program	www.remax-western.ca/quest-excellence

Note: Please advise me (Mr. Sagriotis) should you discover other useful scholarship websites - I'll add them to future versions of this letter. Thanks!

Personal Connections for you to Explore

- Your Employer - Your part-time job may have a scholarship program for employees. Check it out!
- Your Parent's Employer - Be sure to have your parents/guardians check with their employers - many companies offer scholarships and/or bursaries to the dependents of their employees.
- Your personal community - Many groups, organizations, clubs, cultural centres, language schools, and activity programs offer scholarships for post-secondary education. Get involved! Ask around! {The best example from Mr. Doiron's own personal experience - After his first year of university, he was awarded the Winnipeg Police Association Scholarship on the basis of marks, and *the fact that his great-grandfather served as a member of the Winnipeg Police Force in the early 1900's!*}

Mrs. Lantin (school counsellor) can help you with out of province University information and I will be available to help you with local university information - drop in to see either of us to set an appointment. Please bring as much information as possible about your situation so that we may make the best use of this time. Best wishes on your post-secondary information search and application process!

Mr. Sagriotis, Vice-Principal