

Post-Secondary Opportunities for the Class of 2012

Dear Graduand:

Post-secondary education, as I'm sure you've heard, does not come cheaply. Nor does it come without a lot of information and 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

- ◆ 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 \$65 to \$75 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 referees 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!

*** College and University Information Sessions at St. Maurice School, Fall 2011**

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. Locations will be indicated during the morning announcements (pay attention!)

Red River College	Tuesday	November 22	11:25 AM
St. Paul's College (U of M)	Thursday	November 24	11:25 AM
University of Winnipeg	Tuesday	November 29	11:25 AM
University of Manitoba	Thursday	December 1	11:25 AM

Local Universities - Deadlines for Admission Applications for Fall 2011

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

	Advanced Early Admission (based upon Grade 11 final marks)	Early Admission and Entrance Scholarships Deadline	Final Application Deadline
University of Winnipeg	December 1, 2011	March 1, 2012	July 2, 2012
University of Manitoba	December 1, 2011	February 24, 2012	August 15, 2012
Red River College	Applicants may submit applications upon completion of Grade 11. Confirmation of enrolment in Grade 12 prerequisite subjects is required. Official final grades must be submitted by July 15 for enrolment in Fall intakes or by the deadline date specified in the applicant's letter for other intakes.		

St. Maurice School Scholarships

See: <http://www.stmaurice.mb.ca/pdfs/awardsposting.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 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. For students who earned very high marks in Grade 11, most post-secondary institutions offer an "advanced early admission" deadline, where you may be conditionally accepted on the basis of your final Grade 11 marks - this opportunity also opens up some additional scholarship monies reserved for advanced early applicants.

See: U of M: http://umanitoba.ca/student/fin_awards/school_entrance/1475.htm

U of W: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awdsinfo> [special entrance scholarships]

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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/

Note: Please advise me (Mr. Doiron) 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 my own personal experience - After my first year of university, I was awarded the Winnipeg Police Association Scholarship on the basis of marks, and *the fact that my great-grandfather served as a member of the Winnipeg Police Force in the early 1900's!*}

Miss Cooke (school counsellor) and I will be available to help you - 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. Bryan Doiron, Vice-Principal