

# Post-Secondary Opportunities for the Class of 2023

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 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 even 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 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 direct entry or 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 before June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - ensure that you check the Grade 12 Microsoft Team and your @smswpg.ca school email address regularly for information and emails regarding university and scholarship information which will be forwarded by Mrs. Shillingford, Mrs. Lantin or myself.
  
- ❖ being responsible
  - read over the bulletin board posters of university/college information (most are posted on the second floor and near the cafeteria microwaves)
  - schedule a meeting with the school counsellor to review your options and progress. Mrs. Lantin is the go-to person for out of province universities, see Mrs. Shillingford or me for Manitoba post-secondary schools
  - watch carefully for the deadlines for university/college and scholarship applications - note these carefully and consider your applications as major assignments (for which there are no lates accepted!)
  - saving money to pay for your courses and textbooks (and more immediately for your application fees, which are in the range of about \$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 referees for reference letters *at least a week or two 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\*, fax, email, etc.). Choose referees who know you well and can write an honest, substantial letter about your strengths. (\*provide your referee with a 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 accurate and up-to-date answer or assistance
  - most colleges and universities are now using an on-line information and application process
  - apply using your legal name as it appears on your government identification documents. When later asked by the school office, it is recommended that you have your high school diplomas created using this same legal name.
  - 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 or digital records 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 your university, scholarship and job apps (you may want to present yourself to the adult world differently than as a young student)

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## St. Maurice School Scholarships

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. Please submit this form by June 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

Please see the Award Information 9-12 posting on the St. Maurice School website, under the Student Life – School Documents tab. See Mrs. Shillingford in late May for the application forms for the St. Vincent de Paul Award.

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## 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.

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## 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 in April and early July for on-time applicants to the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba.

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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, other links to post-secondary institutions in Canada, etc.

Service Canada – Summer Jobs

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html>

Canada Student Aid

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education.html>

Manitoba Student Aid

[http://www.gov.mb.ca/educate/sfa/pages/sfaFrontDoor\\_en.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/educate/sfa/pages/sfaFrontDoor_en.html)

School Finder

[www.schoolfinder.com](http://www.schoolfinder.com)

Student Awards

[www.studentawards.com](http://www.studentawards.com)

Youth in Canada

[www.youth.gc.ca](http://www.youth.gc.ca)

Universities in Canada	<a href="https://www.universitystudy.ca/canadian-universities/">https://www.universitystudy.ca/canadian-universities/</a>
Some scholarship/award websites	<a href="http://www.scholarshipscanada.com">www.scholarshipscanada.com</a> <a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>
University of Manitoba Awards/Scholarships	<a href="http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/fin_awards/">www.umanitoba.ca/student/fin_awards/</a>
University of Winnipeg Awards/Scholarships	<a href="http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards">www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards</a>
LORAN Award	<a href="http://www.loranscholar.ca">www.loranscholar.ca</a>

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 for potential scholarship opportunities**

- *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!*}.

Mrs. Lantin can help you with out of province University information; Mrs. Shillingford or I will be available to help you with local university information - drop in to see any 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  
School Principal  
St. Maurice School