Scholarships….Where do I start?

1. Locate scholarships. Go to the phs.hcbe.net website and look under academics, guidance, and scholarship links. Look on gafutures.org. Ask your local churches, banks, and organizations if they give scholarships. Look at the homepage for the college you have been accepted to and see what in house scholarships they may have. Check the counselor’s office scholarship board weekly to see if they have received any new scholarships. These really start to come in during the beginning of second semester. You have to actively look for scholarships, they do not just magically appear.
2. Make a list of the following. Include the years you participated and a short description. You can tweak these to match the order that the scholarship requests. Examples are below each title.
3. Extra curricular activities (both in and out of school)
* Perry High School Junior varsity volleyball – 9th-10th grades
* Perry High School Junior varsity soccer – 9th grades
* Perry High School Varsity soccer -10th-12th grades
* Perry High School Cross Country – 9th - 12th grades
* Beta Club – 10th -12th grades
* National Honor Society – 10th-12th grades
* Partner’s Club – 9th grade
* Spirit Club – 9th grade
* Theatre musical and One Act Crew – 9th -12th grades
* Member of Macon Sportstowne Indoor Soccer League (9th-11th grades)
* Member of Central Georgia Soccer’s Winter Adult league (11th-12th grades)
* Member of Macon Soccer summer league (10th grade)
* Played Central Georgia Soccer Recreational League (9-12th grade)
1. Volunteer hours (both in and out of school)
* Volunteered with the Houston County Gifted Department Summer Enhancement Program (9th grade)
* Volunteered with Habitat for Humanity (10th grade)– approximately 50 hours helping to build houses
* Volunteered with National Honor Society to collect school supplies for students impacted by the recent hurricane (10th grade)
* Volunteered at Relay for Life – (9th -12th grades) – Checked in participants and ran errands for the director
1. Leadership positions
* Captain of the JV Varsity volleyball team (9th grade)
* Soccer defensive captain (11th-12th grade)
1. Work experience
* Worked Houston County Summer Enhancement (10th-12th grades) Approximately 25 hours per week
* Worked at Langston Road Elementary After School Program as a student helper (11th grade) Approximately 8 hours per week
* Babysit for a small group at the First church on Sunday nights (10th grade) Approximately 4 hours per night
* Worked the Georgia National Fair in the Chop Shop Booth (9th-12th grades) Approximately 90 hours per week
1. Honors/awards
* Received the Highest Average award for Honors Government and Honors Biology (9th grade)
* Received the Highest Average award for Advanced Placement US History (11th grade)
* Member of the honors program
* Member of the Dual Enrollment program. I will have six college classes completed with Georgia Military College upon completion
* Received the award for Region award winning play for The Housekeeper in 10th grade
* First Honors for an all A average (9-12th grades)
* Honor Graduate for 2021
1. Write your essays. They do not need to be 5 paragraphs, just one or two depending upon the topic. You can merge these together, add to them, or change them based on the requirements of the scholarship. You can use the same essays you used when applying to your college. Make sure you Write! Some scholarships will give you a word count but others do not. Be neat, check your spelling and punctuation, have someone proof read them for you. Say something in what you write. Again, tell your story.
* Why do you need the money? Tell your story. Be honest and don’t hold back on how scholarship money can help you.
* What is one event that changed your perception or life? Could be something that affected you or a family member or the nation.
* What do you want to major in and why? Include what made you decide on this major. Be specific. Don’t just say it sounds like fun.
1. Ask two teachers and one outside person to write you a letter of recommendation. Make the letters generic so that you can reuse them. Keep copies to keep in your folder so you will have them when you need them.
2. Request a copy of your transcript from Mrs. McNeal in the counselor’s office. Make copies so you can include them with your scholarships. Keep copies in your folder so you will have them when you need them.
3. Get organized. Make a calendar with the due dates for each scholarship. Keep a folder with the scholarships you applied for so that you can find what you need. In the folder include copies of your recommendations and transcript. You also want to include copies of your letter of acceptance at the college you’ve been accepted at.
4. Scholarships take time. If you don’t apply, you can’t win them. Planning in advance will save you a lot of stress in the end.