

Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District

**ABSEGAMI HIGH SCHOOL
201 S. Wrangleboro Road
Galloway, NJ 08205**

(609) 652-1372 Main #
(609) 652-1485 Guidance #
(609) 404-9683 Guidance Fax #

February 8, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Absegami Guidance Department is pleased to present you with the latest scholarships available.

The following are some essential tips for letters, associated with scholarships, including cover letters, recommendation letters, application request letters, and thank-you letters:

- Be brief-you'll have the chance to sell yourself in your application.
- Request the application early to leave enough time to prepare a strong application packet.
- If you need a recommendation, clearly state when the deadline is. Give **no less than two weeks' notice**, leaving ample time for the recommender to write the letter. Your recommender should be someone who knows you well (but, not a family member).
- Provide your correct address and other contact information – where you know you can be reached.
- If you win a scholarship, be sure to thank the provider for selecting you as a recipient.

What's the best way of putting your thoughts on paper for your scholarship essay?

- Think before you write. Brainstorm to generate some good ideas, and then create an outline to help get you going.
- Show, don't tell. Use stories, examples, and anecdotes to individualize your essay.
- Develop a theme. List all your achievements. Decide on a theme that sums up the impression you want to make.
- Proofread carefully, check spelling and grammar and share your essay with friends, family members or teachers. Another pair of eyes can catch errors you might miss.

What to expect after your FAFSA has been filed:

- If you filed using the paper FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) within 4-6 weeks which will contain the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and determine your eligibility for Pell Grant, campus-based and Stafford Loan Programs. If you filed online, you can view this information within 5-7 days.
- After March 1st, you will receive a Student Eligibility Notice (SEN) from the State of New Jersey. This form will provide information regarding your eligibility for all state based aid, including the Tuition Aid Grant (TAG).
- May 1st is the final deadline to apply for all federal aid. The deadlines for state student aid programs vary from state to state. However, for New Jersey state aid to new applicants, the student must apply by October 1st for fall and spring terms, and March 1st for the spring term only. There are no exceptions to these deadlines.
- **Be wary of organizations that charge a fee for submitting your FAFSA. If you need assistance in completing the form, contact a college Financial Aid Office.**
- 1-800-433-3243 Is the number for general information about Federal Student Aid Information or go to www.federalstudentaid.gov.

Frequently requested web sites:

- Help with FAFSA..... www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov
- PIN Information and Registration..... www.pin.ed.gov
- Selective Service Registration..... www.sss.gov.
- NJ Commission on Higher Education... www.state.nj.us/highereducation
- NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority.... www.hesaa.org

Students are encouraged to visit the Guidance Office to request applications for the attached scholarship offerings. Students are also requested to submit any college acceptance letters and scholarship award notices to their counselor so that our files may be kept up to date.

Please feel free to contact the Guidance Department to discuss any questions or concerns you have regarding your son/daughter's post secondary plans.

Sincerely,

Robert Quinn
Guidance Supervisor