



# CPHS FAMILY GUIDE TO FINANCIAL AID – CLASS OF 2023

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September 27, 2022

Dear Senior Families,

During the months of September and October, we will be assisting our seniors with the college and trade school application process. We will continue to keep this focus as seniors wrap up their applications. Keep in mind that while many colleges have application deadlines that are later in the year, we strongly recommend that seniors apply to their colleges by October 31 so that they can then shift their focus to the financial aid process. To keep families informed, we wanted to provide a general overview of the financial aid information that will be shared with students during Senior Meetings throughout the fall.

## **FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID**

This application is REQUIRED in order to be considered for all federal, state, and college-based financial aid. It is to be filed *jointly* by the student and the parent. The FAFSA is available October 1. While this can be done anytime prior to March 1, we recommend that you do it before the end of 1st semester so that you can maximize your opportunities for financial aid consideration. Some financial aid is awarded on a first-come,first-served basis, so the sooner the better! Several trade schools require this as well.

- Here is a *highly informative* video on the FAFSA provided by Grand Valley State University, we recommend that you watch this first!
  - [English Video](#)
  - [Spanish Video](#)
- NEVER PAY FOR HELP WITH THE FAFSA!
  - Our local institutions will help you for free, even if you don't go there:
    - [GRCC Financial Aid Department](#)
      - [financialaid@grcc.edu](mailto:financialaid@grcc.edu)
      - (616) 234-4030
        - [Schedule a Financial Aid Meeting](#) with GRCC Financial Aid Officers - they will walk you through every step of the process
        - If you have a chance to attend the [GRCC FALL OPEN HOUSE](#) on 10/29 for a live completion workshop.
    - [GVSU Financial Aid Department](#)
      - [finaid@gvsu.edu](mailto:finaid@gvsu.edu)
      - (616)331-3234
  - [MI Student Aid](#) offers free Virtual Financial Aid Nights:
    - [Click here to register!](#)
- [A Helpful Checklist](#)

- [Federal Student Aid Online Helpline](#)
- [Creating an FSA ID](#) - This is the first step to logging into the FAFSA website.
- [Submit the FAFSA Here](#).

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

- **Individual School Scholarships:**
  - Schools will offer some form of financial assistance in the form of scholarships, grants, or loans. You will find the application requirements on each institution's scholarship website. You will ALWAYS need to complete the FAFSA for consideration.
- **Statewide & National Scholarships:**
  - Explore national scholarship/financial aid opportunities by creating an account on one or more of these sites:
    - [MI Scholarship Search](#)
    - <https://app.goingmerry.com/sign-up#students>
    - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
    - [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search)
    - Feel free to do your own searches via google, but never pay a third party!
- **Local Scholarships:**
  - Starting after Christmas break, you can check the [CP Local Scholarships](#) website for opportunities that are specific to students attending CP and/or living in West Michigan. (Note: it's not up to date yet, but this will give you an idea about what you may be interested in applying for).
- **Tuition Incentive Program:**
  - This is a need-based program that is sponsored by the State of Michigan and covers the first two years in certain Michigan college or trade programs. Students who qualify must be a US citizen and must have or have had Medicaid coverage for 2 years within a 3 year time between the ages of 9 and high school graduation.
    - [Click Here for More Information](#)
    - If you think you qualify and did not already receive notification, please reach out to your counselor.

We hope that you find this useful as you navigate the world of financial aid! As always, we are happy to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to call, email, or set up an appointment if you need additional information or guidance!

Sincerely,

**Ms. Anna Stornant**

Students with Last Name A-L  
[astornant@cppschoools.com](mailto:astornant@cppschoools.com)  
 Ph: 616-254-5214

**Mrs. Gina McCambridge**

Students with Last Name M-Z  
[gmcCambridge@cppschoools.com](mailto:gmcCambridge@cppschoools.com)  
 Ph: 616-254-5213