To DNH Students, Parents and/or Guardians:

We would like to take this opportunity to explain the Dike-New Hartford Dollars for Scholars (DFS) and Scholarship America organizations.

DNH Dollars for Scholars® is a local nonprofit foundation that supports academic success in our community. As part of Scholarship America's® national network of locally based, volunteer-driven Dollars for Scholars chapters, our mission is to mobilize our community on behalf of post-secondary education success for our students. Dollars for Scholars chapters like ours help hometown students achieve their educational goals by raising scholarship funds, establishing endowments and distributing scholarships each year. Our local chapter has been around for approximately 40 years.

Through DFS fundraisers we work to raise money to help provide scholarships for graduating seniors who plan to continue onto post-secondary education within 2 years after graduation from DNH. When you volunteer for a DFS fundraiser, the Board tracks your volunteer hours and as a graduating Senior you will be awarded a DFS scholarship based on your number of DFS service hours. In the last 5 years, 90% of DNH grads have pursued 2 or 4 year post-secondary education. With those students who have applied, Scholarship America and DNH Dollars for Scholars has awarded more than **$250,000** to assist over **250 students!** Scholarships are awarded through the local chapter, local donors and nationally through the Scholarship America platform.

**DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIPS (in order to receive a DFS Scholarship your Senior year):**

1. **Complete the application in Scholarship America your Senior year\*** – DNH staff will assist with this process.

**\*The Scholarship America Profile can be started your freshman year and you can continue to update it through your senior year and after graduation. \***

1. Volunteer for a minimum of 1 Dike-New Hartford Dollars for Scholars fundraising event during your 4 years of high school. This can be done by either the student, parent/guardian, or someone else who does it in the student’s name. **Note: These are specific to DFS fundraising events.**
2. Your scholarship amount is based on the number of DFS events (points) you volunteer for throughout your high school years. **When volunteering, 1 hour = 1 point unless otherwise noted.** DNH Communities Door-to-Door Canvas (held in the fall each year) is worth 5 points per hour due to this being our biggest fundraiser.
3. Fundraisers will be communicated by emails and to the students at school to provide the opportunity to sign up. Events are offered to upperclassmen the first 3 days to sign up and then opens to all high school students.
4. Below are a few of the bigger DFS fundraising events this 2023-24 year. The DFS board tracks volunteer participation:
* Door-to-Door Canvas: October 8 and October 15,2023 (Dike, Stout, New Hartford)
* Country Campaign: October 8through October 18,2023 (information emailed out closer to the date)
* DFS 5K: Watermelon Days, August 2024
* Concession Stands: TBD
* Other events: TBD

**SCHOLARSHIP AMERICA SCHOLARSHIPS (in order to be eligible for Scholarship America Scholarships your Senior year):**

1. **Complete the application in Scholarship America your Senior year** – DNH staff will assist with this process

**\*The Scholarship America Profile can be started as early as your freshmen year and you can continue to update it through your senior year and after graduation.\***

1. Track ALL of the following on the application:
	1. Volunteer experiences, extra-curricular activities, related special awards received, and work experiences during your high school years
2. Keep in mind references that you will be able to contact, if needed
3. On the website you will find a list of current scholarships available to graduating Seniors. (Go to [www.dnhcsd.org](http://www.dnhcsd.org) and click on Parent & Community Center and then click on Dollars for Scholars/SA).

**Other ways to support DNH Dollars for Scholars:**

1. Donate money to DFS by going online to <https://dike-newhartford.dollarsforscholars.org>. There is a Donate Now button at the top of the page. This will help create additional Scholarship funds for our students.
2. Start a scholarship in memory/honor of a loved one in Scholarship America. We would love to customize a scholarship on your behalf!
3. Attend our Senior Awards Night Ceremony in mid-May. This night is the culmination of the fundraising our students have done and the generosity of our community through scholarships awarded.

The DNH Dollars for Scholars Board hopes this assists in understanding the importance of scholarships, volunteerism and fundraising. If you have any questions, please email us at: dnhdollarsforscholars@gmail.com or contact any of the Board Members listed below.

Your dedicated DNH Dollars for Scholars Board:

Michelle Bolte - President Tiffany Asche – Vice President

Kurt Bolte - Treasurer Megan Steffen – Secretary

Stephanie Boecker Travis Druvenga

Dana Foster Melinda Greiner

Roxanne Heimann Jana Hermann

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