

## **READ THIS BEFORE YOU START YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

You will want to use it as a reference when you are filling out your application

### **Application Deadline:**

**Essay and Reference: Locked Box in Guidance by 4pm on Tuesday March 3, 2020**

**Online Application Information: Midnight March 3, 2020**

**Taconic Hills Dollars for Scholars 2020 Application**

**Email: [taconichillsdfs@outlook.com](mailto:taconichillsdfs@outlook.com)**

To apply: Visit [taconichills.dollarsforscholars.org](http://taconichills.dollarsforscholars.org) and click on the "Students & Parents" tab

Set up your account by clicking on the Set up your account by clicking on the "Click to Log-in" icon on the Student Parent Page at [taconichills.dollarsforscholars.org](http://taconichills.dollarsforscholars.org) Updates will be on this page.

Review ALL online sections. All \*\* items MUST be completed. All \* are "optional" but provide to our Awards Committee more information about you and your college choice, which is a key part of the Award Process. This will also help "Fastweb" system to give you possible National Scholarship Matches. ("Fastweb" is an optional item located on the Application) To reach 100% All \*\* and All \* will need to be done. You may change any information up to the Deadline.

### **Key Items:**

\_\_\_ Like us on Facebook or Instagram for updated information and other scholarship information

\_\_\_ Enter only valid email addresses that you will regularly check. Do NOT use your Taconic Hills School email address as it will not be functional after Graduation and often can lead to you not getting emails from us as the School Spam Filter may block us.

\_\_\_ Pick up (in Guidance) or Download (on our Website) the Essay and Reference Forms AND follow all of the Directions. Get your references done EARLY. **Failure to do so will mean you will NOT qualify for a Scholarship. Follow the Deadlines.** All of these must be placed into the Locked THDFS Box in the Guidance office by 4pm on March 3, 2020. (Note: online "Goals Essay", "Unusual Essay" and the Reference Section are NOT done online. Use the Paper Packet as noted above instead.)

\_\_\_ We encourage you to complete the Parent/Guardians section on-line so we can email updated information to them as well as yourself.

\_\_\_ Schools- you must enter at least one school you have been accepted at or applied to and your application status under "College Application Status" and if you plan to attend fulltime.

\_\_\_ GPA (check the box "My school uses weighted GPA's" Guidance will not have your GPA and Class Rank until March 1 at the latest. It will be announced on our Facebook and Instagram Pages.

\_\_\_ Request a Transcript from Guidance prior to the Deadline. Guidance may enter it after the Deadline. That will not be held against you. But YOU must make the request prior to the deadline.

\_\_\_ Fill in as many Activities, Awards and Employment as is accurate and truthful.

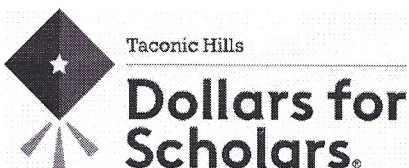
\_\_\_ Financial Information. It is NOT mandatory for THDFS Scholarships: but some are based on income. Use the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) from your FASFA form. If you do not choose to do so, just click the "I do not wish to include financial information" button.

\_\_\_ My Scholarships: Questions (click red "Questions" button and complete before clicking on the "Apply" Button.

**Deadline for Essays and References to be placed into the Locked THDFS Box in Guidance is 4pm on March 3, 2020. The Online Application Information Deadline is 11:59 pm on March 3, 2020.**

\_\_\_ Attend Awards Ceremony on May 9, 2020 at 7 pm. Be there by 6:40 pm.

\_\_\_ Contact us with ANY questions or concerns. We can fix any problem except a late application.



**Dear Seniors and Parents/Guardians:**

We would like to make you aware of the **2020 Taconic Hills Dollars for Scholars Application Process**.

**Who are we?** We are a community organization formed in 1989. It was started by community members who were interested in helping Taconic Hills enrolled students access a college education through scholarships. We are not a club or group sponsored by the school district. We have our own Board of Directors and we are affiliated with a national organization named Scholarship America.

In our 29 years, TH Dollars for Scholars has awarded \$1.906 million to 1258 graduates.

**Who is Eligible?** All Seniors who are going on to further their education (at 2 or 4 year colleges, trade schools, or certificate programs) are encouraged to apply. Our scholarships are awarded on both merit and need and our application has opportunities for students to be rewarded with points for many different categories in their life, both in and out-of-school. Grade Point Average is not the only criteria for scholarships.

Our scholarships can be used for up to 5 years, so we encourage you to apply even if you are entering the armed services or are deferring your college education for a year or two.

To apply for a scholarship, students must volunteer a minimum of 3 hours at one or more of our DFS fundraisers.

These hours are not to be confused with senior points, National Honor Society volunteer requirements, or any other school affiliated groups. These are hours volunteered at DFS sponsored events. See the events on the DFS Pillar outside of the High School Cafeteria. We routinely announce opportunities on our Facebook page and on our website.

Seniors do not have to complete their 3 hours by the application deadline. However, we will not release scholarship money that has been awarded until this condition is met. Students may check with Mrs. Samantha Maker regarding the status of earned hours.

**When and How Do I Apply?** 1.) The On-line application process will open January 20, 2020 and end at midnight March 3, 2020 at [taconichills.dollarsforscholars.org](http://taconichills.dollarsforscholars.org). Go to the "Student and Parents" page. Those students without home computer access can use computers at the school. 2.) **The References and Essay are to be done on paper and submitted to a Locked Box in Guidance by 4pm on March 3, 2020. Reference Forms, Essay Topic and Checklist Directions are available in the Guidance office or on our Website on the Student/Parent Page. Both the On-line and Paper requirements must be completed and submitted by the deadline or your application will NOT be considered.**

We will periodically provide important reminders to the students who have started the On-line part of the application and their parents if we have your email address. You may email us at [taconichillsdfs@outlook.com](mailto:taconichillsdfs@outlook.com) with that information. We also post updates on our Facebook page.

It is expected that students accepting an award will attend the award ceremony on May 9, 2020 at 7 pm in the Taconic Hills PAC. Exceptions will be made only for hardship situations. (Work does not count as an excuse.)

**Other Information:** Follow us on Facebook or on our website. "We will have "Help Sessions" January 27 and February 3-5 during lunches and on January 28 from 6-7 pm for parents to attend as well. All sessions will be in the High School Library. Please email us with any questions. We are here to help every Senior Student!!!

Lastly, do NOT wait until the last minute to complete your application. You can help yourself or your son/daughter by following through on your application early and not rushing during the last few days.

Our Best Wishes to you, Taconic Hills Dollars for Scholars