

To DNH Students, Parents and/or Guardians:

This is an informative letter 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.

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. In the last 5 years, 90% of DNH grads have pursued 2 or 4 year post-secondary education. With those students who applied, Scholarship America and DNH Dollars for Scholars has awarded more than \$250,000 to over 215 students.

Dollar for Scholars (in order to receive a DFS Scholarship your senior year):

1. **Fill out an application in Scholarship America your senior year** – DNH staff will assist with this process.
2. 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.**
3. 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.**
4. 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. Fundraisers will be communicated by emails and to the students at school to provide the opportunity to sign up.
5. Below are a few of the DFS fundraising events this 2021-22 year. The DFS board tracks volunteer participation:
 - NEW THIS YEAR – Country Campaign: September 12 -21, 2021
 - Fall Softball Concessions at Kruger-Hemmen Sports Complex: October 16, 2021
 - Door-to-Door Canvas: October 10 and October 17, 2021
 - Track and Field Concessions: April 19, 2022
 - DFS 5K: Watermelon Days, August 2022
 - Other events TBD(Sign up links are sent by email closer to the dates of each fundraiser)

Scholarship America (in order to be eligible for Scholarship America Scholarships your senior year):

1. **Fill out an application in Scholarship America your senior year** – DNH staff will assist with this process
2. Track ALL volunteer experiences during your high school years
3. Track ALL extra-curricular activities during your high school years and related special awards received
4. Track ALL work experiences during your high school years
5. Keep in mind references that you will be able to contact if needed

Other ways to support DNH Dollars for Scholars or DNH Scholarship America

1. Donate money to DFS by going online to www.dnhcsd.org, click on Scholarship America on the left side of the home page. There is a Donate Now button at the top of the page.
2. Start a scholarship in honor of someone in Scholarship America. Contact us at dnhdollarsforscholars@gmail.com or go to www.dnhcsd.org and click on Scholarship America on the left side of the home page. On the website you will also find a list of current scholarships available to graduating seniors.
3. **New: smile.amazon.com: .5% of the purchase price is donated to the selected charitable organization.**
See attached sheet for instructions on how to set it up and benefit DNH Dollars for Scholars.

The 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.