

## **How Do I Approach College Searches and Scholarship Applications?**

### **For the Student:**

This is a very important time in your life. This is your first step into the world of adulthood. You will in the next few years choose a career (maybe the first of several), leave home and begin functioning as a fully autonomous adult. Since this is your life you should be fully involved in this process. That means that you need to step up to the plate and take charge. Your parents will be around to assist you in this process, they can drive you to college visits, they can discuss your career goals with you, and they can give you some input on their opinions about the decisions you are making. But one thing they cannot and SHOULD NOT do is, do it for you. Colleges are judging your application on your transcript, your community service, your extra-curricular activities and YOUR potential for success. What colleges are looking for is a student who makes the effort to get applications, complete them accurately and on time and demonstrates they have taken full responsibility for their own future. Those students have demonstrated they can be successful in college.

What students should do:

1) Check the College/Career Center webpage weekly  
[www.jamestownpublicschools.org](http://www.jamestownpublicschools.org)

Scroll down to /click here for parent and student links

Scroll down to/click here for the College/Career Center

2) Check postings in homeroom & Listen to morning announcements

3) Check your scholarship list and visit the college/career center regularly & Inquire about scholarships available through your college

4) Stay in regular contact with you counselor

## **For the Parent:**

This is a very important time in your life. This is your child's first step into the world of adulthood. They will, in the next few years choose a career (maybe the first of several), leave home and begin functioning as a fully autonomous adult.

Let them. Very simply this is the best advice I can give you. The students that feel full ownership of this process are by far the most successful and happiest. You have given them the tools to make the right decisions, let them use them. They will need your input, as you discuss your family's financial status, in filling out forms, and driving to college visits. Keep in mind that as college admissions and scholarships are being decided the student's ability cannot be judged if they have not had a chance to demonstrate it.

What Parents should do:

Ask questions, be supportive, encourage the student's research efforts and remind son/daughter of upcoming deadlines.

Check the College/Career Center webpage weekly

[www.jamestownpublicschools.org](http://www.jamestownpublicschools.org)

scroll down to /click here for parent and student links

scroll down to/click here for the College/Career Center

Gather 2008 Income tax information as soon as possible after January 1st (Will be used to complete FAFSA form)

Attend JHS Financial Aid Night January 2009

