



October Update!

Dear College bound friends-

I just got back from 4 days in Salt Lake City, at the annual conference for NACAC (the National Association for College Admissions Counselors) and heard some wonderful speakers and picked up some great information! I'll be sharing some of those tidbits in upcoming newsletters.

See below for news on the PSAT, FAFSA, and other events.

LAST CALL- For **College Bound Essentials** and also for **Interviewing Skills** on Oct 13th! College Bound Essentials is a remarkable and essential resource for students and parents - meant for students in 8th-11th grades! The interview workshop is great for any student who may need to interview for admissions, scholarships, internships, or Governors School.

Athletes who are juniors in high school can now do official visits and it is **incredibly** important that they know how to interview with coaches. I will have a special break out group for athletes and will give them their own list of questions to be ready to ask coaches. As many of you know, our son swims at Duke and we went through this process with all of the Ivies and many other wonderful schools. I sat in on most of his interviews and can tell you first hand what to expect and how to handle the interview.

PSAT This Week? Important FAQ's

FAQ's for this week's PSAT

I'm a Junior- Do I need to take the PSAT? If you're a strong test taker, then absolutely take it. It can open up incredible scholarship opportunities automatically!



If you're just an ok test taker, still take it because it is helpful practice for the full 4-hour SAT test.

Do I need to list a "college of choice" (a school that I'd like to get a National Merit scholarship to) when I take it? No. You don't list any schools when you take it. If, in Sept of your senior year, you get notified that you are a National Merit Semifinalist, you will designate a "school of choice" at that time.

I'm just in 9th or 10th grade. My school says I should take the PSAT. Is that right?

Sure! Go ahead and take it. No one will see your scores but it will give you good practice that will help you when you take the test in 11th grade. It's only in 11th grade that the scores can open up National Merit Scholarships (or any other scholarships, for that matter).

What are some tips for the day of the test? Get a good night's sleep the night before. Have a good protein/fat breakfast with minimal carbs. Make sure to take your calculator and that it has fresh batteries. **DO ANSWER** every question, even if you're guessing. There is no longer a penalty for guessing. Don't stress- just do your best!

Parents of Seniors! Time for FAFSA!



Parents of a senior? Time to do FAFSA!

Go to FAFSA.ed.gov to file your free application for Federal Student Aid as soon as you can. The FAFSA application went live on **October 1st**. This form helps students apply for need based aid from the federal government. It will be based on data from your 2017 taxes. Even if you think you probably won't get aid, we typically encourage families to do it this time. The college itself can use some of the information to allocate extra grant money to you. If you don't get any benefit from it, then don't file it in subsequent years.

For NC residents, there will be a free FAFSA day happening on **Saturday, October 27th!** It's hosted by the CFNC(College Foundation of North Carolina). It's a one day event where tax trained professionals help families complete the FAFSA. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Also, a reminder to parents that schools such as Davidson, UNC, Duke, Wake Forest, and others, will require the CSS profile in addition to FAFSA. The CSS profile can be accessed via college board and will ask more detailed questions regarding your finances. However the perk to filling out the CSS profile is that your student can potentially receive a lot more need based aid to help pay for college. Please click [HERE](#) to see the list of schools that require the CSS Profile.

Performing Arts and Visual Arts College Fair

If you are a resident of North or South Carolina, Virginia, or Tennessee and are interested in attending the **FREE Fine Arts/Performing Visual Arts Fair** this fall, the closest fair will be held at the **Park Expo in Charlotte**.

It is coming up on **Tuesday, October 30th from 7-9 pm**. This will



be a great opportunity to connect with schools you are interested in attending and students as young as ninth grade are encouraged to attend. To register for the event, please click [HERE](#).

Upcoming Workshops! Save Your Spot!



Available Workshops



Scholarship Gold Workshops Fall Schedule!

**Classes are 3 hours
\$75/student**

**Parents come with student at
no extra cost**

Oct 13 - Lake Wylie- Last call!

College Bound Essentials-
for 8th-11th grades!
9-noon- click [HERE](#)

Interview Skills- for scholarships,
admissions, or athletic recruiting
click [HERE](#)

Nov 10- Lake Wylie

College Bound Essentials
for 8th-11th grades
9-noon- click [HERE](#)

Interview Skills- for scholarships,
admissions, or athletic recruiting
1:00-4:00- click- [HERE](#)

Sign Up Today



About Scholarship Gold & Elizabeth Hartley

Elizabeth Hartley and her team provide specialized guidance to students and parents on all things college including:

- What to do throughout high school to create the best options
- How scholarships *really* work and how they differ at various types of schools
- How financial aid works differently at various schools and how to maximize your chances for aid
- Preparing for admissions & scholarship interviews
- How to write compelling essays for admissions & scholarships

And much more. We enjoy creating remarkable futures, one student at a time!

[Contact Me](#)

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