



Our Voice

Tri-Village Local Schools

We're on our way to building for tomorrow

A School of Excellence



November 2011

Grants, Donations and Refunds

People sometimes ask why the school purchased a certain item or why money was spent in such a way when it appears there may be other needs. Often the answer is because there was a grant available, and the money was required to be spent in a certain manner. Other times a specific donation was made by a person or organization for the purpose of buying a specific item. Many times, especially with federal money there are requirements placed on schools to spend the money as stated in law and administrators' hands are tied on how best to spend it. These funds are closely tracked by auditors to ensure that the money was spent as Congress appropriated. Recently, another source of money was received by the school in the form of a refund from its health insurance provider to promote healthy lifestyles.

Tri-Village has been very fortunate to access many grants. Within the last year, Tri-Village received grant money from Darke Rural Electric, Lowes, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, and The Dayton Regional Stem Center to name a few. Dedicated teachers wrote grants to these companies and organizations. In the examples listed above we were awarded the grants. The opposite is also true. Many grants are well written, but perhaps for demographic reason the result is a denial which can be disheartening. We are blessed to have teachers willing to take on the extra work of writing grants that benefit our students. Not to mention the many grants school administrators write to receive state and federal dollars. Most of the state and federal funds are dedicated toward specific uses that administrators then allocate to benefit students.

Another example of money recently received involved a refund from the district's health insurance provider. Tri-Village is involved in a consortium known as the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council (EPC), and has been for decades. Tri-Village is able to buy a wide range of items and services through the power of volume by linking with 129 other schools throughout this region of the state. Through this consortium, the district's health care provider offered incentives to school districts participating in the EPC wellness programs. The health care provider has good reason to reduce insurance costs. By covering healthy clientele the provider reduces its liability. Tri-Village teachers and classified employees improved their dietary habits, exercised and submitted to preventive health practices as recommended by the health care provider. They did this on their own time to promote healthier lifestyles. The district finished second out of 129 schools and was awarded just over \$8,000 in refunds. The money had to be spent on items that promoted our wellness plan. The district recently installed outdoor exercise equipment to benefit the students, staff and community members who wish to use the equipment. The equipment is located just north of the track next to the playground.

Feel free to contact the school if you have questions on how money is spent. One of the strategic goals created by the Board of Education is to maintain long-term financial stability of the district. Be assured that each expenditure is scrutinized to insure prudent decisions are made. We know that all segments of the economy are feeling the effects of the economic downturn and just as our budget is being cut we know personal households are dealing with budget constraints. That is why we work so hard to find other avenues such as grants, donations, and refunds.



Adopt-A-Family

The High School Student Council, NHS, Key Club, FFA, JH Student Council and Cheerleaders are teaming up to sponsor the Adopt-A-Family Campaign again this year. The organizations will be working to raise money starting December 1-16. There are activities being planned for all students to participate in and the cheerleaders will be collecting funds at a December basketball game. Look for more information to be coming home with your student later this month. If you would like to donate or help in any way please contact Natalie Malott or Beth Fisherback at the school.

Don't Miss Financial Aid Night For Seniors and Parents Wednesday, December 7, 2011 5:00 P.M. School Commons

Many families are seriously looking at college tuition costs and feeling a bit overwhelmed about the financial aid process. To help you through this process, we will host a financial aid night for you and your senior. A college financial aid advisor will be here to explain the different types of aid available and to give you tips on filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). **The FAFSA is the first step to financial aid and is required by all colleges** before they can put a financial aid package together for your student.

The FAFSA can be filed anytime after **January 1st, 2012**, but federal money and college financial aid money does run out, so you'll want to file as soon as possible. The FAFSA must be filed every year your student attends college. Please attend the informational meeting on **Wednesday, December 7, 2011**. Don't miss this opportunity to talk to a financial aid counselor.

TIPS TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

1. In the fall of your senior year, check the colleges you plan to attend to see if they have separate financial aid forms you must submit by a deadline. Some do and some don't. Always check. Always get them in by the deadline.
2. Make sure parents prepare IRS tax forms early so that this information is available to file the FAFSA on **January 1, 2012**. Parents and students may also use an estimate based on last year's tax information if college deadlines require early FAFSA filing. **Every Student Must File the FAFSA.**
3. File the FAFSA as soon as possible after **January 1st** of your senior year. You can list up to six colleges to receive your financial aid information. The federal government will send your results directly to the colleges you list.

WHAT ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS?

There are many different types of scholarships available out there. Students and parents often ask, "Where do I start?" One way to begin your scholarship search is to look in three places—**college campuses, outside organizations, and local organizations.**

1. College Campuses: Colleges themselves supply a great deal of the financial aid that is available to students. Many of these scholarships are academic or needs based. Students can check out the scholarships available by visiting the college websites, calling college financial aid offices, or talking to a college representative. Find out what forms you need and file them by the deadline. Many colleges also require you to apply for admission to the college along with your scholarship application. Many of our students apply for scholarships at several colleges and then wait to see who offers the most aid before they make their final decision about where to attend. The bottom line is find out what is available, find out what you need to fill out to be considered for those scholarships and **just go for it**. Somebody will get them; it might as well be you!

2. Outside Organizations: These are vast and varied. Some are academic based; some are needs based. Some are specific to certain career fields, and some are open to anyone. Always check Mrs. Black's website for information on college scholarships and much more. The best way to search this category is to scan the scholarships list for one that applies to your needs. If the organization sent applications, they are on file in the guidance office for you to come and get. Many of these applications are also available online. Again, watch for deadlines and start early enough to collect all the necessary references or write essays if required.

Try these scholarship search websites:

www.supercollege.com, www.fastweb.com, www.wiredscholar.com, www.nextStepmag.com

3. Local Organizations: There are a few local community organizations that have offered scholarships specifically to Tri-Village students. We organize these applications into a "local scholarship packet" and make them available in March or April of the student's senior year. Each senior who meets eligibility requirements can pick up a packet, which also contains the student's rank and GPA and directions for returning the applications to the guidance office by the deadline. The guidance office will receive them from the students by the designated deadline and keep them in the office until a representative of the organization picks them up. Some organizations may interview students and others may just notify the counselor of their final decisions about who will receive the scholarships. The counselor coordinates the presentation of these scholarships at the scholarship awards ceremony prior to graduation. It is the student's responsibility to pick up the local scholarship packet from the counselor, fill out any applications for which they wish to apply, and return those packets to the guidance office by the posted deadline.

We thank our local organizations for supporting Tri-Village students! You do make a difference in your community!

SCHOLARSHIPS SEARCH TIPS

***Start early in the fall of your senior year, *Check out colleges, outside organizations, and local organizations, *Apply for as many as possible, *Beware of scams.** Never pay a scholarship search company. There are plenty of free searches available and a company can't get anything for you that you couldn't get for yourself.

Have You Decided Which College or Career School You Will Attend?

Mark your Calendars

The Cross Country team will host a soup, sandwich and dessert meal before the boys varsity basketball game on December 17th. They will start serving the meal at 4:30. Soups to be served are:
Chili, Bean, and Cheesy Potato Soup.

The Baseball Team is hosting a Chili Dinner on December 2nd starting at 5:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

All proceeds will benefit the athletes teams trips to Florida.

