**Scholarship Pointers:** 

* Don’t let it all overwhelm you. Take your time and set yourself a goal of working on applications for an hour a day or one application per day.
* **Type EVERYTHING!!!** It does take time, but scholarship committees won’t give a handwritten application much consideration unless they have specified to do so.
* Don’t reinvent the wheel. In other words, after you have written one solid well-written essay, you can usually tweak it to fit the various applications.
* Utilize your teachers!!! They will be very willing to offer suggestions and to critique essays if you ask and give them plenty of time.
* Now is the time to pull out your list of accomplishments, awards, leadership positions, volunteer and community work, memberships on teams and clubs, etc. This can be easily organized with the educationquest.org website and the Activities Resume that you will find there. I told you about this at the beginning of the school year. If you did not complete it yet, dig out those old year books and the piles of awards you have stuffed under your bed to refresh your memory.
* Use a thesaurus and dictionary. Vary your sentences, use spell and grammar check, and ask your parents for their help in checking over your application forms. (Parents need to feel important too!)
* Most importantly, don’t wait until the end of February. You will be overwhelmed, rushed and stressed. Tackle this now and get it behind you so you can enjoy the rest of the school year. (From my own personal experience I know it makes life at home easier when you can **honestly** tell Mom and Dad that you have all of your scholarship applications done.)
* Now is the time to make sure that filing system we talked about at the beginning of your junior and senior years is in working order. Organization is going to be especially important for you. Make copies of the scholarship applications that you fill out and keep these in your file along with any scholarship award certificates that you receive at graduation. (**Some monies will not be awarded to you unless you can show proof with the scholarship certificate that you actually received it.)** You will also want to have a file for each college you have narrowed down. In these files you will keep your scholarships and financial aid packages that you receive from each college. Make copies of all papers you return to colleges, especially acceptances of scholarships and grants, residence hall applications, receipts, etc. This may help you in the event that the colleges misplace some important information.
* If you are needing recommendations DO NOT ask the day you need it. You should give the recommender at least 2 weeks in advance notice. You need to be able to tell the recommender about yourself and what the requirements for the scholarship. I will attach some recommendation information to the email.
* Note that the Boone and Nance County Cattleman Scholarship is due January 15. The other Local Scholarship applications are due – PRINTED OFF – to me by March 1.
* Now you are ready to begin. It’s all downhill from here. Let me know if I can help you!

Good Luck!

Mrs. Cruise

