

District Authority Scholarships 2022 – 2023

Fraser Valley Region

DAS Updates for 2022/2023:

*Due to some suggestions that have been made over the last year, the biggest change for this year will be a **single point of entry and single due date** for all applicant's registrations, documentation, and portfolios.*

- A. The process will remain digital with all documents being submitted through the registration portal using the link found on the application itself.*
- B. Students will need a Google mail account to upload all their documents. There is not a budget to create another online application system. Google is cost effective, but to upload files Google forms requires an email in their system.*
- C. The students will also need to **SCAN** creating a PDF in advance of going online to fill out the form, in order to upload online the following documents:*
 - I. Student's personal letter of application*
 - II. The letter of reference (verified at the school level)*
 - III. the Evidence and Documentation list page 4/5*
 - IV. the signed Verification page 6*
- D. The students will need to house their digital portfolio on a website/webpage and provide the link as part of the application process. The adjudicators are not judging the webpage layout, but the required evidence should be clearly identifiable (labelled) with no additional material.*

1. Procedure

- a.** All registrations and portfolio submissions are **Due April 5, 2023**
- b.** All portfolios will be digital in the form of a Web link, (Short form), and be submitted using the link provided in the application package. Again, all students will need to use a Google mail account to complete the process.
- c.** Letters of reference were always submitted sealed in the past and that is now changed
 - i.** Schools will be verifying they are authentic when signing the verification form
 - ii.** Students will scan them as described below for submission along with other documents
- d.** Interviews may take place as indicated in the application for some Specialty areas/categories only, at the discretion of the adjudicators
- e.** The counsellors or school contacts the students fill out on their online registration are very important
 - i.** All information will be sent to those designated school contacts only
 - ii.** A confirmation list of students will be sent to the school shortly after April 5
 - iii.** Follow up is the school's responsibility to let the director know via the following email that there is an issue **DAS2023@holycross.bc.ca**
 - iv.** The cut off for corrections to applications will be April 14
 - v.** Encourage students to follow directions carefully and have all documentation ready before going online to register and submit, to make it easier
- f. Registration**
 - i.** The biggest errors are generally made in data entry

- ii. The PENs must be correct and all contact information so the Ministry can issue the awards to any winners in the fall. Please encourage students to take their time and fill all information in accurately

g. Portfolios

- i. Web links must be used for digital portfolios to ensure reliability and consistency. **They must use shortened URLs only**
- ii. The strength of the portfolio is critical especially in non-interview categories
- iii. The evidence provided is all that adjudicator must decide among many worthy candidates
 - 1. Clarity is important, make it easy for the adjudicator
 - 2. Specificity, make sure the evidence aligns with the category you are applying in.
 - 3. Videos etc. must be easy to navigate and identify the applicant, quality matters take time to make sure it is worthy of the award
 - 4. Follow the guidelines for the category

h. Adjudicators are Volunteers:

- i. At times there are issues with the awards given
- ii. Remember adjudicators are making judgements or decisions which won't always match what the school might think. Once we announce the winners to the schools there is no appeal process and thus very difficult to make changes as all available awards have been assigned
- iii. If a parent or student complains remember again this is a judgement issue and the folks doing the adjudicating are volunteering their time and doing their best. That message needs to stay consistent to avoid conflicts or issues later
- iv. We are all in this together for the sake of all the students and trying to award these scholarships impartially

i. New Adjudicators:

- i. We always need new volunteers any school with interested parties email them to the DAS2023@holycross.bc.ca
- ii. I will send out a form for volunteers to the school contacts in the new year to create a new adjudicator contact/list
- iii. Even those who have done it for years need to fill that out so I know they are available and can plan accordingly.

- 2. Thank you all for your efforts. We are doing this for the students, and it is a worthy cause. If you have questions, please email me.

Thank you!
Chris Blesch