Mellen School Counseling Department

Not all scholarship matching services and scholarship providers are out to help students. How can you tell a legitimate program from a scam? Think about these thoughts when trying to decide. A legitimate scholarship sponsor or service sends information about awards when you request it; makes contact information available upon request and **does not guarantee** you will win an award. Legitimate sponsors know that financial aid information is free and readily available in financial aid offices, libraries and on the Internet. A scholarship scammer will offer an award for which you did not apply, does not release the company’s contact information, guarantees you will win an award and requires personal financial information (such as credit card numbers or checking account numbers) to verify or hold a scholarship. **Make it a rule not to spend money in order to be considered for scholarships or scholarship searches**. Talk to counselors already knowledgeable about these areas before you spend the money. The best sources of funding are available at no cost from student services offices, reference sections of libraries or the financial aid office of the college the student is planning to attend. Mellen School Staff do no promote any scholarship that requires more than a minimal entry fee to participate. If you receive notification of more than a minimal entry fee to participate, if you receive notification of an award program that interests you but you question it, bring the materials to the school counseling office for advice on its legitimacy.

