

## **Hamilton County High School Scholarships Common Application**

*Select the scholarship you are applying for from the drop-down menu:*

\*requires additional application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    First                                    Middle                                    Last

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number living in household: \_\_\_\_\_ Number in college: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Annual Household Income (mark one):

\_\_\_\_\_ Less than \$10,000                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$30,000 – \$39,999

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10,000 – \$19,999                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$40,000 – \$49,999

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20,000 – \$29,999                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$50,000 – or more

Have you applied for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Approved for Federal Financial Aid? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

High School Academic courses (including Dual Enrollment):

9<sup>th</sup> Grade:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10<sup>th</sup> Grade:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11<sup>th</sup> Grade:


12<sup>th</sup> Grade:


High School Vocational/Elective courses (including Dual Enrollment):

9<sup>th</sup> Grade:


10<sup>th</sup> Grade:


11<sup>th</sup> Grade:


12<sup>th</sup> Grade:


Intended Field of Study:

College or Vocational/Technical School of Choice:

Have you applied? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you been accepted? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

*Respond to the following items on a separate sheet of paper. Items must be typed. Respond to each item completely.*

1. List your interests, activities, awards, offices held, employment, etc.; which have contributed to your development (Can be in the format of a Resume).
2. Choose one interest or activity listed in item one and explain how that interest or activity has most influenced your development.
3. Describe both your short and long-term goals.
4. In addition to need; why should you be considered for this scholarship?

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Unweighted GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Weighted GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

SAT Scores: Math \_\_\_\_\_ Verbal: \_\_\_\_\_ Overall: \_\_\_\_\_


ACT Scores: English: \_\_\_\_\_ Math: \_\_\_\_\_ Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Science: \_\_\_\_\_

Overall: \_\_\_\_\_

SAMPLE

# SARAI ALDAMA-VAQUERO

Jennings, FL, 32053 

Phone 

@gmail.com 



## OBJECTIVE

To attend The University of South Florida, in order to obtain a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.



## EDUCATION

**Hamilton County High School, Jasper, FL 32056**

AUGUST 20 – PRESENT; EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE – MAY 20, 2022

Unweighted GPA: 3.8491

Weighted GPA: 4.8491

North Florida Community College, Madison, FL

JANUARY 2021 – PRESENT

Unweighted GPA: 4.00

**Hamilton County High School, Jasper, FL 32056**

AUGUST 20 – DECEMBER 20; 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**North Hamilton Elementary School, Jennings, FL 32053**

AUGUST 20 – DECEMBER 20; KINDERGARTEN – 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



## EXPERIENCE

**Warehouse Worker | The Farm at Quail Branch**

APRIL 2020 – MAY 2021

Sorted blueberries, stacked containers, and packaged products.

**Food Truck Worker | Ricky's Chicken**

NOVEMBER 2021 – PRESENT

Clean area, take orders, and prepare plates.



## AWARDS/ RECOGNITIONS/ SKILLS

### AWARDS/ RECOGNITIONS

- Merit/ Honor Roll Student
- Ranked 9<sup>th</sup> of HCHS 2022 graduating class, Summa Cum Laude
- Student of the Month: 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Hamilton County High Soccer Coaches' Award: 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- Gopher Tortoise Project: 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Published Poet: 7<sup>th</sup> grade

- Social Media Strategist Certification: 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- Adobe Certified Professional in Visual Design Using Adobe Photoshop: 12<sup>th</sup> grade

### SKILLS

- Bilingual (Spanish and English)
- Determined
- Diligent
- Time-management
- Multi-tasker



## ACTIVITIES

### LEADERSHIP

- National BETA Club
  - Junior Beta Member: Inducted 5<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Senior Beta Member: Inducted 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- Student Government Association
  - SGA Member: 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- Hispanic Heritage Club
  - Member: 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- National Society of High School Scholars
  - NSHSS Member: 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

### Community Service

- Old County Jail: 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Cleaned
  - Preparation, Set-Up
  - Actress
- Ranch: 11<sup>th</sup> grade – Present
  - Tend to the animals
  - Groom the horses
  - Feed the animals
- Hamilton County's REC Center: 12<sup>th</sup> grade- Present
  - Work the concession stand
  - Take Orders
  - Prepare orders

### Extra-Curricular

- Soccer
  - Hamilton County High School
    - Middle School Team
      - 7<sup>th</sup> grade
    - Junior Varsity
      - 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade
    - Varsity
      - 8<sup>th</sup> – Present
        - Captain: 11<sup>th</sup>-12 grade
  - CYSA Travel Team
    - U17 – U19
      - Present (12<sup>th</sup> grade)

**2. Choose one interest or activity listed in item one and explain how that interest or activity has most influenced your development.**

I began playing soccer my 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. I wasn't sure what I got myself into. I didn't know if I was going to make the team, as this was my first time ever even touching a ball. We all huddled up, stretched, and started running. As I was sweating, I thought maybe I'm not cut out for this. Maybe this isn't the place for me. However, that sense of doubt pushed me to do better, to not give up. I ran every lap of those drenching miles. I ran those bleachers, even as my legs felt like they were going to break. I passed the ball against the wall endlessly, in order to better my touches and footwork.

Even as I did all this, I realized that I needed to not only better myself, I had to help my teammates as well. Soccer is a team sport, which is only enhanced if we worked cohesively. I met the best people through soccer: Jessica, Gabby, Jordan, Omar, and Coach Black. My teammates taught me to enjoy myself, laugh, in even the toughest moments. Pain is only temporary. Coach Black taught me to stay positive, to not let anger and negative emotions control me.

They guided me into becoming a better person, in and off the field. Academically, they showed me to not settle with what is offered, to look beyond the options given. Mentally, soccer taught me to stay calm—to control my emotions, to breathe. Physically, soccer taught me the importance of my long-term health and fitness.

We reveled in every win and we learned from our losses. Every loss is something learned, I now take a loss as a learning experience. I have challenged myself by playing against people that were better—including the boys' soccer team, Sunday League players, and travel ball

players. I took this head-on, at times it did feel like I wasn't going to make it. I felt as if I wasn't progressing, getting better. However, I pushed myself, over and over again, until I couldn't walk. I realized that to better myself, I must put in the work. I learned to keep going, because the long-term goal isn't achieved overnight. A goal is something that one must keep working on day after day, until its reached.

### 3. Describe both your short and long-term goals.

Civil engineers focus on the designing, planning, and analysis of an infrastructure.

Growing up, I looked at the railroad tracks—how they were all connected and dispersed onto their own route. I noticed the differences in the roads in big cities compared to the ones in small towns. I saw the differences between how homes and buildings were built.

I have been accepted to attend the University of South Florida and plan on graduating with my bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. As I am completing my college courses, I plan to internship with construction companies, due to it will help me long-term. I desire to have plenty of hands-on experience, which will help me after college. The more I learn, the better prepared I will be for my future. I want to gain skills with electric, carpentry, flooring, roofing, cement, and plumbing companies. In order for me to be an efficient civil engineer, I must know the in-and-outs of the structure. Interning with different professions and experts will also help me network and offer me many opportunities for growth. It is going to take a lot of hard-strenuous work; however, this does not push me away from my goals. I am reassured that the Class of 2009 Memorial Scholarship will assist me to be in the best possible financial situation for my goals.

After graduating, I plan to get a job and continue to work towards my master's degree. Whether this means taking one to two classes per semester. I plan to work for a construction company for 4 to 5 years, until I learn enough to be able to execute technical production on my own. Afterwards, I plan to work for the state of Florida—by planning roads, bridges, railways, and building systems. Further along the line, I want to work as a contractor, which will eventually lead me to start my own company.



Long-term, I plan to work as a contractor and renovator: buying real estate and homes to restore them. Eventually, I want this to help me establish my own construction company, that helps people and my community. My ultimate goal is to build a house for my sister and brother—something that we can call our own. Growing up, we moved from house to house. It wasn't an ideal situation but we made the best of it. We got used to moving, never unpacking our stuff from the boxes, just putting it back in. I always dreamed of having my own home, my own room, and my own kitchen. My community has been filled with rundown houses and children roam in uninhabitable conditions. Holes in the floor, water leaking through the roofs, exposed wires, uneven floors, and pests' infestations. These types of homes are all over my county. These types of homes are all lower-income families can afford. I must change this. I want to build houses for Hamilton County families without a livable home, at no cost. I know this is going to take a lot of hard work, however I will do this with the help of this scholarship.

#### 4. In addition to need; why should you be considered for this scholarship?

The fields are arranged into “perfect” lines. All I see is miles of green, little red fruits sticking out, and the smell of dirt. I have arrived at the strawberry fields. Early in the morning, before the sun comes up, you can feel the fresh breeze against your skin. This is my favorite time to pick, as it isn’t yet baked by the stinging rays of the sun. The faster and more you pick, the better your pay. In a family of six, it was best to work yourself to the point of exhaustion, in order to help provide for our family. At the age of ten, I started working in the local fields to help my mom with the house bills. Working there, I realized I had to push for more—for my mom and siblings. I do not want her in the stinging-hot-sun for the rest of her life. She made sure my siblings and I had everything we needed for a future. I made sure this did not go to waste.

My name is Sarai Aldama-Vaquero. I was born in Gainesville, FL to Elia Cerro, my mom. I grew up in a family of six and raised by a single mother of Mexican descent. Coming from an immigrant family has many challenges.

When I was in second grade, my father was deported, and my life was forever changed. Growing up, my mom worked all the time—she still does. When times are a little rougher, I help my mom with the bills. I make sure that my siblings don’t go without food, I don’t want them to ever see an empty fridge. When I was a young, an empty fridge was normal. We lived paycheck to paycheck and hunger was not unfamiliar to us. As I got older, life improved. My siblings and I were able to help my mom with the bills and the daily-work around the house. My mom taught me to work hard. She taught me to set my mind and to not give up. When I feel like giving up, I can hear her say “*lo tienes hija, no te rindas*” (you got this, don’t give up). I constantly push myself in school. I take honors, AP, and dual-enrollment courses to further my education. I participated in sports, school clubs, organizations, and community events. These experiences

have taught me to always strive for more, to appreciate what we have and to navigate difficult situations.

My family cannot afford to install internet at the house. This became an issue my ninth-grade year—it's still an issue—due to I started online classes. In spite of this, I did not push my mom to cut even more costs for this, I found another way. To this day, I spent countless hours at my local library. It's open Monday through Fridays from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. After the library is closed and on the weekends, I park in the parking lot and work on my dual-enrollment assignments. In regard to my education, I always made it my priority and found a way to get things done. No excuses!

Gaining my college education with the help of the Class of 2009 Memorial Scholarship will assist me with achieving my short and long-term goals. It will also help me contribute to my community, Hamilton County. Jennings is filled with uninhabitable homes. As a civil engineer, I want to help create a safe, comfortable, and livable homes for children and families. I want to make my community and mom proud as a first-generation college student. I also want to teach kids and young girls that they can do everything they set their mind to. To not settle. I want the kids in my community to know they can receive a higher graduation after high school. That they can do the same—that they can do better than I did. In spite of their circumstances, to not make excuses.