



2017-2018 Gerstner Scholars Program Overview

Program Summary

The Gerstner Scholars Program at the Catholic Schools Foundation (CSF) will provide up to 5 scholarships of \$6,500 each, or the full cost of tuition (whichever is less), to high performing, financially needy 8th graders who currently attend Catholic elementary schools and are accepted to the Class of 2022 at select schools in the Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB).

Gerstner scholarships must not be used to offset current support provided through the CSF Scholars program, Hispanic Recruitment program, or any other existing scholarship programs. Scholarships will be guaranteed at the same level for four years provided the student recipients maintain performance and reporting requirements.

Nomination Process

- All RCAB Catholic elementary school principals are invited to nominate up to two current 8th graders with demonstrated financial need who are applying for admission to the Class of 2022 in one or more of the following high schools:
 - *Academy of Notre Dame High School, Tyngsboro*
 - *Austin Preparatory School, Reading*
 - *Boston College High School, Dorchester*
 - *Central Catholic High School, Lawrence*
 - *Fontbonne Academy, Milton*
 - *Newton Country Day School, Newton*
 - *Saint John's Preparatory School, Danvers*
 - *St. Sebastian's School, Needham*
 - *Ursuline Academy, Dedham*
 - *Xaverian Brothers High School, Westwood*
- Nominees should exemplify what it means to be Catholic elementary school graduates, one who:
 - Excels academically
 - Displays leadership
 - Demonstrates potential for success
 - Exhibits resilience
 - Presents him or herself proudly in the schools and community.
- Principal nomination forms and applications will be made available on CSF's online grant platform on **October 2, 2017**.
- Nomination forms and applications are due **December 1, 2017** and will require the following:
 - Principal Nomination Form
 - Student Personal Statement
 - High School Placement Test Scores
 - Most Recent Standardized Test Scores
 - Most Recent Report Card
 - Teacher Recommendation Letter
 - Most Recent School Picture



Selection Process

- A selection committee will review applications the week of **December 4, 2017** to select finalists;
- Nominees will be notified whether they have been selected for interviews later that week;
- The selection committee will interview students on **December 13, 2017** at the CSF office and make final selections;
- High schools will be notified of Gerstner Scholars by **December 18, 2017** and Gerstner Scholars will be notified of their distinction through the high school acceptance letters. If a Gerstner Scholar is not accepted by an eligible school or does not qualify for need-based aid, then the scholarship will be made available to a student placed on the Gerstner Scholars waiting list.

Expectations of Gerstner Scholars

- Students, their families, and at least one representative from their high school must attend the announcement of the Gerstner Scholarship Awards at CSF and Gerstner Scholars Mass and Reception at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross each year;
- Mid-year and final report cards must be submitted each year by the student's high school along with a summary of his or her activities and involvement;
- Students must maintain a cumulative average that equates to an 85% or higher. If a student falls below this average a meeting will be held at the school to notify the student and devise a clear and agreed upon action plan to meet the academic requirement. Scholarship support will be rescinded if the cumulative average falls below 85% for the entire year;
- Students must demonstrate active participation in at least two extra-curricular activities, which can include school clubs, sports, outside employment, or other activities during the year that demonstrate their desire for growth beyond just academic success. At least one activity must be school sponsored. If students are not engaged in the life of the community, a conference will be held to devise a clear and agreed upon action plan to meet the scholarship requirement before year-end. If no effort is shown, the scholarship will be rescinded;
- A personal letter from the student will be sent after the second semester along with a year-end letter to the Gerstner Family Foundation. The letters provide an update on their activities in and outside of school;
- An annual meeting with representatives of the Gerstner Family Foundation will be held with the Gerstner Scholars so the students may update the Foundation on their progress;
- Upon graduation, former scholars will continue to be invited to attend the annual meeting with the family. The graduates will also continue to be tracked as part of CSF's general tracking process for graduating scholars;
- If a student withdraws or loses eligibility for any reason, the scholarship is rescinded and the Catholic Schools Foundation must be notified in writing as to the reason.