



## High School Inspirational Scholarship Fund

### Program Summary

The High School Inspirational Fund is a merit and need-based scholarship program designed to build the minds and change the lives of the brightest and most in-need Catholic elementary school graduates.

The High School Inspirational Fund at the Catholic Schools Foundation (CSF) will provide up to 20 scholarships of \$10,000 each, or the full cost of tuition (whichever is less), to high performing, financially in-need 8<sup>th</sup> graders who attend Catholic elementary schools (grades PK-8) and are accepted at select high schools in the Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB). Five scholarship recipients will be chosen for the class of 2025.

Scholarships from the High School Inspirational Fund will not be used to offset current support provided through the CSF Scholars 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.

### High School Inspirational Fund Scholar Criteria

Students will exemplify what it means to be Catholic school student:

- Excel academically
- Display leadership
- Demonstrate potential for success
- Exhibit resilience
- Present him or herself proudly in school and the community.

### Selection Process

- All RCAB Catholic elementary school principals are invited to nominate up to two current 8<sup>th</sup> graders with demonstrated financial need who are applying for admission to the Class of 2025 to one or more of the following high schools:
  - *Academy of Notre Dame High School, Tyngsboro*
  - *Archbishop Williams High School, Braintree*
  - *Arlington Catholic High School, Arlington*
  - *Austin Preparatory School, Reading*
  - *Boston College High School, Dorchester*
  - *Catholic Memorial School, West Roxbury*
  - *Mount Alvernia High School, Newton*
  - *Newton Country Day School, Newton*
  - *Notre Dame Academy, Hingham*
  - *Saint John's Preparatory School, Danvers*
  - *St. Sebastian's School, Needham*
  - *Ursuline Academy, Dedham*
  - *Xaverian Brothers High School, Westwood*
- Nominees should meet the Scholar criteria outlined above.
- ES principal nomination forms and applications will be made available via SMAApply on **November 2, 2020**
- Nomination forms and applications are due **December 1, 2020** to CSF 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
  - FY21 or FY22 FACTS application demonstrating financial need and in line with CSF scholarship recipient income parameters.

- A selection committee will review applications and select finalists by **December 4, 2020**;
- Finalists will be notified whether they have been selected for interviews by **December 8, 2020**;
- The selection committee will interview student finalists via Zoom on **December 14, 2020**.
- High schools will be notified of High School Inspirational Fund Scholars Class of 2025 by **December 18, 2020** and High School Inspirational Fund Scholars will be notified of their distinction through the high school acceptance letters.
- CSF will also notify all finalists by **February 1, 2021**.
- If a High School Inspirational Fund 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 High School Inspirational Fund Scholars waiting list.

#### Expectations of High School Inspirational Fund Scholars

- Students, their families, and at least one representative from their high school must attend any CSF event for the High School In Scholars;
- 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 CSF. The letters provide an update on their activities in and outside of school;
- An annual meeting will be held with CSF donors to the High School Inspirational Fund so the students may update the donors on their progress;
- Upon graduation, former scholars will continue to be invited to attend the annual meeting with donors. 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.