



2024 Senior Scholarship Information

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO ALL SCHOLARSHIPS

LEAF, Lansing Promise, and the Lansing School District are offering a variety of scholarships to graduating seniors enrolled in the Lansing School District. Students only need to submit one application by Friday, April 5, 2024. Students will be considered for scholarships by the LEAF/Promise Scholarship Committee. Scholarship money may be used for tuition, books, lab fees, computer or laptop, and/or housing at all 4-year colleges/universities. Lansing Promise recipients attending Lansing Community College will get a cash award to cover their college expenses not covered by the Promise Scholarship. All cash awards will be taxed and will require a W-9 submission.

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Earned a 3.0 GPA unless otherwise stated
- Submit a personal statement - helpful tips on page 5
- Submit 2 letters of recommendation
- Submit an acceptance letter from an accredited college/ university or post-secondary program
- Student must submit a complete LEAF Scholarship Application

Award recipients will be notified by April 26, 2024. If you have questions or need more information, contact your high school counselor or Mrs. Bernero, the Lansing Promise/LEAF Scholarship Director at bernero@lansingpromise.org or call (517) 775-0094.

Two ways to access the 2024 LEAF Scholarship Application

Click here:
<https://forms.gle/ESi5ypXTPTfejqaBA>

Scan the QR Code:



All applications must be done electronically.

LEAF SCHOLARSHIPS

- John Aldinger 4 Year Educational Scholarship: (2) \$1000.00 award for 4 years**
- Priority will be given to students with high financial need who do not have any other funds available.

South Lansing Kiwanis Scholarship: \$1000.00 award



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Joan Weaver Visual Arts Scholarship: \$1000.00 award

Joan Weaver was an arts teacher for many years in the Lansing School District.

- Students must major in the visual arts.

Clayton Kowalk Athletic/Coaching Scholarship: \$1000.00 award

Mr. Kowalk retired after 35 years of service with the Lansing Schools as a teacher, coach and Director of Coaching at Sexton High School. His Sexton basketball team had two State Championships.

- Student must have an interest in pursuing a degree in the field of physical education, coaching, athletics, athletic training or teaching.
- Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Dr. Laurence MacQueen Scholarship: \$1000.00 award

Dr. MacQueen served on the Lansing Educational Advancement Foundation and was a leader in the Michigan Education Association (MEA).

- Priority will be given to students who are pursuing a career in the field of education.
- Personal Statement must include an answer to the following question, “What characteristics/experiences do I have that will allow me to influence others in a positive manner?”

Maria Velasquez Scholarship: \$500.00 award

- Preference will be given to a student with a migrant family background or to be the first in their family to attend a college or university. This information should be made known in the personal statement.
- Also include community involvement activities and explain how achieving a college degree will assist in their future endeavors.

Mark Mehaffey Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship: \$1000.00 award

Mark Mehaffey is a local artist and retired Lansing School District art teacher.

- Students applying should show potential for leadership and have a grade point average of at least 2.0.
- Students must be pursuing a degree in either visual or performing arts.
- The scholarship may be used for art supplies, tuition for visual arts classes, materials or lab fees.

Eva Evans Scholarship: \$500.00 award

To assist graduating seniors from the Lansing School District to pursue a higher education in visual and performing arts.



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Cecil Nickel Scholarship: (2) \$2500.00 awards

Mr. Nickel was a physical education teacher and coach and a phenomenal supporter of Sexton's youth.

- Students must be enrolled at Sexton High School.
- This scholarship is distributed and selected by an independent committee.

Dr. Richard Halik Scholarship: \$1000.00 award

Dr. Halik retired from the Lansing School District after serving as a superintendent for many years. The scholarship rotates between the three high schools. The scholarship will go to an Eastern student this year.

- This award is for students who will be attending Lansing Community College, with a grade point average of 2.0-2.9, and have a need for financial assistance.
- The student is chosen by the building principal.

Dr. E. Sharon Banks: \$500.00 award

Dr. E. Sharon Banks retired from the Lansing School District in 2007 after serving several years as the superintendent.

This scholarship is to enable graduating seniors of the Lansing School District to continue an educational journey in the field of education.

Cindy Short Memorial Scholarship: \$500.00 award

Cindy was the Athletic Director at Everett High School for many years.

- Priority will be given to students who have been involved in and would like to continue to pursue additional education in the field of education and/or athletics.
- This scholarship is distributed and selected by an independent committee.

J's Custom Graphic Design: \$1000.00 award

Jason Betcher, 2006 graduate of Everett High School was the creator and owner of J's Custom in Lansing, MI. Dean Betcher, Jason's father, has established this Scholarship Award in honor of his late son, Jason.

- The recipient must be an Everett graduate pursuing Graphic Design.
- Student must plan to attend a 2 year or 4-year college.
- This scholarship recipient is selected by the family.

Dr. W. E. Maldonado/Sparrow Scholarship: \$1000.00 award

Dr. Maldonado is a retired former Chief of Medical Affairs at Sparrow Hospital.

- Only students that are enrolled in a medical/health career pathway will be considered.
- Priority will be given to students who have volunteered or already attended classes that pertain to a medical field.



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LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS



Silker Scholarship: \$3000.00 award

McLean Scholarship: \$3000.00 award

Letts Scholarship: \$3000.00 award

Windfuhr Scholarship: \$3000.00 award

Spitler Scholarship: (2) \$2500.00 award for Eastern graduates

Hebbard Scholarship: (up to 10) \$3000.00 award for Sexton graduates

Hinman Scholarship: \$2500.00 award for each high school’s valedictorian. Also, top of class for Lansing Learning Hub and CAK12 Online Academy.

Putnam Scholarship: \$3000.00 award for a senior interested in a career in education.

Wheeler Scholarship: (2) \$2000.00 awards for Eastern graduates who show EHS pride, athleticism, and have demonstrated community service. This scholarship is selected by the Eastern Awards Committee and is given in memory of Mr. Wheeler and Olive, former Eastern teachers.

LANSING PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS



Lisa Daman Scholarship: (2) \$2500.00 award for Sexton graduates

William D. Bishop: \$3000.00 award for a Sexton graduate interested in pursuing a career in music.

Tips on Writing a Personal Statement

Writing a personal statement for a scholarship requires careful planning and reflection to effectively communicate your experiences, achievements, goals, and aspirations to the scholarship committee. Here are some steps you can follow. Check off each one as you go.

- Understand the Prompt: Read the scholarship application instructions and prompt carefully. Make sure you understand what the scholarship committee is looking for in applicants and what specific questions or topics you need to address in your personal statement.
- Brainstorm Ideas: Reflect on your personal and academic experiences, achievements, challenges that you have overcome, goals, and aspirations. Consider how these experiences have led you to this moment and influenced your educational and career goals.
- Outline Your Statement: Create an outline to organize your thoughts and structure your personal statement. Include an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Each paragraph should focus on a specific aspect of your life, experiences, or goals.
- Craft a Compelling Introduction: Start your personal statement with a strong opening that grabs the reader's attention. You can use an engaging anecdote, a thought-provoking question, or a powerful statement to draw the reader in and make them want to learn more about you.
- Highlight Your Achievements and Experiences: In the body paragraphs, provide specific examples and anecdotes to illustrate your achievements, experiences, skills, and strengths. If relevant, discuss any challenges or obstacles you have faced and how you have overcome them. Show, rather than just tell, the scholarship committee why you deserve the scholarship and how you have demonstrated your potential for success.
- Connect Your Experiences to the Scholarship Criteria: Make sure to address the specific criteria outlined in the scholarship application prompt. Explain how your experiences, achievements, and goals align with the goals and values of the scholarship organization.
- Be Genuine and Authentic: Write in your own voice and be honest and genuine about your experiences, aspirations, and motivations. Avoid exaggerating or embellishing your achievements, as the scholarship committee can usually tell when applicants are being insincere.
- Edit and Revise: Once you have written a draft of your personal statement, take the time to revise and edit it carefully. Seek feedback from teachers, mentors, or peers to get additional perspectives. Have them check for grammar and spelling errors, ensure clarity and coherence, and make sure your statement flows well from one paragraph to the next.
- Finalize Your Statement: Make any final revisions and proofread your personal statement one last time before submitting it with your scholarship application. Ensure that you have followed all formatting and submission guidelines provided by the scholarship organization.

Here are four Personal Statements that may be helpful to review:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GNniLLlyuBe8SNrCjiOwZjmXgH59LSV/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101567842886131739171&rtpof=true&sd=true>