



Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

Heart of FIRE Scholarship For Graduating Eighth Graders

Each year, the FIRE Foundation honors students who have demonstrated a *Heart of FIRE* through their support of peers with special needs as friends and classmates.

More than two decades since our founding, it is clear that inclusive education positively impacts not only the lives of young men and women with special needs, but the lives of their peers as well. We consistently hear about past students who are studying to become special education teachers or therapists. Some are pursuing career paths in business or other fields and aspire to create more inclusive employment opportunities. Parents frequently share stories about the impact inclusive education has had on the lives of their sons and daughters as they journey into their adult lives.

The FIRE Board of Directors is pleased to award the *Heart of FIRE* Scholarship to one or more graduating eighth grade students at FIRE partner schools. As you continue your education at an area Catholic high school, the Board wishes to recognize your commitment to inclusive education with a scholarship of up to \$1,000.

It is our hope that recipients of the scholarship will someday return to their parish schools and communities as parishioners, teachers, therapists, administrators, religious or parents and continue to share their *Hearts of FIRE* as they keep our mission burning bright.

Scholarship Guidelines and Directions

1. Award recipients will be determined by a FIRE Board Committee.
2. Graduating eighth grade applicants will submit scholarship entries to the FIRE Office by **Monday, March 25, 2019**. Email submissions to fire@diocesekcsj.org with name, current school, phone number and address and the name of the Greater Kansas City area Catholic high school* you are planning to attend. Please attach your entry documents in Word or PDF format. **(No Google docs please.)** You can also mail entries to FIRE, 20 West 9th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105.
3. Scholarship Entries
 - ✓ Submit a typed **essay** (not to exceed 500 words) describing / demonstrating the impact that inclusive education has made on your life and how your experiences will impact the lives of others as well as your future decisions and direction.
 - ✓ The review committee will evaluate sincerity, content of message, creativity and polish of final product.
 - ✓ A recommendation completed by a teacher, administrator, coach or other adult who knows you well (no immediate family) must be submitted for entry to be considered. *(See page 2 for additional details.)*
4. Scholarship winners will be notified on a date selected by your school administration. Principals will be notified of award recipient(s) by April 18, 2019.
5. Winning entry(ies) will receive an award of up to \$1,000 for tuition/fees at the student's chosen Catholic high school*.
6. FIRE reserves the right to post and publish entries on the Foundation's publications, website and Facebook.

**Can be a Diocesan high school or an area private Catholic high school.*



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RECOMMENDATION
for Heart of FIRE Scholarship
for Graduating Eighth Graders

Each year, the FIRE Foundation honors students who have demonstrated a *Heart of FIRE* through their support of students with special needs as friends and classmates. The FIRE Foundation Board is seeking input from an adult who knows each applicant and has observed the student's commitment to being inclusive at school, in their parish and community.

- ✓ **DEADLINE.** Recommendations are due on **Monday, March 25, 2019.**
- ✓ **SUBMISSION.** You may use this form and mail recommendations to FIRE, 20 W. 9th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105 or you may email recommendations to fire@diocesekcsj.org. If you're emailing, you can complete/scan/attach this form OR simply provide the requested information in the text of your email.
- ✓ **RECOMMENDATIONS ARE REQUIRED.** Please follow through and complete your recommendation on or before the deadline so your student's entry will be considered for a high school scholarship award of up to \$1,000.
- ✓ **MULTIPLE RECOMMENDATIONS.** It is acceptable for one individual to submit recommendations for more than one student.

Name of student you are recommending _____

Your name _____

Your relationship to this student _____
(teacher, principal, neighbor, coach, family friend, etc.)

Years you have known him/her _____ Your phone number _____

Please tell us how this student demonstrates his/her support of peers with special needs as friends and classmates. Try to cite specific examples that illustrate his/her Heart of FIRE. Please try to limit your response to 350 words or less, if possible.