

*2021 Helen Whalen Higher Education Scholarship
Presented by the Oak Lawn-Hometown PTA Council*

Dear current high school senior and former District 123 student,

The Oak Lawn-Hometown PTA Council will award **two** \$1,000 scholarships in honor of Helen Whalen, a dedicated volunteer in District 123 schools and the PTA many years ago. Students who meet the following criteria may apply:

- Graduating high school senior
- Ranks in the upper 50% of their graduating class at the end of the first semester of senior year
- Plans to attend a community college, university or trade school
- Has attended at least **four** school years in the District 123 school system.

To apply for this scholarship, send application to the address below. All components of this scholarship application must be sent in together, **including transcripts, and postmarked no later than **Wednesday, March 31, 2021.****

Use the attached checklist to ensure you have completed all parts of the application. The application may also be downloaded from any of the District 123 schools' webpages at D123.org under "2021 Helen Whalen Scholarship".

Mail your ENTIRE APPLICATION package to:

PTA Council Scholarship Committee
% Oak Lawn-Hometown School District Office - Diane Taylor
4201 W. 93rd Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Winners will be notified before May 1, 2021. All applicants will be notified after the winners have been selected.

Sincerely,

PTA Council Scholarship Chair
Diane Taylor
dianet822@gmail.com

COVINGTON * HANNUM * HOMETOWN * KOLMAR * SWARD * OLHMS

Application checklist

Use this checklist to be sure you complete all parts of the application. These are the pages that should be returned as one package and postmarked by **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**.

- Personal Information page
- Student/Parent Signature page
- Principal/Counselor Signature page
- Official high school transcripts
- Typed Essay-No name should be on essay

Helen Whalen Higher Education Scholarship

Personal Information Page

Personal Information Page

Applicant Name: _____

Name of Current High School: _____

High School Honors/Activities (*Leadership, clubs, athletics, special academic honors, etc.*)

Other Activities (*Scouts, volunteer work, church groups, etc.*)

Hobbies or Special Interests/Employment Experience, if any

(*Include responsibilities, participation year in HS and any leadership roles in that club*)

| <i>Description of High School Activity/Club, Community Involvement, Hobbies, Interest or employment</i> | Member year 9/10/11/12 | List Leader position & year held if any | Name and email of Moderator to confirm information |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
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Universities/Community Colleges/ Trade School Applied To:

College Major/Intended Career Path:

Add additional page if necessary

Helen Whalen Higher Education Scholarship
Student/Parent Signature Page

I certify that if I am awarded this scholarship, I will attend an accredited institution of higher education, at which I will use this scholarship to help pay expenses.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

I certify that if my son/daughter,

_____, is awarded this scholarship, he/she will attend an accredited institution of higher education.

I understand these and all statements will be kept confidential by the scholarship committee.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

*Helen Whalen Higher Education Scholarship
Principal/Counselor Signature Page*

I certify that _____ (student name),
who is an applicant for the Helen Whalen Higher Education Scholarship,
will graduate from _____ High School on
_____, 2021. He/she is currently ranked in the top
_____ % of their graduating class. I understand that this information
will be kept confidential by the scholarship committee.

Unweighted GPA _____ Weighted GPA _____

Our School Grade Point Average (GPA) is based on a

4 POINT SCALE

5 POINT SCALE

Principal/Counselor Signature _____

Date _____

Helen Whalen Higher Education Scholarship Essay

*Directions: You have attended District 123 and the District 123 Council PTA is awarding this scholarship because they believe in your efforts, accomplishments, and future. Below is a prompt. Write an essay that connects this prompt to your future goals. Your essay should be typed and kept between 500-700 words in length. Print off the final copy for submission. **Only typed essays will be accepted.** Refer to the attached "Essay Scoring Guidelines" to help you focus your thoughts. It is not necessary to return the scoring guidelines with your typed essay.*

The overall purpose of the National PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Throughout your time in Oak Lawn Hometown School District 123 you have seen numerous examples of how the schools and the PTA work together to give back to the community. Describe how this example has made an impact in your life and how it will help you excel in your near future.

D123 PTA Council Helen Whalen Higher Education Scholarship

Essay Scoring Guidelines

| Area Score | Poor/Fair 1-2 points | Average 3-4 points | Good 5-6 points | Excellent 7 points | Points Awarded |
|---|--|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| Organization | There is no clear introduction of the main topic. Sequence of information is hard to follow. Awkward structure/hard to follow. | The introduction states main topic. There is minimal structure to the essay. Limited support for ideas. | The introduction is effective. There is a logical structure to the essay. Adequate support for ideas. | The topic is narrow and well-defined. The introduction is interesting. Writing is structured. Good support for ideas. | |
| Content | Writing shows no evidence of response to essay question. Limited details included. | Writing shows an attempt to respond to essay question but is not consistent throughout essay. Limited details included. | Writing responds to essay question. Consistently provides evidence and supporting details. | Writing clearly responds to essay question. Exemplary evidence and supporting details are provided consistently. | |
| Voice/Word Choice | Writing is flat, dull, tentative and/or inconsistent. No figurative language present. | Writing is easy to read. Shows limited use of figurative language. | Writing is appropriate for the audience. Shows good use of figurative language. | A lively voice imparts a personal flavor and interest. Words and phrases create powerful images for audience. | |
| Conventions (Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation) | Errors impede understanding. Incorrect punctuation and spelling. Contains 6+ errors. | Some errors in sentence structure affect meaning. Contains 4-5 errors. | A few errors are present, but do not detract from the meaning of the writing. Contains 2-3 errors. | Grammar and usage contribute to clarity and style. Shows a variety of sentence types. No more than 1 error found. | |
| Total points possible= 28 | | | | | |

D123 PTA Council Helen Whalen Higher Education Application Scoring Guidelines

| | Points Possible | CRITERIA | Points Awarded |
|---|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| GPA | 5 | 4 POINT SCALE 5 = A+ 4.5 or above 4 = A 4.25 to 4.49 3 = A- 4.0 to 4.24 2 = B+ 3.75 to 3.99 1 = B 3.74 or below | |
| School Courses (Cumulative as of date of application) | 5 | 5 = 18+ AP/Honors courses 4 = 15-17 AP/Honors courses 3 = 12-14 AP/Honors courses 2 = 9-11 AP/Honors courses 1 = 8 & ↓ AP/Honors courses | |
| Extra-curricular Activities (all years in high school) **Leadership positions can be counted per year then totaled for an overall rating ** ECA (Extra-curricular Activities) are both clubs and sports | 7 | 7 = Held 4-5 or more leadership positions in ECA, noted volunteer work 6 = Held 2-3 leadership positions in ECA, noted volunteer work 5 = Held 1 leadership position in ECA, noted volunteer wk 4 = Held member role in at least 6 ECA, noted volunteer work 3 = Held member role in 3-5 ECA, noted volunteer work 2 = Held 2 or more member positions in ECA, noted volunteer work 1 = Held member role in ECA, <u>no volunteer work</u> noted | |
| ESSAY | 28 | Please use the essay scoring guidelines for awarding points | |
| Total Points Possible | 45 | | |