

The Fundraising Committee
In Memory of Michael Kubiak and Sean Francis McCloskey
To educate students on suicide awareness and prevention

Thank you for your interest in the Michael Kubiak and Sean Francis McCloskey Scholarship Essay Contest. This scholarship is open to all incoming freshmen (accepted for the 2019-2020 school year), current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors currently enrolled in Roman Catholic High School, Mercy Career & Technical High School and Sts. John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School. This is a one-time, \$2,500 scholarship paid directly to the school in the recipient's name, to be used for tuition costs only. If the winning students choose not to enroll in the 2019-2020 academic year, they will forfeit the scholarship and it will be awarded to a runner-up. Each year two new scholarship recipients will be chosen. No student may win the award more than once.

Please read this year's topic below:

Suicide is a serious problem, especially for teens and pre-teens. This committee is dedicated to educating them about the cause and effect of taking one's own life. What do you think causes people to commit suicide and what can we do about it?

Please explore the topic fully. We want to hear your thoughts on suicide prevention and awareness.

Essays should be approximately 1000 words requiring a cover sheet with the following information:

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone number: (cell and home)
- Email Address:
- High School Name:
- Current class: (ex. incoming Freshman, Freshman)
- **Please attach your essay formatted as a Word Document and email it to McCloskeyKubiakEssay@gmail.com**

Essays will be accepted via email from **April 8th, 2019 to May 1st, 2019**. If the essay is not in a Word format, the committee will do its best to convert it. If it cannot be adapted, the committee will make every effort to contact the author to have them resubmit, but ultimately reserves the right to render the essay voided if a resolution cannot be established.

Once submitted, all essays will be assigned a numeric code and the identity of the author will be concealed so they can be presented anonymously to our panel of judges for review. Two winners will be selected from the pool of submissions received across all three participating schools. Winners will be notified by May 10th, 2019.

Good luck and thank you for your submission.

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“The McCloskey- Kubiak Foundation is proudly named after and in memory of Sean McCloskey and Michael Kubiak, both of whom had their lives cut tragically short by suicide. Although Sean and Michael, or “Kub” as he was known to all, differed in age, they knew each other and had family and friends whose lives were intertwined. When Sean passed away in 2011, Kub supported us, his shared family and friends, as we dealt with the loss. When in 2012 we lost Kub, our circle once again heavily relied on each other to get through the loss. It was then that we decided that we needed to do something to honor and remember our sons, our brothers, our cousins, our uncles and our friends. Our goal was to not only help someone out through a scholarship but to also raise awareness of the epidemic that suicide has become. Although we will never know or understand what drove Kub and Sean to do what they did, we hope through our efforts, someone will be spared the anguish we have experienced. And someone who finds themselves trapped in the darkness will instead look for the light.

The foundation awards scholarships to students in select Catholic high schools in Philadelphia. Every year for the past five years, the Foundation has awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to two students in Kub and Sean’s name. The awardees are selected from a pool of essays which are written on topics dealing with suicide prevention. The scholarships themselves are funded mainly through grass roots fund-raising from our volunteers. This has enabled us to fund \$25,000 in scholarships so far and will allow us to continue to do so for the next 5- 10 years.

It is through this foundation that we hope to not only allow Sean and Kub’s memory to live on, but to also keep those who are in distress out of the darkness and to let those who are left behind because of suicide, know they are not alone.”

[Facebook: McCloskey/Kubiak Scholarship page](#)