

Office of Catholic Schools

Diocese of San Bernardino

DR. SAMUEL TORRES
Superintendent

MARIBEL ORTIZ
M. A. Ed
Associate Superintendent

November 2023

Dear Partner School Families,

We would like to invite you to participate in the Bishop's Scholarship opportunity to assist your student in attending Aquinas High School in San Bernardino or Notre Dame High School in Riverside. The Most Reverend Alberto Rojas, Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino, wishes to honor one student from among our Catholic Partner Schools by sponsoring the Bishop's Scholarship.

The Bishop's Scholarship is a four-year merit-based (renewable) scholarship, awarded to a deserving eighth-grade student matriculating from one of the Partner Elementary Schools to Aquinas High School and Notre Dame High School for the Fall of 2024.

Enclosed you will find the details of the scholarship, along with instructions on how to apply. Applications and portfolios must be submitted on time. Note that the application and portfolio submission deadline is **February 16, 2024**. Keep in mind that if a scholarship recipient receives endowment money, the endowment money will be reassigned to another student in need.

The Bishop's Scholarship is the most generous scholarship available to a Partner School student. We would like to see as many students as possible be considered for the scholarship, so please encourage your student to begin the application process immediately. All applications and portfolios must be submitted to your local elementary school Principal by the assigned deadline. Don't miss out on this fine opportunity to see your student honored by our Bishop with a four-year scholarship to attend Catholic High School.

Wishing you God's Blessings,



Dr. Samuel Torres
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Bishop's Scholarship

Application Form
2024-2025 School Year

Applying for _____ High School

Student's Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone(_____) _____ Cell/alt. Phone(_____) _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Email _____

Parish of Attendance _____

Partner School Attended _____

Circle Grades Attended: Pre K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Current GPA _____

Principal/Teacher Signature

Oct 2023

Bishop's Scholarship

2024-2025 School Year

Aquinas High School
Notre Dame High School

The Bishop's Scholarship is a merit-based four-year (renewable) award given annually to an eight-grade student matriculating from a Parish Partner School within the local clusters to Aquinas High School or Notre Dame High School in the Diocese of San Bernardino. The purpose of the Bishop's Scholarship is to honor and financially support a partner school student and family that has dedicated itself to Catholic education. Bishop Rojas wishes to honor some of the finest students attending his Catholic schools, while providing the family with financial support in their pursuit of a quality Catholic education.

Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate how their Catholic K-8 education at the Partner School has contributed to the fulfillment of the Diocesan Mission Statement and how continuing their education at a Catholic high school would contribute to further fulfilling the Mission of the Church of San Bernardino:

We are a Community of Believers in Jesus, the Christ, called to impact Family, Neighborhood and Society with the Gospel so that People's lives are filled with Hope.

Additional Criteria:

- Satisfactory academic progress and demonstrated sound citizenship
- At least four year of attendance in Catholic school
- Maintain satisfactory progress and citizenship during their high school experience for renewal of scholarship

Process

Each year, eighth-grade students from the Partner Schools in the local clusters will be invited to apply for the Bishop's Scholarship by submitting a scholarship application and portfolio addressing the scholarship criteria. One eighth-grade student will be selected each year from among the Partner Schools in each cluster.

Students must register with one of the four high schools to be eligible for the Bishop's Scholarship. Students will receive an application with instructions on how to apply, with deadlines included, and must submit the required application and portfolio to their elementary school's scholarship committee headed by the elementary school principal.

The Partner School Scholarship Committee will select the top three candidates from their school and forward the names and scholarship portfolio to one of the four high schools. The high school Scholarship Committee will select the top three candidates from all Partner Schools applications to be advanced to the Bishops Office. **Only three candidates may be submitted by each high school.**

The finalist may be interviewed by Bishop Rojas or a designee, with the final selection made by the Bishop. The scholarship awardee will be announced at a time of the Bishop's choosing and the final award will be presented to the recipient at an opportunity arranged by each individual high school.

Portfolio Content

A. Letter of Introduction

B. An original creative piece in one of five formats:

- Formal essay addressing scholarship criteria;
- Poster or artwork graphically portraying how the candidate has addressed the scholarship criteria;
- YouTube video demonstrating the scholarship criteria;
- Website with original content describing how the candidate has met the criteria;
- Recording of song, poem, or rap with original content describing how the candidate has met the criteria.

C. Supporting Evidence

- Letters of support;
- Copies of awards and certificates;
- Letters from organization such as Boy/Girl Scouts, parish ministry groups, coaches, or civic organizations.

Deadlines

- Applications and portfolio submitted to Partner School Scholarship Committee by February 16, 2024.
- Selections must be made and submitted to the high school by March 1, 2024.
- Final three selections submitted to the Office of Catholic Schools by March 15, 2024.
- Scholarship announced by May 10, 2024.