



# Leo R. Croce School Scholarship

Rewarding Educational Excellence

High school seniors from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District who have attended Leo R. Croce Elementary for at least 2 years have the opportunity to win a \$5,000 scholarship by applying for the Leo R. Croce School Scholarship.

Finalists will be selected based on written applications and will be invited to a personal interview with the scholarship committee.

Leo R. Croce was the LVJUSD Superintendent from July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1989. Leo R. Croce Elementary School was named in his honor for meritorious service to Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. This scholarship was established by Mr. Croce and is given out in his name annually.

# \$5,000

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## Leo R. Croce

Leo R. (Rudolph) Croce was born in Oakland, California on May 14, 1923. He was the fourth child of Italian immigrant parents. Mr. Croce participated in many youth and community activities and he was an Eagle Scout.

During World War II, he served as a combat bomber pilot in the European theater of the war. Upon completion of his combat missions he was assigned as a flight instructor for Air Force cadets.

Mr. Croce graduated from the University of California at Berkley in 1947. He also received his teaching and administrative credentials and his master's degree from U.C.B.

Mr. Croce began his teaching career in the Oakland (California) Unified School district in July, 1948. During his 24 years in that district he served as teacher, counselor, coach, vice-principal, principal and as an Area Superintendent.

On July 1, 1973, Mr. Croce was appointed as superintendent of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School district. He served as superintendent of the Livermore school district for 16 years. This was the longest tenure of any superintendent in the history of the school district. Mr. Croce retired on June 30, 1989 marking 40 years in public education.

In October of 1991, Mr. Croce was honored. He has been immortalized by the naming of the Leo R. Croce Elementary school.

During his career as an educator, Mr. Croce also taught at the University of California, Berkeley and California State University at Hayward. He also served as an educational consultant to many California school districts.

Mr. Croce was active in local, state, national and international educational organizations. He served in leadership positions in professional groups, including President of Region VII of the Association of California School Administrators.

Mr. Croce had always been very involved in community affairs and community service, with active participation in the Livermore Rotary Club, the Las Positas Seniors Curriculum Committee, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Cerebral Palsy Association for the Bay Area.

On September 28, 1947 Mr. Croce married Pina Ciarlo. They have one daughter, Pamela Croce-Goode, who is also an educator.

In appreciation of the honor of dedicating this school in his name, Mr. Croce and his family established a perpetual scholarship fund. This fund has awarded a college scholarship yearly since 2004, to an outstanding student who attended Leo R. Croce Elementary School and graduated from a LVJUSD high school.

One of the highlights of Mr. Croce's retirement was to visit Croce School and to meet the students, parents and staff at the school activities in which he participated.

On January 27, 2020, Mr. Croce passed away. He will be missed by the community and friends who loved him and the Leo R. Croce Scholarship will continue to honor his legacy.

# Leo R. Croce School Scholarship

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## Application Rules

Qualified college bound students are welcome to apply. Students submitting applications must meet the following rules in order to be considered:

1. Applicant must have attended Leo Croce Elementary School for at least two years from TK to 5.
  2. Applicant must be a graduating senior from a high school in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.
  3. Applicant must plan to attend and have acceptance as a full time student at a four-year college or university.
  4. While not required, consideration will be given to students who plan a career in education or a related field.
- \* Finalists must take part in an interview with the scholarship committee.
  - \* Please type or print legibly all sections of the application. Illegible and incomplete applications will be disqualified.
  - \* Applications must be completed and received by March 6, 2025 by 3:45pm.
  - \* On a separate paper, 8 1/2 x 11 inches, answer the essay question. Please limit your essay to no more than 750 words, 3 to 5 paragraphs.
  - \* Letter of recommendation from an educator (classroom teacher, counselor, administrator)
  - \* Letter of recommendation from a community member.
  - \* Sign and date the application, confirming that the provided information is correct and the essay is your original work. Plagiarism is grounds for disqualification.
  - \* Submit an official copy of your high school transcript, including 1st semester grades, SAT and/or ACT scores optional.
  - \* Submit an acceptance letter from an accredited four-year college. If you are waiting for an acceptance letter, please contact your School Counselor.
  - \* The scholarship committee decision is final.
  - \* List extracurricular activities, honors and awards.
  - \* Return the completed application packet to the following address:

Leo R. Croce Elementary School  
Leo R. Croce School Scholarship  
Attention: Principal  
5650 Scenic Avenue  
Livermore, CA 94551

## Important Dates to Remember

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|-------------------------|---|
| Thursday, March 6, 2025 | All completed application materials (including transcripts 1st semester grades) must be received in the Croce School office by March 6, 2025 at 3:45pm. <b>THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.</b> |
| Week of March 24, 2025  | Finalists will be notified regarding an appointment for a personal interview.   |
| Tuesday, April 15, 2025 | Finalists will be interviewed by the scholarship committee. The successful candidate will be notified by Friday, April 18, 2025.  |

# Leo R. Croce Elementary School

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## Scholarship Application Check Off Sheet

- ☐ Application form
- ☐ Completed and received in the Croce School office by Thursday, March 6, 2025 by 3:45pm. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- ☐ Application signed and dated by applicant
- ☐ Application signed by school counselor, teacher or administrator
- ☐ Essay response, 750 words, 3 to 5 paragraphs
- ☐ Letter of recommendation – classroom teacher, counselor, administrator
- ☐ Letter of recommendation - Community Member
- ☐ Official high school transcript to include senior year 1st semester grades
- ☐ Acceptance letter from an accredited four-year college/university
- ☐ List your current school and/or community extracurricular activities. Note organization names, activities performed, length of involvement and hours of commitment per week.
- ☐ List honors and awards received.
- ☐ SAT and/or ACT scores, if taken.

**I have included all the above required documents in my packet.**

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Student Signature

# Leo R. Croce School Scholarship

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## Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Grade levels and years attended Leo R. Croce Elementary School \_\_\_\_\_

### Letters of Recommendation:

Educator Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Community Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Leo R. Croce School Scholarship

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## Essay Question

Your response to the following essay question, on a separate sheet of 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper is to accompany this application. Please limit your essay to no more than 750 words, 3 to 5 paragraphs. Be sure your name is on your essay.

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**Looking to the future, where do you see yourself in six years? Include how your education at Leo R. Croce Elementary and other Livermore schools helped you prepare for that future.**

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I hereby affirm that all responses given on this application are, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct, and that the accompanying essay is an original statement of my own creation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I give my permission to have my images and name published.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of school counselor, teacher, or administrator who has knowledge of the information included in this application.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_