McNicholas HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE FOR THE CLASS OF 2031

Because McNicholas believes in providing opportunities for students with a wide range of passions and talents, we offer four types of scholarships and awards for the incoming Class of 2031.

This guide gives details about the two types of scholarship that require additional application materials: the Find Your Brilliance Scholarships and Named Scholarships. McNicholas also awards Merit Scholarships based on school performance and testing records and Legacy Awards ($500) to students with a parent who is an alumni. Neither of these awards require an additional application.

Please note:

- **The deadline to apply is November 16, 2026. This includes all applicable recommendation forms. Any scholarship application which is missing requirements by the due date will not be considered.**
- Students are permitted to apply for multiple Named and two Find Your Brilliance Scholarships.
- The scholarship online form only allows you to submit it once, so if you choose to apply for more than one of either Find Your Brilliance or Named scholarships, please complete the application for all scholarships before submitting. You can always "save and finish later".
- Scholarship applicants must submit an Admissions Application to McNicholas High School before the scholarship applications will appear on your parent portal checklist.
- A scholarship selection committee will review entries and select the recipients who will be notified in their acceptance package sent on January 15, 2027.

Click here to complete your Admission Application and apply for scholarships.

FIND YOUR BRILLIANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

McNicholas is dedicated to guiding students to find their Brilliance through inspiration and support from teachers and classmates. The McNicholas "Find Your Brilliance" Scholarships attract and reward members of the Class of 2031 who have already demonstrated brilliance—students who are proven to be thoughtful and active leaders committed to setting the pace for excellence for their classmates. These scholarships are renewable for four years as long as recipients demonstrate continuing growth as positive examples for their classmates. Show us the area in which your brilliance shines the brightest!

Brilliant Fine or Performing Artist

- Submit the scholarship application by November 16, 2026
- Choose either Art & Design OR Instrumental, Vocal, or Performing Art
    - Art & Design: Digitally submit 3 of your best drawings, paintings, sculptures, and/or mixed media compositions
        - Upload videos or artwork (where required) in section provided.
    - Instrumental, Vocal, or Performing Art: Students will be required to attend a brief in-person audition with faculty members. Please prepare one of the following:
        - A monologue (about two minutes) from a play
        - Solo piece on a musical instrument
        - Solo song from a folk/art song or Broadway musical
        - Students will be contacted for an audition appointment after the application due date of November 16 and prior to Christmas break.

Brilliant Bible Scholar

• Submit the scholarship application by the due date of November 16, 2026
• Participate in a ten-minute meeting at a scheduled time with a McNicholas teacher of theology. Meetings will be scheduled after receipt of the scholarship application and before Christmas break.

During the meeting you will:

- Share a Bible verse that is meaningful to you and explain why it is meaningful.
- Discuss with the teacher how it helps you understand events around you.
- Include a specific example in which you live out the message of this verse in your own life.
- Have a conversation with the teacher during which you will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of key Biblical people, themes, and cultures.

Brilliant Compassionate Leader

This scholarship recognizes students who have demonstrated leadership through service to people outside of their family and school.

• Submit the scholarship application and recommendation forms by the due date of November 16, 2026
• Provide a written essay up to 250 words explaining your leadership through service to people outside of your relatives and school. Include the amount of time you spent doing this service. If you have photos, videos, or illustrations that will help us understand your leadership through service, please include them.
• Provide a written reflection of up to 250 words about what you learned about yourself and other people through your service experience.
• Provide a recommendation specific to this scholarship from the supervisor from the service experience or from a person (not a relative) who benefited from your service. The recommendation form is an online form available through your Parent Portal after applying to McNicholas and must be received by November 16, 2026.

Brilliant Community Builder

This scholarship recognizes students who have demonstrated ongoing commitment and skill in building community in their grade schools. These students go out of their way to care for and include others, especially classmates who tend to be left out of friend groups. They take stands against ridicule or bullying on social media or in person. They are social healers.

• Submit the scholarship application and required recommendation form by November 16, 2026
• Ask a teacher at your current school to submit the Recommendation Form specific to this scholarship. The recommendation form is an online form which will be available through your Parent Portal after applying and must be received by November 16, 2026.
• Provide an essay up to 250 words explaining a specific situation in which you stepped up to build community at your grade/middle school.

Brilliant Hard-Working Learner

This scholarship recognizes students who have impressed their teachers because of their exemplary ongoing hard work to learn regardless of academic ability.

- Submit the scholarship application by November 16, 2026.
- Provide an example or explanation of how/why you would be described as a hard worker at your school. (up to 250 words).
- Provide testimonials specific to this scholarship from two teachers about your exemplary ongoing hard work. The recommendation forms are online forms available on your Parent Portal after applying to McNicholas. Recommendations must be received by November 16, 2026.

Brilliant Orator

- Submit the scholarship application by November 16, 2026
- Prepare a three-minute persuasive speech on the topic "My accomplishments in grade/middle school demonstrate how I will be a positive role model at McNicholas."
- Deliver your speech remotely/in person at a scheduled time to a panel of McNicholas educators. (Times will be scheduled after applications are received and before Christmas break)
- The criteria are eye contact, clarity, persuasiveness, appropriate length, and effective use of language.

Brilliant Patriot

Applicant must demonstrate leadership, commitment to academics, and a sincere sense of patriotism.

- Submit the scholarship application by November 16, 2026
- Answer questions and submit an essay about patriotism as required on the scholarship application.

Brilliant Reader

- Submit the scholarship application by November 16, 2026
- Participate in a meeting no longer than 15 minutes at a scheduled time with a McNicholas teacher. During the first part of the meeting, the teacher will give you a brief poem or short story to read considering a guiding question. This will be a "cold" reading; you will not know it in advance. During the rest of the meeting, you will discuss the poem or short story with the teacher.
- Meetings will be scheduled following receipt of the scholarship application and before Christmas break.

Brilliant STEM Achiever

- Submit the scholarship application by November 16, 2026
- Write an essay up to 250 words explaining your outstanding accomplishment in science, technology, engineering, or math. It might be a project for which you won an award from your school or from an outside organization. It might be a school assignment or extracurricular project that especially impressed your teacher. If you have photos, videos, or illustrations of your project that will help us understand it, please include them.
- Provide a brief written documentation of your accomplishment: either a written description of your project and testimonial to your excellent work from your teacher, or an award certificate from an outside organization.
- Upload documentation in section provided on your Parent Portal.

NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

Named Scholarships are awarded based on review of the written scholarship application, with qualifications specified by our generous scholarship donors. All named scholarships require additional information and qualifications, as well as a submitted financial aid application.

Alumni Association Scholarship

The Alumni Association Scholarship is awarded to an incoming freshman who is a lineal descendant (child or grandchild) of a McNicholas or St. Joseph Academy graduate. Scholarship will be renewable for four years, provided the recipient maintains satisfactory academic progress and is a student in good standing.

- Submit the scholarship application by November 16, 2026
- Demonstrate financial need based on a FACTS Financial Aid Application.
- Student must submit one teacher recommendation letter which can be found under "Named Recommendation Form" on your parent portal.
- Complete a short essay on "Why is it important for you to continue your family legacy at McNicholas and why attending a Catholic school is important to you." (up to 250 words)

McNicholas Band Scholarship

The McNicholas Band Scholarship is awarded to an incoming freshman. Freshman auditions will be held with our Band Director. Students will play their prepared music in a 15-minute slot. Students must bring a copy of the music for the adjudicator. More information on audition times will be forwarded following receipt of your application.

Lt. David Wolfangel Memorial Scholarship

Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Firefighter, EMT, Police Officer, or Nurse. The Lt. David Wolfangel Memorial Scholarship was created to financially assist an incoming freshman in achieving their dream of attending McNicholas High School. The recipient will receive this scholarship annually towards tuition, as long as they are a student in good standing and are working toward their potential.

- Submit the scholarship application by November 16, 2026
- Demonstrate financial need by completing FACTS Financial Aid Application.
- The essay written for admission into McNicholas will be considered when awarding this scholarship.

Polly Powers Sandmann Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship honors Polly Powers Sandmann, McNicholas Class of '79, and is made possible through the generosity of the Sandmann and Powers families, their friends, and the McNicholas Community. The Scholarship is awarded to a student in the SAIL program. Recipients will receive the award annually towards their tuition, as long as they are students in good standing and are working toward their potential.

- Complete the scholarship application by November 16, 2026
- Submit an application to the SAIL program.
- Demonstrate financial need based on their FACTS Financial Aid Application.
- Submit 2 teacher/principal recommendations. Recommendation forms will be found on your Parent Portal under "Named Recommendation Forms" after applying to McNicholas. You will be able to send them electronically and must be received by November 16, 2026.
- Participate in extracurricular activities during high school.

Caddie Scholarship

Interested students may apply for the McNicholas Caddie Scholarship, sponsored by alumni interested in promoting the sport of golf and helping to create a pathway to the Evans Scholars College Scholarship. The McNicholas Caddie scholarship is a 4-year renewable scholarship. Students who have not caddied prior, but would like to, are also encouraged to apply. The McNicholas Caddie Scholarship will financially assist one male or female student in his/her desire to attend McNicholas High School as long as the student:

- Remains a caddie in good standing at a golf club. McNicholas can assist the student with finding a club
- Assists with 10 rounds of golf each year
- Maintains satisfactory progress and is a student in good standing

Candidates must:

- Submit the scholarship application by November 16, 2026
- Demonstrate financial need by completing FACTS Financial Aid Application
- Submit an essay (up to 500 words) as required in the scholarship application.

Please contact us at 513-231-3500 x5852 or admissions@mcnhs.org with questions.