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Impact Award Application Requirements

I. **Impact Award Student Components**

Students must complete 3 components: (1) numerical list of personal community impacts, (2) an essay and (3) a video response. As you complete these components, you are encouraged to be honest and creative with the ways you think and respond. Inspiration can come from anywhere! Often it can be helpful to spend time thinking about the prompts, jot down notes, write an outline, determine your main idea, and/or consider exploring additional resources, as reflection and research can greatly inspire your writing.

1. Numerical List of Community Impacts

Please create a numerical list of ways you have served the community in the past two years. Write down each example as a separate numbered item, providing a 2 - 4 sentence description of the impact you made by engaging in this act of service. Consider both formal and informal contributions, such as volunteering, community service, or personal efforts to help others (see example below). Please provide no more than 5 examples.

Examples:

1. **Library Volunteering (Summer 2024 and 2025):** Over the summers of 2024 and 2025, I volunteered at Mt. Greenwood library for more than forty hours. I helped with the summer program by introducing kids to the program, bringing them prizes, and recording their progress in reading over the summer.
2. **Singing at Smith Village (May 2025):** In May of 2025, my friends and I went to Smith Village and sang show-tunes for the residents there. We went around the facility and sang songs from plays like Annie, Matilda, and Grease. This event was organized by me and my friends to bring some joy and fun to Smith Village.

3. **Student Council Officer (7th Grade):** I served as Vice President of the Student Council and this year in 8th grade I was chosen as the President. As a Student Council officer I serve the school community through organizing monthly fundraisers, all-school activities, and by performing daily duties. This position also shows my leadership skills because I work with my peers and adults which means I need to be organized, a good listener, and a problem solver.

2. **Essay Prompt: Qualities in a Leader**

In 400 - 500 words, please respond to the essay prompt below. Please use specific examples and provide as much detail as possible to support your response.

Essay Prompt: Leadership and the Woman Who Inspires

You: *Think about a female leader from history who has made a meaningful impact on the world and whose leadership qualities you admire.*

In your essay, address the following:

1. **Introduce the leader.** Identify the historical female leader you chose and explain what she accomplished and how she made a difference in the world.
2. **Identify and explain three leadership qualities.** Describe three specific leadership qualities this woman demonstrated. For each quality, provide an example of a decision she made, an action she took, or a challenge she faced that demonstrates this trait. Explain why you admire each quality and what it reveals about her as a leader.
3. **Make a personal connection.** Identify at least two leadership qualities you share with this woman. Describe specific experiences from your own life, such as school, extracurricular activities, sports, family responsibilities, or your community, that demonstrate these qualities. Explain how these experiences show your own leadership potential.
4. **Look ahead.** Explain one leadership quality you would like to develop further and how you could use it to make a positive difference in your school or community as you begin your journey at Mother McAuley.

3. Video Prompt: Qualities in a Leader

Record a 60-90 second video on the prompt shared below.

Video Prompt: Reflect on this quote by Catherine McAuley, foundress of Mother McAuley: “The simplest and most practical lesson I know is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow.”

What does this quote mean to you? Describe how you strive to grow as a person, make a positive impact in your community, and live out your values through your everyday actions. As you transition to Mother McAuley and beyond, how do you hope to continue learning, growing, and becoming the best version of yourself while making a difference in the lives of others?

As you record your video, we are looking for authenticity as you respond. Please speak from the heart and avoid reading a prepared, typed essay in your video.

All of the above components will be evaluated by members of the Impact Award Committee. As we review your application, we will assess your communication skills, both written and verbal; your ability to articulate your thoughts cohesively; your awareness of what it means to be a leader; and the ways in which you plan to make an impact both at Mother McAuley and beyond.

II. School Recommendation Form

You will need to select a teacher, school counselor or school administrator to complete a recommendation form for you. This adult needs to be someone who has had contact with you during your junior high years (7th and/or 8th grade). Please share the [School Recommendation Form](#) with the person completing and submitting the form on your behalf. The recommendation form must be completed no later than the deadline date of Tuesday, November 10.