

# “Commitment to Excellence” Scholarship

established by alumni Marla Jean Esser

"Excellence as a way of life" means approaching every aspect of your life with a constant commitment to doing your best, striving for high standards, and continuously improving yourself, not just in specific situations but as a habitual mindset across all areas of your life; it's about making excellence an ingrained part of your daily actions and decisions, rather than a singular goal to be achieved occasionally.

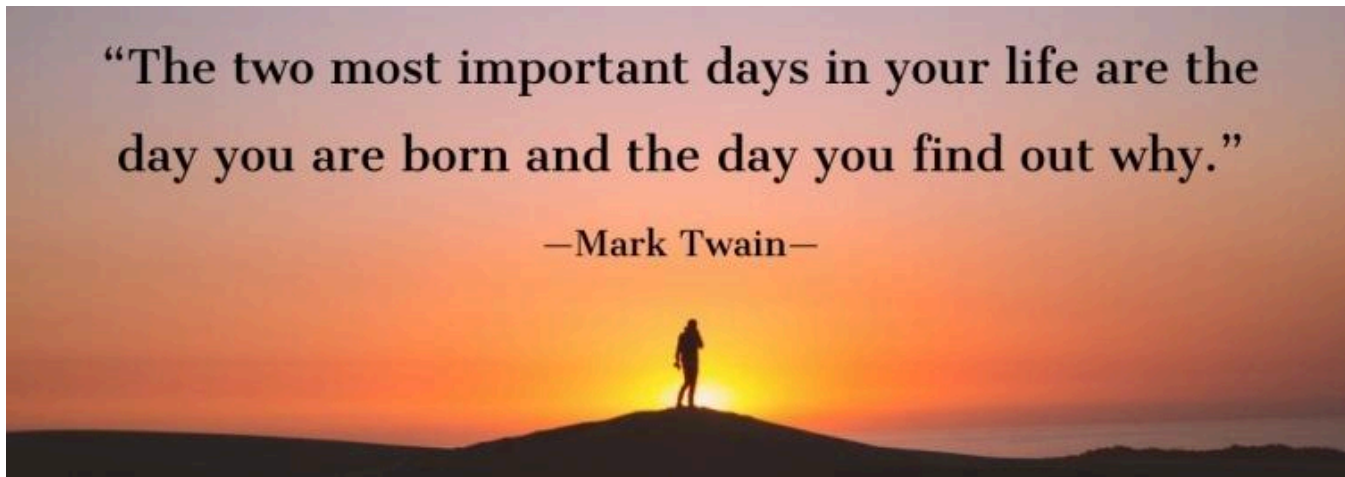
Excellence applies to all aspects of life, including personal relationships, career, hobbies, and self-care. It embraces change, and lives in a balanced mind, body, and spirit.

It's not about achieving perfection, but about always seeking to better yourself and your work.

The focus is on cultivating a mindset that prioritizes quality and high standards in everything you do.

A commitment is doing things thoughtfully and thoroughly with care.

Taking ownership of your actions and actively seeking ways to elevate your performance.



“The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.”

—Mark Twain—

The “Commitment to Excellence” Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior seeking to continue their education post-high school through an undergraduate degree, trade-school program, technical college or other post-high school degree or certification with a focus on a creative/artistic goal: (some examples include, but are not limited to art education, digital, fine or liberal arts, interior / landscape design, art therapy & psychology, culinary arts, or any other programs that include art integration).

Award: \$500

Presentation to the recipient follows the completion of their first semester. The distribution requires verification of completion of their first semester, and a fee receipt for the second semester.

## Commitment to Excellence Scholarship

Application Process and Questionnaire: (please copy & paste this page into a new word document allowing you room to answer questions as thoroughly as you want)

- PLEASE copy and paste the MHHS local scholarship standard application that you have already completed, that provides me your history.
- (Note: If any of the following questions have already been answered in your standard application, just direct me to the section to save time.)
- This scholarship is based upon your authenticity, individuality, and uniqueness. There is no right or wrong answer. You can be as brief or as detailed as you want. You decide.

1. What is one thing that you want me to know about you that no one has asked that will better help me understand your dream?
2. What significant family experience(s) have impacted your future goals?
3. With four years of high school experience under your belt, is there anything that you wish you had known on day one that may have changed your decisions, choices, or actions over the past four years?
4. Are there any historical figures, personal heroes / role models (from the past or present) who have inspired you, for which you would like to interview? Why?
5. If your passion and discipline are in the artistic arena, please submit three of your creations, ones that you love (even if they are not your best). If any explanations are needed, please include.
6. Essay: Imagine your life has been a long meaningful journey, and now you're reflecting on the legacy that you are leaving behind. Picture yourself at 95, surrounded by loved ones who celebrate all that you have accomplished and the impact that you made. Ask them to read the *eulogy* that you have written for yourself, that captures how you want to be remembered--- your passions, contributions, and the essence of who you are. (400 words maximum)

Thank you for taking the time to apply for my personal scholarship, and share a private part of your life with me, a total stranger. Please know that whether you are selected for this scholarship or not, you have already won. You have made the effort, and risked putting yourself out there. Life is an adventure and challenge: without risk, there will be no reward!