

John F. and Mary H. Bichelmeyer Scholarship “The Willie Award”

Background

John F. Bichelmeyer and Mary H. Matson Bichelmeyer were both raised in poor, but loving families during the Great Depression. As a couple, they raised a loving family of 10 children, 33 grandchildren, and a still increasing number of great-grandchildren. They built a successful meat business in Kansas City, Kansas, developed real estate throughout Eastern Kansas, and were leaders in St. Joseph Catholic parish and the City of Shawnee.

John and Mary Bichelmeyer believed that it is not the pursuit of happiness, but the “happiness of pursuit” that gives us our greatest rewards. They were powerful examples of what wonderful things can happen in the lives of people who always do the best they can with the talents God gives them. Mr. and Mrs. Bichelmeyer believed that people are never defeated unless they lose the willingness to try and keep trying. “Willie” is the spirit of being willing to give your best in everything you do, to make the best of every situation you find yourself in, and to see the best in every person you meet. “Willie” is positive leadership by example, every day, at work, at play, at home, in school, in all of your actions and in all of your relationships.

Eligibility Criteria

The family has established the John F. and Mary H. Bichelmeyer Scholarship in honor of our parents, to reward an individual each year who embodies the spirit of “Willie” and the happiness of pursuit. The scholarship will be given to an 8th grade student from St. Joseph Catholic School and the award will be applied toward the student’s tuition at an Archdiocesan Catholic High School in the metropolitan area of Kansas City, Kansas.

Award Process

Applications will be made available to every student in the 8th grade class at St. Joseph Catholic School. The applications are to be completed and returned to the selection committee. The due date is on the application. The selection committee will be comprised of family members of John and Mary Bichelmeyer. The award will be presented during the graduation or school awards ceremony at the end of the school year. Funds for the award will be held in the Northeast Kansas Archdiocese for the benefit of St. Joseph’s Parish.

Application Information

Students who wish to apply for the scholarship will provide the following information:

1. Name and Address
2. Parents' names
3. Activities involved in outside of the classroom
4. Areas of interest in education
5. Statement of why student believes he/she demonstrates the "Willie" spirit
6. One letter of recommendation from a teacher or a community member who is not related to the student.

Please attach one reference letter from either a teacher or a community member not related to you.

Submit your application to Mrs. Figott, at the front desk of school, no later than 3:30PM, Friday, April 30, 2021.

God Bless You!