

GEIS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

GUIDELINES | 2020-2021

HISTORY

The **Geis Family Education Endowment Fund** was established in December 2010 to ensure qualifying students are provided access to quality Catholic education, regardless of their ability to pay. The first Geis Scholars scholarships were awarded in the 2011-2012 academic year. The Erwin & Katherine Geis family has a long history of supporting Catholic ministries, and established this fund as a lasting legacy to their family's commitment to providing a quality Catholic education to eligible students.

PURPOSE

To provide academic scholarships, with opportunity for annual renewal, to students enrolled in Catholic high schools located in Cuyahoga County, in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, who have a demonstrated financial need and record of academic success.

SCHOLARSHIP

Academic scholarships of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded to students meeting the criteria cited below, with an opportunity for annual renewal with evidence of sustained excellence in faith, academics, community service and positive peer relationships. **It is strongly encouraged that Principals/Nominating School Officials recommend all "qualifying" students for the scholarship award in addition to submitting renewal applications.** For the 2020-2021 academic year, there are potentially 7 renewal and 5 new scholarship opportunities.

CRITERIA *(students selected to apply)*:

- Applicants must be refugees, immigrants, or children of first generation immigrants.
- Applicants must qualify for the free or reduced school lunch program.
- Are currently enrolled in, or have been accepted by, a Catholic High School located in Cuyahoga County in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.*
- Can document a minimum scholastic achievement of 3.0 GPA.
- Are involved in school life and consistently demonstrate positive character traits.
- Are willing to participate in an informal gathering hosted by the Geis family representatives. Geis Scholars would have the opportunity to meet their grantor(s) and express how they have benefited from the grant and from their Catholic education.

**The high school application process begins annually in January with notification in February.*



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REQUIREMENTS

- Principal/Nominating School Official provides recommended students with the application materials.
- Letter of recommendation completed by a non-family member.
- New and renewal students complete the Geis Student Essay section of the application.
- Parents complete the Geis Parent section of the application and send the complete package to their principal by March 1, 2020.
- Principal/Nominating School Official completes the school section of the Geis Scholarship application, review the required documentation submitted by the family to ensure completion, and forward the completed information to the Office of Catholic Education by March 15, 2020.

NOTE: If any of these requirements cannot be met due to the student or family's limitations, the school should contact Cindy Williams of the Office of Catholic Education at 216/696-6525 x2830 or cwilliams@dioceseofcleveland.org within the timeline appropriated below.

TIMELINE

- **MARCH 1, 2020:** Parents/Guardians must return their completed applications with their letters to their Catholic school principal.
- **MARCH 15, 2020:** Principals will send their selected Geis Scholars nominees to the Office of Catholic Education, Attention: Cindy Williams, Grant Coordinator.
- **MARCH 16-20, 2020:** The Office of Catholic Education will provide a cursory review for completeness of material and send applications to the Geis Foundation Scholarship Committee to make the final selection of awardees.
- **MARCH 25, 2020:** Office of Catholic Education mails all qualifying applications to Geis Companies for their final selection process of the awards.
- **APRIL 15, 2020:** The Geis Foundation Scholarship Committee notifies the Office of Catholic Education of the final 2020-2021 awardees.
- **MAY 2020:** The Office of Catholic Education will send written notification to each of the recipient families and respective Catholic school Principals.

QUESTIONS

Cindy Williams, Office of Catholic Education, 216-696-6525 or 800-869-6525, ext. 2830.



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GEIS FAMILY EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND APPLICATION FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

Application is due to Principal by March 1, 2020

Applicant: ___ NEW ___ RENEWAL

FOR PARENT COMPLETION

Name of Student Applicant _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Email _____

School Now Attending _____ Grade _____ Tuition\$ _____

School to Attend in 2020-2021 _____ Tuition\$ _____

School Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Does this Student Applicant receive either the Cleveland or EdChoice State Scholarship? ___Yes or ___No

What is the anticipated out-of-pocket cost for tuition in the 2020-2021 academic year for this student? _____

Country of immigration: _____

FOR PRINCIPAL COMPLETION

Please verify this application is accurately completed (including tuition \$ cited above), and that all documentation is included before returning it to the Office of Catholic Education.

- Application with Principal's Signature and Student's Cumulative GPA Verified
- Principal or Nominating School Official's Comments
- Student Extracurricular/Community Service and Essay Response
- Non-Family Member Letter of Recommendation

Student Applicant Cumulative GPA: _____

Principal's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principals, please send your completed applications by March 15, 2020 to:

Office of Catholic Education
Geis Family Education Endowment Scholarship Fund
Attention: Cindy Williams, Grant Coordinator
1404 East 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114



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FOR PRINCIPAL OR NOMINATING SCHOOL OFFICIAL COMPLETION | COMMENTS

This section is vital to the Geis Scholar selection process and should be completed by the person who can best describe the student's attributes and special circumstances. Please include WHY you are recommending this student specifically and include whether there are any special circumstances that place a burden on the family (e.g., medical/dental expenses, children in college, death of a parent, unemployment, change in parental marital status). Use space below or attach separately.

Student Name *(please print)*: _____

Principal/Nominating School Official Signature: _____ Date: _____

Relationship to Applicant _____



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FOR STUDENT COMPLETION | EXTRACURRICULAR AND ESSAY

Student Name *(please print)*: _____

EXTRACURRICULAR

Please list your participation in extracurricular activities and community service. Feel free to include any additional personal factors you would like considered in determining your scholarship eligibility, including demonstrated leadership or notable achievements. Please use space below or attach separately.

ESSAY

In no more than 2-3 typewritten, double-spaced pages, please respond to one of the essay questions shown below. “Renewal” students must choose a question not previously chosen in prior year. The point of this activity is to help the Geis Foundation Scholarship Committee learn more about you. Let your personality shine through!

Note: If you are a renewal applicant, please select a question you have not selected in the past year.

1. Tell us about your/your parent’s journey to America. What circumstances brought your family here?
2. How will this scholarship help you achieve your goals?
3. Describe one of your quirks and why it is part of who you are.
4. What is something significant about which you have changed your mind in the last two years?

Please initial below:

_____ *Upon award of this scholarship, I commit myself to excellence in faith, academics, community service and positive peer relationships.*



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NON-FAMILY MEMBER COMPLETION | LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Student Name (*please print*): _____

A letter of reference is required from a non-family member. Your comments should include why you are recommending this student and how you have seen this student demonstrate excellence in faith, academics, community service and positive peer relationships, as well as any other information that will be helpful for the Geis Foundation Scholarship Committee in their selection process. Use space below or attach separately.

Multiple horizontal lines provided for writing the letter of recommendation.

Recommender Signature: _____ Date: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

