Peters Township Education Foundation

Matthew Cheran Scholarship Application

The Peters Township Education Foundation will grant one scholarship each spring to a graduating senior of the Peters Township High School in the amount of $500 in honor of Matthew Cheran. A beloved teacher at Peters Township Middle School, Mr. Cheran served as the President of the PTEF for more than 12 years. Upon his retirement, the scholarship was initiated in his honor to assist students with post-graduation pursuits who show strong moral character, positive attitude and dedication to their school.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: [redacted]

Address: [redacted]

Phone Number: [redacted] Email: [redacted]

Post graduate plans (college, technical school, military, other – if attending a school please include the name and your intended major). washington and jefferson college - engineering

Applicant Signature: [redacted]

Parent/Guardian signature: [redacted]

Two teacher/faculty/guidance counselor signatures are required and may be contacted by the scholarship committee for a verbal confirmation of reference. ***No letter of recommendation is needed.***

Teacher/Faculty reference signature: _____ Printed name Sara McCarthy

Teacher/Faculty reference signature: _____ Printed name Erin Baker

ESSAY PROMPTS: PLEASE SELECT ONE

Integrity and Ethics: Describe a situation where you were faced with a moral dilemma. How did you navigate through it? What principles guided your decision-making process?

Resilience and Perseverance: Share a significant challenge or setback you encountered in your academic or personal life. How did you overcome it, and what did you learn from the experience?

Empathy and Compassion: Discuss an instance where you demonstrated empathy towards others, particularly in a difficult situation. How did your actions impact those involved, and what did you gain from the experience?

Leadership and Service: Reflect on a time when you took on a leadership role to initiate positive change within your community or organization. What motivated you to lead, and what outcomes did you achieve?

ESSAY GUIDELINES: Each essay should be 500-700 words in length. Demonstration of good character traits such as integrity, resilience, empathy, and leadership as well as clarity and coherence of writing will be taken into consideration by the scholarship committee. Use clear and concise language, providing specific examples to support your points. Ensure your essay is well-structured, and proofread carefully. We look forward to reviewing your scholarship application.

Please submit your application along with the essay in electronic form to belchers@pt-sd.org by March 30, 2025. Paper copies may alternately be submitted to the District Administration Office at 631 East McMurray Road, McMurray PA 15317.

Late submissions will not be considered.

Resilience and Perseverance: Share a significant challenge or setback you encountered in your academic or personal life.
How did you overcome it, and what did you learn from the experience?

One of the experiences I have faced in my life was losing my grandmother. She played a role in shaping who I am today. She deeply believed in working, being kind to others and always pushing yourself to reach your potential. When she passed away it felt like a piece of my life suddenly disappeared.It was the time I truly experienced loss and it forced me to face a challenge that affected both my personal life and my motivation in school. Before she passed, my grandmother. I spent a lot of time talking about the future. She always asked about school, my goals and what I wanted to accomplish. No matter what I told her her response was always the same: she believed I could do it. At the time those conversations felt normal. After she was gone I realized how much those words meant to me. Her encouragement had quietly become one of my sources of motivation. In the weeks after her passing I struggled more than I expected. It was hard to concentrate on schoolwork. Everyday responsibilities felt heavier than they had before. I remember sitting in class trying to focus but constantly thinking about everything that had changed. For a while it felt easier to shut down than to deal with the loss. Then I realized that giving up or losing motivation would not reflect the person my grandmother believed I could be. She always emphasized perseverance and the importance of continuing to move even when life became difficult. Remembering those conversations with my grandmother helped me start to regain perspective. Of focusing on how overwhelming everything felt I began focusing on small manageable steps. I worked to stay organized with my school responsibilities. I maintained my routine. I leaned on the support of my family and friends. Those small steps slowly helped me rebuild my focus and confidence. I learned that resilience is not something sudden. It is often built through decisions. It is choosing to keep going even when things are hard. It is choosing to stay committed to your responsibilities. It is choosing to believe that difficult moments will eventually pass. Through this experience I gained an understanding of perseverance. Challenges in life are unavoidable. They do not have to define us negatively. Instead they can shape our character. Strengthen our determination. Losing my grandmother taught me that growth often comes from moments of hardship. It forced me to develop strength and maturity much earlier than I expected. Her influence continues to guide me today. Whenever I feel overwhelmed or uncertain about the future I remember the confidence she had in me. That belief still motivates me to push myself personally. I want to build a future that reflects the values she taught me work, perseverance and using opportunities to create something meaningful. Looking back, losing my grandmother was one of the moments in my life. It also became one of the most important lessons I have experienced. It taught me that resilience is not about avoiding pain or difficulty. Instead it is about learning how to continue even when circumstances feel overwhelming. The perseverance I developed during that time continues to shape how I approach challenges today. I know that setbacks and hardships are a part of life. They do not have to stop us from reaching our goals. If anything they can strengthen our determination to achieve them. Carrying the lessons my grandmother taught me I am committed to continuing to grow, work and make the most of the opportunities ahead of me.