

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Jackson Wathne Today's date 3/17/26
Mailing Address: 66 Papa's Way Goose Cove Road
Your city/town: Trenton Zip Code: 04605
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Yaicha Wathne Corey Frost
What school do you attend? Trenton Elem. What grade are you in? 6th
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Mrs. Harriman



\$100 Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarships will be awarded by community members to grade 3 - 6 students living in communities served by the schools listed below, and students who best demonstrate effort -- effort to do well in school, effort to pursue education beyond high school, effort to reach their goals, and effort to complete this scholarship application especially well. You are strongly advised to read the "12 Tips" under "Informational Resources" at www.mainecollegecircle.org.

Schools:

Connors Emerson School
Mount Desert Elementary School
Tremont Consolidated School
Pemetic Elementary School
Trenton Elementary School

Aspirations Partners:

First National Bank
Machias Savings Bank
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

Maine College Circle

All applications must be received by **March 27, 2026**. ALL parts of your application must be completed. Scholarship recipients will be selected and celebrated shortly after the deadline. Recipients may use their \$100 Aspirations Scholarship for educational programs and resources to help them pursue their aspirations. Submitted applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Review Committee and may also be read by a small group of prospective scholarship funders.

To the applicant:

Respond to the following prompts on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on separate sheets of paper and attach them to this application. Your application may be handwritten or typed. You must also complete the Future of Maine Scholarship Application Expectations Checklist and attach it to your scholarship application. Scholarship Committees will only consider applications with completed Checklists that are signed by the student and the teacher.

1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

Grade 4: Your College* Options. Write about your interests today and aspirations for your future. What career or careers might fit your interests especially well? Given your interests and career aspirations, which college* or colleges might be especially good for you? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school or college* student about their pathway through high school and to college or other educational opportunity after high school. Share the most important points of the interview and what you learned.

Grade 5: Your College* Course. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? And, interview a college* student about their pathway through college* and to a career and lifestyle that will make them proud.

Grade 6: Your College* Pathway and Beyond. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? Also interview (or analyze an existing interview of) a person in a field related to a career that interests you. Please share some of what you learned from that interview, including what you might like or dislike about that career. (Maine College Circle will provide a link to existing interviews if you are not able to set up your own.)



2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

To the applicant:

Please assess your level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Your level of effort is minimal. 3 = Adequate. 7 = Your work shows your highest level of effort possible. *Please circle one number in each category.*

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

To the teacher:

Please assess this student's level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Low. 7 = Outstanding. *Please circle one number in each category.*

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

English is a course that Jackson finds challenging, so this essay is a really good effort.

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

* Maine College Circle defines "college" as one-, two-, and four-year colleges and universities, trade colleges, and other career-specific educational programs after high school.

Jackson

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026
To be completed by the student

I have written my name (including my last name), my address, my school, my grade, my teacher, and the date.

I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

Choose one.

I am very proud of the effort I put into this application.

I worked fairly hard on this application.

I didn't do as well as I could have on this application because _____

I have rated my effort in school and on this application at the top of page 2.

My teacher has rated my effort in school and on this application on page 2.

I have included comments from a parent or some other adult who knows me well and supports my aspirations for the future.

I have a fun and engaging first sentence.

I have provided some details about my interests that hopefully show that I know something about my interest.

I have made an effort to write this in a way and with a voice that is fun to read and helps the reader know more about me.

Grade 3

- I have written about my aspirations for my future.
- I have explained why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me and why it would make me proud.
- I have interviewed a high school student and have written a little about what I learned.

Grade 4

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me and have explained why I think they would be good for me.
- I have interviewed a high school or college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 5

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 6

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed: Student Jackson Wathne
Teacher Jeanne Harman

ONE DOZEN TIPS FOR WRITING A GREAT ASPIRATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

From Bob Stuart (The same advice I give to high school seniors applying to college.)

bstuart@mainecollegecircle.org

- 1. EFFORT** is what matters most. You don't have to be smart to make an extra effort. Making an extra **EFFORT** to research your college and career options, and to write an essay you are proud of, will greatly improve your chances of earning a scholarship.
- 2.** Be sure to **complete ALL parts** of your essay. Identify a college or colleges of interest and courses, when required. Assess your effort on page 2. Make sure your teacher does that too. Make sure a parent or guardian or another adult who knows you well writes some comments about you. Make sure you have done whatever interview is required. These can be in-person interviews or online interviews or an interview you found on the internet. In-person interviews are usually best, but they may be hard to set up. If you need help with this, ask your teacher. You can find interviews by clicking on "Connections" at www.mainecollegecircle.org.
- 3.** Spell College correctly. Spell all words right. If you spell some words wrong in your essay, especially college, you are probably toast! Very good grammar and punctuation are very smart. This will all show extra **EFFORT**. Proof your work. Proof it again. Get others to proof it. If you spell a lot of words wrong, it doesn't look too good.
- 4.** Including additional schoolwork or other information that supports your message is always a good idea. It shows extra **EFFORT**. Doing a little more than is asked of you will always serve you well.
- 5.** Don't be boring! Make your essay **FUN** to read. Have fun writing it. **DIFFERENT** is good! Don't worry about being the only student to write an essay about a certain interest. Be courageous. I know that when scholarship committees read a lot of essays from one class and they all start with the same sentence and they follow the same format the scholarship committee usually isn't happy. The boy who wrote an essay about his true desire to save dugongs won a scholarship.
- 6.** Small **DETAILS** make a big difference. They often demonstrate that you know what you are writing about. If you wanted to become an automotive mechanic, you could mention 20 parts of a car that you know. If you wanted to become the next Taylor Swift and you listed your ten favorite songs by her, those small details might make the scholarship committee want to give you a scholarship so much that they just wouldn't be able to Shake It Off.
- 7.** There is no need to be fancy or use big words. True, honest, heartfelt, and **YOU** is better than any fancy word or idea. Simplicity and clarity can work very well.
- 8. A GREAT FIRST SENTENCE** is a great idea – something fun, something that engages the reader right from the start, something that makes the reader want to read the essay. But, make sure the first sentence actually connects to the rest of the essay. The reader should want to get more information from the rest of the essay to clarify the first, fun, short, engaging sentence. You may need to spend a lot of time and **EFFORT** just on the first sentence. "Freeze!" might be a good first sentence for an essay by someone who wants to become a policeman or a detective, or maybe a refrigerator repairman.
- 9. The LAST SENTENCE** should lead the reader off the page, beyond the essay, and into the future. The last sentence should remind the reader of what he or she just read and then help the reader see how you will have a positive impact on the future. The last sentence really matters because it is the last thing the reader is likely to remember. You want to end on a high note and

headed uphill and into the future. You may need to spend a lot of time and **EFFORT** just on the last sentence.



10. Unless you have a very cool name, **DON'T** begin your essay telling us your name and what grade and school you are in. We already know that, and it is a kind of boring start. (See #8.)



11. We are hoping to hear your **VOICE**. Scholarship committees spend a lot of time talking about **VOICE**. They can hear your **VOICE** when you tell stories about yourself and you share how you personally feel about something and you use your own language. Your writing style can be much closer to how you would talk with your friends than a dictionary or a thesaurus or how your parents might talk or what you might read in some fancy magazine.



12. Except for a few of you who are aspiring rappers, most of you have a last name. If you just put your first name and not your last name at the top of your application and your essay isn't about becoming a rapper, we think you didn't try very hard and you didn't care much. We care about **EFFORT**.

Aspirations Scholarship Essay

Jackson Wathne

I would like to be a basketball player when I grow up. To be a basketball player, a person needs to stay in shape, be committed and have to be very skilled. Three reasons why I want to be a basketball player is because I love the game of basketball, I would love the opportunity to travel, and I would love the income. I love basketball because I love having hands on at all times and cheering for my teammates.

The first course, physical education, teaches people how to work together (team sports), would help me get stronger at keeping myself healthy and stay in shape. The second course, College Prep Body Systems, would help me get stronger at knowing the human body and how muscles work. The third course, Anatomy, would help me know where muscles are and how they work.

The colleges that offer a degree in communication are Purdue University, Syracuse University and Boston University. I read an interview with Tyrese Haliburton and he said that you have to have strong reading comprehension because you have to "digest" a 50 page playbook every season and as a leader you have to talk to your teammates every play. As

Tyrese says "To be a pro, you've got to be a pro in all areas." In the heat of the game you only have a few seconds to talk to your teammates. Having a strong "basketball vocabulary" allows you to communicate complex ideas in just one or two words. I also read a schedule about the work day which started at 6:30-7:00 wake up and hydrate, 7:00-8:30 reading and film study, 8:30-2:30 school / classes, 3:00-5:30 team practice and weights, 6:00-7:30 dinner and recovery, 8:00-9:30 homework and writing, 10:00 sleep/light out.

In conclusion, I would like to be a basketball player because I would love the opportunity to travel. I would love the income, have to run a tight schedule, and have to be training every day.

Favorite Number in 25 Words

My favorite number is 14 because when I started playing basketball I chose 14 because it is my birth year. My birth year is 2014.

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Alexis Gibbs Today's date: 3/17/26

Mailing Address: 607 Old Point Road

Your city/town: Trenton Zip Code: 04605

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Jacqueline Murphy / Thomas

What school do you attend? Trenton Elem What grade are you in? 6 Couto

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Mrs. Harriman



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2024

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Lexi is very excited about her career goals.
Thanks for designing this project for her!

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Alexis has been passionate about animals practically since birth. We have always had animals in our house and she has always had great relationships with them. She has known she wants to be a vet since she was 3 years old and I have no doubt she will achieve this dream and be great at it.

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Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026

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I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

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Signed: Student Alexis Rose Gibbs

Teacher Janne Harmanian

ONE DOZEN TIPS FOR WRITING A GREAT ASPIRATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

From Bob Stuart (The same advice I give to high school seniors applying to college.)

bstuart@mainecollegecircle.org

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headed uphill and into the future. You may need to spend a lot of time and **EFFORT** just on the last sentence.

 **10.** Unless you have a very cool name, **DON'T** begin your essay telling us your name and what grade and school you are in. We already know that, and it is a kind of boring start. (See #8.)

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 **12.** Except for a few of you who are aspiring rappers, most of you have a last name. If you just put your first name and not your last name at the top of your application and your essay isn't about becoming a rapper, we think you didn't try very hard and you didn't care much. We care about **EFFORT**.

Career Aspirations Essay

Alexis Rose Gibbs

Did you know that if we did not have enough vets all of our animals would get sick and we would not have animals anymore? I would like to be a veterinarian because I like the kinds of things that veterinarians do for their job. Firstly, they help animals stay healthy. They also spend time teaching pet owners how to care for their pets. Finally, they need to spend time keeping up with the latest research on animal science to be the best in their field. Personally, I just love animals and want to have them in my life every day when I get to work. I want to learn more about all the animals that vets work with day after day. One of my favorite things to see are happy pets with loving owners, and this is why I would like to become a veterinarian when I grow up.

Being a vet involves being around animals at work every day. Since way back, I have always loved the animals in my family. I have two cats and three dogs that I love and take care of even though they can be really hard to take care of. Every day when I get home they greet me with their jumps and their kisses. I play with them by throwing a ball or one of their favorite dog toys because I know that exercise for dogs and any animal is

good for their health and their body. My grandmother and grandfather have a dog, named Romeo, that I think of as my own. Every morning when I wake up to go to the bus stop, he is outside with my grandfather waiting to say goodbye to me. When I get home, I always see my grandmother outside with my brother and Romeo. My brother also loves animals. Whenever we go over to my grandparent's house, Colton plays and snuggles with Romeo.

I love to learn about animals, but especially dogs. Every year I watch the dog shows with my mom on Thanksgiving. It has become a tradition at this point because it does not matter where we are or what we are doing we will never miss a dogshow! One of the reasons I love dog shows is because I love learning about the breeds of the dogs and the specialized roles they play in their owner's lives.

Since I already love animals and am very interested in learning about them and taking care of them, I believe I would make a great veterinarian. To become a veterinarian I would need to go to college and specialize in veterinary science. Courses that are required are ones like Biology, Chemistry (general and AP/IB if possible), Physics, and Advanced Mathematics (Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, or Calculus), just to name a few.

These all would help me with my career goal. The colleges that provide a degree in veterinarian science are UC Davis, Cornell, Colorado State, North Carolina State, and Texas A&M to help me become a veterinarian.

In my interview with a veterinarian, Dr. Aris, she explained that the hardest part of being a vet is that you know how to help the animal but the treatment is too expensive for the owner. Or sometimes, the animal is too sick and they have to say goodbye to their animal. Also she said that if you want to be a vet and you get low grades, then you should read about animals but also work hard on science class. And the last thing that she said was "You have to love people just as much as animals because every cat comes with a human."

In conclusion I think I would be a good vet because I love and care for animals and still want to learn more about them. Also, I will help the population of veterinarian so we have enough to help animals.

Favorite Number

My favorite number is 21. 21 has always been my lucky number because my birthday is on the 21st and I will always choose 21.

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Genevieve Burke Today's date: 3/2/2026
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 467 Seal Harbor, ME
 Your city/town: Seal Harbor, ME Zip Code: 04675
 Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Daniel Burke Emily Burke
 What school do you attend? MDES What grade are you in? 6
 Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. Kerry Taylor



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Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

2026

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Genevieve Burke

Teacher Comment:

Genevieve is a nice blend of thoughtful and outgoing. A career that allows her to be both social and independent is a good fit. Genevieve puts a lot into her everyday activities at school. I'm sure she would put great effort into a career that involves interacting with others while further developing her creative self.

Parent Comment:

Genevieve has long found comfort, confidence, and peace in making art and it is wonderful to have her envision a career path where she may be able to share that with others. With her own health and mental health challenges, Genevieve has worked hard to develop healthy "tools in the tool box" that allow her to navigate the ups and downs of life. I am so proud of her for wanting to teach others how to lean into a creative practice to thrive and I see this aspiration helping her to also continue building her own resilience.

Expectations Checklist

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I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

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Grade 4

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Grade 6

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Signed: Student Leraine Burke

Teacher Kerry Taylor

Drawing my Dreams

By: Genevieve Burke

Three is my favorite number. I love how the flow of the number is like butterfly wings in a drawing. Three is an amazing number.

I've always loved doing art. I could do it all day long. Over the years, when I feel stressed out or not in a good mood, art has always been there. I still do art when I feel sad, mad, or I am worrying. I recognize how much creating art helps my mood, and I want this feeling to help other people through tough times, too. One of my biggest dreams is to help people be happier in life. The feeling of doing this has always been somewhere. That feeling inside can help guide me towards being an Art Therapist.

When I was little and had free time, I would always be doing art, whether it was drawing, painting, coloring, or sometimes working with clay. I made so much art that my mom had to make a really big scrapbook that we still have in my parents' room. Every now and then, I go downstairs to look at my scrap book and see how much I've done throughout the school years. Looking through my art memories inspires me to create art and do what makes me happy. My parents got this ocean-themed watercolor book this Christmas, with paintings that are very relaxing to do, so when I feel stressed or anxious, I paint to calm my nerves. These are just a few of the ways that art soothes me, and I want to share this effect of art with others.

I want to be an Art Therapist because I've always wanted to help people feel happier in life. I could even start my own little business! To get ready for this career, I could take art classes in high school, like painting and drawing. In the future, I could volunteer at The Counseling Collaborative in Bar Harbor and Art Waves in Bar Harbor, so I can start to understand how to be in groups while doing fun art projects and playing with kids at the same time! These are some things I could do now to get ready for this career.

I have been looking at the University of Connecticut for a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. I think I would like this college because it's really big and I could make lots of new friends along my college journey! Another reason why I think I would like to go to the University of Connecticut is because they have lots of classes that I could take. Some examples of the classes are: Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, and Psychology courses. What you do in psychology is you learn how the human brain works through behavior. Another class I will be taking is Ceramics. Ceramics is a pottery class, where you get to use a pottery wheel, paint, and decorate your creations. A program in art therapy is blending behavioral science with creative expression. All of these classes sound really fun to do and will also help me learn on my journey to becoming an Art Therapist.

I interviewed my local Art Therapist, Dawn Nuding. What she most enjoys is making kids happy. "I love interacting with art every day, and I love spending time supporting kids to be their best selves." Dawn started college studying art at Pratt Institute. Her major was sculpture. She loved it so much, but in Dawn's senior year, she realized that she didn't want making art to be her career. Dawn spent years after college realizing she didn't know what to do for a career. She had been volunteering at the Domestic Violence shelter, making art with kids, so she soon realized she had found the perfect career for her: Art Therapy. I think my career is a great fit for me. Interviewing Dawn has made me even more excited about it.

In conclusion, I think being an art therapist is a really fun and rewarding career. The University of Connecticut will be a great fit for me in becoming an art therapist. Writing this essay made me realize how much I want to be an art therapist. I have had an amazing time writing this essay. I had a lot of fun learning about all the colleges that I could go to. Thank you so much for reading my essay.

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."- Pablo Picasso

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship



Name: LUKE LEGGARD Today's date 2/2/2026
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 11
 Your city/town: Seal Harbor, ME Zip Code: 04675
 Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? ROBYN Hanson
 What school do you attend? MDES What grade are you in? 6
 Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. Kerby Taylor

\$100 Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarships will be awarded by community members to grade 3 - 6 students living in communities served by the schools listed below, and students who best demonstrate effort -- effort to do well in school, effort to pursue education beyond high school, effort to reach their goals, and effort to complete this scholarship application especially well. You are strongly advised to read the "12 Tips" under "Informational Resources" at www.mainecollegecircle.org.

Schools:

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- Mount Desert Elementary School
- Tremont Consolidated School
- Pemetic Elementary School
- Trenton Elementary School

Aspirations Partners:

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- Machias Savings Bank
- Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
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All applications must be received by **March 13, 2026**. ALL parts of your application must be completed. Scholarship recipients will be selected and celebrated shortly after the deadline. Recipients may use their \$100 Aspirations Scholarship for educational programs and resources to help them pursue their aspirations. Submitted applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Review Committee and may also be read by a small group of prospective scholarship funders.

To the applicant:

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1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

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2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

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Luke Lessard

Teacher Comment:

Luke is always on the move. Therefore, a job that requires movement and creative energy is perfect for him. I believe that working with his hands and body would be a natural fit, and he would bring a lot to a career that requires this attention to detail. When Luke is engaged in learning, he is spot on.

Parent Comment:

Luke is a very active kid. He has a range of interests, but his predominant one at this moment is biking. I own a bike rental business, so Luke has found enjoyment in using the equipment to gain a level of freedom that most twelve-year-olds want. In reading his essay, I appreciated that Luke looked beyond the small scope of solely Redbull Racing to what else he could achieve that would get him close to his passion. I think that his experience in my bike shop, combined with his active personality, would make him a great fit for a future in power sports.

Expectations Checklist

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- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student Julie Epsand

Teacher Kerry Taylor

RED BULL GIVES YOU WINGS

By Luke Lessard

My favorite number is 7. 7 gives me a lot of luck. I like the way it goes with almost everything inside of my head.

Over the past few years, I've been obsessed with bikes of all kinds: Ebikes, motorcycles, dirt bikes, just normal bikes. I like to go fast and do tricks because it gives me a lot of adrenaline. The adrenaline makes me feel invincible. I think this trait is well-suited for a career in Red Bull racing and stunts.

Once, when the road was still icy, I decided to go on a bike ride. I rode my bike up the hill from my house to the Stanley Brook Road. I wanted to fly down at top speed for fun. So I started off on the road, going like 20 mph. There was a couple walking like 100 feet in front of me, so I slowed down to like 12 mph, and there was this ice patch. I slowed down even more. But when I hit the ice patch, the handlebars went crazy. I tried to hold them still, but my bike went sideways, and I slid out and fell. It hurt, but I was fine. I was just surprised that the couple didn't ask if I was ok, because they were right next to me. I got up, brushed myself off, and rode back home. This is one of my many bike rides over the years.

I want to be a Red Bull racer because it would be fun going against everyone and being famous. Since there are no colleges that specialize in biking, I could do small engine repair, so I could work on my dirt bike. To get ready for this career, I will ride almost every day and work on my bikes. I can volunteer at some summer camps and help teach kids how to ride bikes. In high school, I could also take classes at Hancock County Technical Center, such as Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology, and Welding Technology. These are some ways I can get ready for being on the Red Bull team and becoming a small engine technician.

I would like to go to Washington County Community College in Calais, Maine. Washington County Community College is a small school close to Canada. The reasons I want to go there are that my brother went there to be a mechanic,

they have a good small Engine Repair program, and the school is right next to Canada, and Canada's food is good. Some classes I would take are Small Engine Repair, Welding, and Automotive Technology. Small Engine Repair would teach me how to properly work on small engines. Some harder courses I can take are Diesel & Automotive Engine Overhaul and Mechanical Technology. The Diesel and Automotive Engine Overhaul program will prepare me for employment in engine repair. Diesel and Automotive Engine Overhaul covers techniques of disassembly, inspection, reassembly, and troubleshooting. Once I take all of these classes, I will be a certified small-engine technician. This is why Washington County Community College is a good fit for my career in Red Bull racing/stunts.

I interviewed my brother, Evan Beals, who is a certified small engine repairman. He said that some of the most challenging things about this career are people who don't know what they're doing and how you have to pay attention to every little detail and piece of the engine. Evan said that one of the most rewarding things about this job is when you finish, it feels super good, and then you get to try it to see if it works. I learned from this interview that this job is really rewarding and requires attention to detail. Evan recommended that I start to work on small engines as soon as possible. I learned a lot from interviewing my brother, and I'm excited to ask him more about this career.

In conclusion, I want to be a Red Bull racer because I could be with bikes all the time. I believe that Red Bull would be a good fit for me because I love bikes and meeting people. Having these two things come together would be my dream for my life. If I win the scholarship, I would spend it on some tools I would need for my college classes. Thank you for reading and considering my application.

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Kaylee Phippen Today's date 3/2/2026

Mailing Address: 772 Indian Point rd

Your city/town: Mount Desert, ME Zip Code: 04660

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Morgan Jordan & Victor Doyle

What school do you attend? MDES What grade are you in? 6th

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms Kerry Taylor



MD 11

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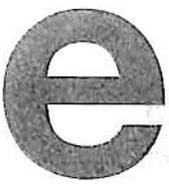
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2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

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Kaylee Phippen

Teacher Comment:

Kaylee has a natural curiosity about the world around her. She is also a very eager learner in all of her academic subjects. She is driven to learn as much as she can about as many topics as possible. It is a pleasure to have her in class. I do not doubt that she will be successful in any career path she chooses, but a career that brings her into nature and allows her to actively help protect it is a perfect fit.

Parent Comment:

Kaylee has always been interested in wildlife, she spends a lot of time in the woods working on family timberland, remote agricultural parcels, marine and intertidal settings and a diverse mix of other natural environments. Experiences from spending time in these locations include hunting and fishing , lessons on proper conduct while engaging in these activities, some emergency and survival education, land and sea navigational safety practice and constant reinforcement of healthy and ethical decision-making. She has the background and resources to excel in this field, she may find that a focus in biology is more enjoyable over the criminal justice weighted career of a warden. She will have time to make that decision and has outlined a path in her essay that will allow for the required experience in this decision making.

Expectations Checklist

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Signed: Student *Kaylee Phipper*

 Teacher *Kerry Taylor*

Protecting My World

By Kaylee Phippen

If I had to pick a favorite number, it would be 25 because it's multiples of 5 and 5, and my birthday is the fifth.

I've always enjoyed being in the woods. I love the cool autumn breeze that rustles the leaves and blows them down, making a wave of reds, oranges, yellows, and browns. I enjoy seeing all the animals: the foxes, the partridges, and most of all the white-tailed deer. When walking on trails around the coast, I love the salty sea breeze and watching the wildlife that lives along the woods and shores or fishing in the lakes and ocean. Being a Game Warden would be a lot of fun. I can work locally, help keep the wildlife safe, observe the animals in their natural habitat, and maybe even teach others about the animals and their homes. This is why I think being a game warden is right for me.

Once when I was 11, I had bugged my grampie to take me hunting all day, and finally he said, "Go find your orange." I was so happy I was practically bouncing off the walls. We started walking, and all of a sudden, we saw a flash of white and knew it was a white-tailed deer. The deer saw us before we saw him, so he booked it. We walked for three more minutes and finally got to the tree stand. After about thirty minutes, we decided to go back because our hands were getting cold. But I wasn't disappointed because secretly I didn't want to kill a deer. I wanted to watch it. That was good enough. We ended the day with some target practice. On the first try, I knocked the target off the tree. It was very cold, so we didn't practice long. As we talked about the day, Grampie said the reason we didn't see any deer was because I was stomping too loudly and scared the deer away (which is true; I am not very quiet in the woods). This was not the first time that I had gone hunting with my grampie, nor the last. I always enjoy the time that is spent in the woods or tree stands learning from him. And being a game warden would mean I still get to spend time in the woods, not in a sweaty office building.

To prepare for this career now, I can study animal behaviors and tracks. I could also take hunter safety courses and boat safety, and learn about environmental laws and the reasons we have them. I can learn more about fish and wildlife. In high school, I can be a volunteer park ranger to enhance my knowledge of the national parks and learn some of the ropes. I can take advanced swimming and learn CPR, in case I'm on a lake and someone's in need of help. I can work on all these skills to prepare myself to be a game warden.

One of the colleges that has a great game warden program is Husson University in Bangor, Maine. Husson has 3,100 to 3,500 students overall, and it's in an urban setting. So being in a small city can give me things to do, like hanging out with friends. At Husson, some of the courses I can take are: Intro to Conservation Law, Physical/Mental Health for Law Enforcement, Wildlife Environmental Law, Wildlife Tracking, and Conservation Law Investigation. Introduction to Environmental Law focuses on protecting wildlife, the environment, and natural resources. This class combines science and legal studies. This covers wildlife trafficking, criminalistics, and ecology. The study of Conservation Law Investigation focuses on the practical skills required for field enforcement, which include Outdoor Crime Scene Processing, Case Preparation, and more. And this all falls under the Bachelor's degree of Science in Conservation Law. These are the classes I would take at Husson University in Bangor, Maine, in order to become a game warden.

To learn more about this profession, I interviewed game warden Matthew Tenant, a four year game warden. He said that it's the best job ever. He said that if you are applying at 20, you have to go to college. But if you are 21, you do not have to have college Experience. Even after you apply, you still have to go to the criminal academy, warden school, and then field training. He also told me that, like the police and the military, there are different levels of game wardens. The levels are: Game Warden Cadet/Trainee, Game Warden (Field Officer), Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Major/Colonel. I asked Matthew if he had any advice for someone looking to pursue this career. He said, "Stay out of trouble" and "Be open." I think by this statement, he meant for me to try new things, and I will try to be more open.

Being a game warden would mean a lot to me because I can protect my natural environment. This means protecting the animals and nature. I think being a game warden would be the right fit for me because, like my mom always says, I have a free spirit and a restless heart. I appreciate that you took time out of your day to consider this essay. Thank you.

"One nice thing about being a game warden was that every season brought a different thing." — Retired Warden Milligan

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Jameson Gilley Today's date 2/6/26

Mailing Address: Po Box 95

Your city/town: Seal Cove Zip Code: 04674

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Carley Butler and Jeremy Gilley

What school do you attend? Tremont What grade are you in? 6

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. Rubasca



TM 3

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Schools:

- Conners Emerson School
- Mount Desert Elementary School
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- Pemetic Elementary School
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Aspirations Partners:

- First National Bank
- Machias Savings Bank
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Maine College Circle

All applications must be received by **March 27, 2026**. ALL parts of your application must be completed. Scholarship recipients will be selected and celebrated shortly after the deadline. Recipients may use their \$100 Aspirations Scholarship for educational programs and resources to help them pursue their aspirations. Submitted applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Review Committee and may also be read by a small group of prospective scholarship funders.

To the applicant:

Respond to the following prompts on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on separate sheets of paper and attach them to this application. Your application may be handwritten or typed. You must also complete the Future of Maine Scholarship Application Expectations Checklist and attach it to your scholarship application. Scholarship Committees will only consider applications with completed Checklists that are signed by the student and the teacher.

1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

Grade 4: Your College* Options. Write about your interests today and aspirations for your future. What career or careers might fit your interests especially well? Given your interests and career aspirations, which college* or colleges might be especially good for you? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school or college* student about their pathway through high school and to college or other educational opportunity after high school. Share the most important points of the interview and what you learned.

Grade 5: Your College* Course. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? And, interview a college* student about their pathway through college* and to a career and lifestyle that will make them proud.

Grade 6: Your College* Pathway and Beyond. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? Also interview (or analyze an existing interview of) a person in a field related to a career that interests you. Please share some of what you learned from that interview, including what you might like or dislike about that career. (Maine College Circle will provide a link to existing interviews if you are not able to set up your own.)



2020

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

To the applicant:

Please assess your level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Your level of effort is minimal. 3 = Adequate. 7 = Your work shows your highest level of effort possible. Please circle one number in each category.

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

To the teacher:

Please assess this student's level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Low. 7 = Outstanding. Please circle one number in each category.

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

→ due to absences + tardies

Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

Please see attached.

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Please see attached.

* Maine College Circle defines "college" as one-, two-, and four-year colleges and universities, trade colleges, and other career-specific educational programs after high school.

Jameson Gilley

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026
To be completed by the student

I have written my name (including my last name), my address, my school, my grade, my teacher, and the date.

I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

Choose one.

I am very proud of the effort I put into this application.

I worked fairly hard on this application.

I didn't do as well as I could have on this application because _____

I have rated my effort in school and on this application at the top of page 2.

My teacher has rated my effort in school and on this application on page 2.

I have included comments from a parent or some other adult who knows me well and supports my aspirations for the future.

I have a fun and engaging first sentence.

I have provided some details about my interests that hopefully show that I know something about my interest. ☆

I have made an effort to write this in a way and with a voice that is fun to read and helps the reader know more about me. ☆

Grade 3

- I have written about my aspirations for my future.
- I have explained why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me and why it would make me proud.
- I have interviewed a high school student and have written a little about what I learned.

Grade 4

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me and have explained why I think they would be good for me.
- I have interviewed a high school or college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 5

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 6

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student

Jamison Giller

Teacher

[Signature]

Future of Maine College Aspirations Scholarship

School: Tremont Consolidated School, Tremont, Maine

Student: Jameson Gilley

Teacher: Elizabeth Holbrook-Rabasca, Middle School ELA

Teacher Comments:

Until this year, Jameson struggled with attention, organization, and follow through. He is an intelligent student, but his biology and mindset often prevented him from reaching his full potential. But that is no more. He takes ownership of his learning, demonstrating that while his biology may have set the initial parameters, his work ethic and entrepreneurial drive now define his results.

Parent Comments:

Jameson is goal oriented and driven when it comes to his future. Over the last year, he has worked extremely hard to improve every aspect of his life to benefit his future. He has shown us determination, perseverance, maturity, and clear commitment for his future success.

1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?

My favorite number is 22 because January 22nd is my birthday. Also, my school basketball jersey number is 11 and 11 is 22 two times.

Passion to Profit

I want to be an entrepreneur when I grow up. An entrepreneur is someone who creates, owns, and grows their business. I have always thought like an entrepreneur. I would buy and sell anything that I could.

When I was 5 or 6, I would go on my dad's boat and get lobsters and sell them to the guys who sold the lobsters. I would always ask how they did it and if I could help them with selling them (it was too much for my 6-year old brain). Also, when I was 5 or 6, I would sell lemonade with my dad and mom at the end of their road and make some money.

I would sell Pokémon cards on Facebook Marketplace with my mom and made about \$100 from them when I was around the age of 7 or 8. Recently, my dad and I have been putting money into stocks. I don't know if we have lost any money or gained any, but let's hope I gained money.

Last summer, my friends and I went to every house in the neighborhood and asked if we could do any work for money. At 12 years old, I have a lot of money, and I'm planning to put it toward my job.

My latest idea is to go to golf courses, collect golf balls from ponds, repackage them, and sell them, but that's not for a long time. If I work hard and pursue this job, I want to start buying hotels. My aspiration is to become an entrepreneur in the fishing industry, where I can make money to start owning hotels.

Currently, I am working on making as much money as possible by doing jobs such as lobstering, power washing cars, running lemonade stands, and clearing mud off people's driveways. I'm

planning to do this this summer. I am hoping I can make over \$10,000 fishing and over \$4,000 with the other jobs combined.

I'm planning to do this every summer until I go into high school. Then, I will start selling golf balls in high school because I will have a car, so I can drive myself around.

You don't need a college education to be an entrepreneur, but you need a strategy because if you spend all your money on one product, you won't have any money for the next one for a while.

You also need patience and the ability to learn through trial and error.

However, I would like to go to college. I would like to attend Denver University (DU). Denver University specializes in entrepreneurship and business. It costs about \$60,000 to attend, and it has a 71% to 78% acceptance rate. Over 18,000 to 19,000 students apply each year, and the weighted GPA to get in is 3.79. That's a really hard grade to get, but I know I can do this because I will continue to work hard in middle school and high school.

I want to major in Business Administration (BSBA) in Hospitality Management with a concentration Lodging Real Estate. The five courses I will have to take are: Hospitality Investments, Lodging Valuation Principles, Hotel Development & Feasibility, Real Estate Finance, and Hospitality Environmental Sustainability. All these classes specialize in business.

I interviewed my Aunt, Lori Seavey. She is an entrepreneur. She owns Acadia Fuel in Ellsworth. I asked her 6 questions.

The first one was: How did you get started in your current career? She said that her husband worked for another fuel company and then they wanted to own their own business, so she started

buying fuel trucks with her husband. She got her first truck in New Hampshire. Her husband drove the trucks and she worked at the office/keeping.

The second question was: Was this career what you always wanted to do? She said, yes and no, she always wanted to own a business but not a fuel company. She didn't always know what company she wanted to own but she went towards the fuel company path.

The third question was: What kind of education or training did you need for your career?

She said her husband needed a state license for two different trucks, fuel, and propane. And she went to USM college. She didn't get a degree for business. For her classes she did accounting and she went to college for 4 years. Her husband needed to take safety classes and he had to learn how to safely drive the fuel and propane trucks.

The fourth question was: Do you enjoy your work? What is your greatest accomplishment? She said she does enjoy it. She said, "the best part about being the owner of the company is helping people out and keeping people warm." Her greatest accomplishment was growing the company just from one truck and a little work space and grew into a big company.

The fifth question was: What does a typical day in your career look like? She said in the morning she goes to the post office for all her mail, and then she goes to her bank and makes a deposit.

Then she goes to her office and talks to her customers and vendors. Then she enters a lot of things with her computer such as she pay her bills, and enters data into the computer to do the tickets and the tickets are for the drivers so they know where to deliver.

The sixth and final question was: What advice can you give someone looking to pursue this career? She said, “Work hard and put in all your effort and always pay your bills so your credit score is good.” and put a lot of knowledge into business and know everything about your business before you start it.

Being an entrepreneur is not only a job for me, it's a goal that I am determined to achieve. I understand that it's not going to be easy, but I will work hard and put in all my effort. It's a high-risk job—entrepreneurs can become very successful and make millions of dollars, or they can fail and lose all the money they put into the product. I don't expect to succeed on the first try. I expect it to be challenging, but if you keep trying, you can achieve your goal.

In the end, entrepreneurship will allow me to turn my ideas into reality.

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Abigail Thurlow Today's date 2/6/26
 Mailing Address: Po Box 452
 Your city/town: Bass Harbor Zip Code: 04653
 Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Tricia and Jamie Thurlow
 What school do you attend? Tremont What grade are you in? 6
 Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. Raba Sca

2026

TM8

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 Pemetic Elementary School
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First National Bank
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Maine College Circle

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1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

Grade 4: Your College* Options. Write about your interests today and aspirations for your future. What career or careers might fit your interests especially well? Given your interests and career aspirations, which college* or colleges might be especially good for you? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school or college* student about their pathway through high school and to college or other educational opportunity after high school. Share the most important points of the interview and what you learned.

Grade 5: Your College* Course. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? And, interview a college* student about their pathway through college* and to a career and lifestyle that will make them proud.

Grade 6: Your College* Pathway and Beyond. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? Also interview (or analyze an existing interview of) a person in a field related to a career that interests you. Please share some of what you learned from that interview, including what you might like or dislike about that career. (Maine College Circle will provide a link to existing interviews if you are not able to set up your own.)



2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

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Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

To the teacher:

Please assess this student's level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Low. 7 = Outstanding. Please circle one number in each category.

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	+++

Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

Please see attached!

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Please see attached.

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Abby Thurlow

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026

To be completed by the student

I have written my name (including my last name), my address, my school, my grade, my teacher, and the date.

I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

Choose one.

I am very proud of the effort I put into this application.

I worked fairly hard on this application.

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I have a fun and engaging first sentence.

I have provided some details about my interests that hopefully show that I know something about my interest.

I have made an effort to write this in a way and with a voice that is fun to read and helps the reader know more about me.

close to home, affordable, and it has the best teaching program in Maine. In college, I will need a 4 year bachelor's degree. I will also need to have supervised student teaching, completion of a state-approved teacher preparation program and passing certification exams. Some classes I will take will include **Becoming a Teacher**. In this class I will learn about how education plays a role in today's society. And what it means to be in education. In addition I will take **Science Methods for Elementary Education**. This course will focus on how to teach science. I will learn strategies, activities, and assessments for the elementary science classroom. I will also learn STEM education.

Some other classes will be: **Teaching Reading and Language Arts in the Elementary School, Student Teaching, Mathematics Methods for Elementary Education**, as well as **Social Studies Methods and Global Perspectives in Elementary Education**.

I interviewed the 4th grade teacher at my school, Ms. Diaz, and I learned sometimes you can be teaching and not even know it. That is why teaching is so important. I also might want to be a principal someday, so I interviewed my principal, Mrs. True. I learned to be willing to put the kids' lives first before yours and support the teachers, so the teachers can support the students.

In the future, I plan to go to college then teach on MDI. If I was to receive the \$100, it would go toward my college expenses. My life will be filled with kids. Kids that I teach and kids of my own. I am hoping to assist in creating amazing, helpful, and kind children that can succeed in their future. That is what would make me happy. Who knows? Maybe someday you will see me win the Maine Teacher of the Year award.

MDI

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Noah Cook Today's date 3/27/2026

Mailing Address: PO Box 214

Your city/town: Southwest Harbor Zip Code: 04679

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Alyssa and Robert Cook

What school do you attend? PemetiC What grade are you in? 6

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Mrs. Norwood



75

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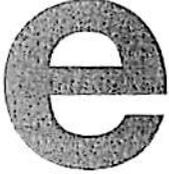
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2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

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Grade 6: Your College* Pathway and Beyond. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? Also interview (or analyze an existing interview of) a person in a field related to a career that interests you. Please share some of what you learned from that interview, including what you might like or dislike about that career. (Maine College Circle will provide a link to existing interviews if you are not able to set up your own.)



2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

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Please assess this student's level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Low. 7 = Outstanding. Please circle one number in each category.

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.

Noah is such a kind, respectful young man. His positive attitude & work ethic will serve him well in the future. He consistently shows kindness to others.

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Please see attached recommendation.

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Noah Cook
30 Forest Ave. Apt 4
Southwest Harbor, ME 04679
Pemetic Elementary, Grade 6
Mrs. Norwood
March 27, 2026

Four

My favorite number is four because it is an even number and fun to draw . Four of spades is my favorite card in a deck.

Noah Cook
30 Forest Ave. Apt 4
Southwest Harbor, ME 04679
Pemetic Elementary, Grade 6
Mrs. Norwood
March 27, 2026

Video Game Programming Career Path

The career choice that I'm interested in is the Development and Programming of Video Games. My favorite video game is Skyrim which came out in 2013 for the PS3. I find this career interesting because my hobby of playing video games can also help others learn. There are many different careers that I can choose but Game Development and Programming is the best for me.

This career choice fits me as I like creating 3D animation and playing video games. I have a lot of knowledge in certain subjects, such as World War II and animals to create games for those interests. This career will help others and make a difference. My knowledge about specific topics, such as WWII, will help others learn in a very fun and interactive way. My interest in war history started when my great grandmother said she lived through ww2 and the great depression. Ever since I was a little kid I enjoyed animals and talking about animals. I remember looking through a huge book pointing to pictures in the book and asking what they were.

The career of a video game programmer involves creating games for everyone around the world. These games can be a helpful resource for people to learn and entertain them. The skills needed for this job is knowledge about gaming and knowledge or background in coding, knowing what gamers like to play and are interested in.

The personalities that would fit this job would be having a lot of patience, not getting irritated fast, and perseverance to continue creating the game and complete it. This job would be good for me because I have a lot of patience, hard work, and rarely give up.

A degree in video game programming will be roughly four years in a college program at a University. Education in digital programming can include classes on 2D design and 3D animation, coding, interactive media, and digital imaging. One good college close to me and has good classes for everything I could need is Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The career choice that I'm interested in is the Development and Programming of Video Games and I can learn more about coding, animation and watch videos about this career. Also, after interviewing my technology integrator teacher, he suggested other programs such as code.org and Scratch for getting started and an introduction to coding. He offers some classes after school and I will be interested to attend. I'm excited to learn everything there is about Programming for my future.

Pemetic Elementary School



327 Main Street
PO Box 255
Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

Phone: (207) 244-5502
Fax: (207) 244-0367
Interim Principal: Carolyn Todd

March 30, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of Noah Cook, who is applying for a Future of Maine Aspirations scholarship. His chosen career is Video Game Developer/Programmer. I have known Noah since December of this year and can attest to the qualities he possesses that would make him well suited to this path.

Noah is a calm, patient, hard worker. He shows up ready to work each day and does so without complaint. He also has a remarkable depth of knowledge in a variety of subjects, especially animals. He has stated a desire to use video games not only to entertain people, but also to help them learn.

Noah has a clear view of the work that this career path entails and he seeks opportunities to improve his knowledge. He has expressed interest in many of the facets of game development, including coding, 2D/3D animation and digital imaging. He also, through his own experience, knows what kinds of games are popular and what gamers want.

I believe that Noah possesses the traits most critical to programming and developing games. I have every confidence that if he pursues this path, he will excel.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Frothingham', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cameron Frothingham
Pemetic Elementary School

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026

To be completed by the student

I have written my name (including my last name), my address, my school, my grade, my teacher, and the date.

I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

Choose one.

I am very proud of the effort I put into this application.

I worked fairly hard on this application.

I didn't do as well as I could have on this application because _____

I have rated my effort in school and on this application at the top of page 2.

My teacher has rated my effort in school and on this application on page 2.

I have included comments from a parent or some other adult who knows me well and supports my aspirations for the future.

I have a fun and engaging first sentence.

I have provided some details about my interests that hopefully show that I know something about my interest.

I have made an effort to write this in a way and with a voice that is fun to read and helps the reader know more about me.

Grade 3

- I have written about my aspirations for my future.
- I have explained why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me and why it would make me proud.
- I have interviewed a high school student and have written a little about what I learned.

Grade 4

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me and have explained why I think they would be good for me.
- I have interviewed a high school or college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 5

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
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Grade 6

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- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student Noah Cook

Teacher Bonnie L. Nowood

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

2026

Name: Aria Kibe Today's date 3/10

Mailing Address: 39 Ridgeway drive

Your city/town: Bar Harbor Zip Code: 06409

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Ashleigh Marchetti and Donald Kibe

What school do you attend? Connors Emerson What grade are you in? 6th

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Miss Ginn

CEY

\$100 Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarships will be awarded by community members to grade 3 - 6 students living in communities served by the schools listed below, and students who best demonstrate effort -- effort to do well in school, effort to pursue education beyond high school, effort to reach their goals, and effort to complete this scholarship application especially well. You are strongly advised to read the "12 Tips" under "Informational Resources" at www.mainecollegecircle.org.

Schools:

Connors Emerson School
Mount Desert Elementary School
Tremont Consolidated School
Pemetic Elementary School
Trenton Elementary School

Aspirations Partners:

First National Bank
Machias Savings Bank
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

Maine College Circle

All applications must be received by **March 27, 2026**. ALL parts of your application must be completed. Scholarship recipients will be selected and celebrated shortly after the deadline. Recipients may use their \$100 Aspirations Scholarship for educational programs and resources to help them pursue their aspirations. Submitted applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Review Committee and may also be read by a small group of prospective scholarship funders.

To the applicant:

Respond to the following prompts on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on separate sheets of paper and attach them to this application. Your application may be handwritten or typed. You must also complete the Future of Maine Scholarship Application Expectations Checklist and attach it to your scholarship application. Scholarship Committees will only consider applications with completed Checklists that are signed by the student and the teacher.

1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

Grade 4: Your College* Options. Write about your interests today and aspirations for your future. What career or careers might fit your interests especially well? Given your interests and career aspirations, which college* or colleges might be especially good for you? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school or college* student about their pathway through high school and to college or other educational opportunity after high school. Share the most important points of the interview and what you learned.

Grade 5: Your College* Course. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? And, interview a college* student about their pathway through college* and to a career and lifestyle that will make them proud.

Grade 6: Your College* Pathway and Beyond. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? Also interview (or analyze an existing interview of) a person in a field related to a career that interests you. Please share some of what you learned from that interview, including what you might like or dislike about that career. (Maine College Circle will provide a link to existing interviews if you are not able to set up your own.)



Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

2020

To the applicant:

Please assess your level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Your level of effort is minimal. 3 = Adequate. 7 = Your work shows your highest level of effort possible. Please circle one number in each category.

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

To the teacher:

Please assess this student's level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Low. 7 = Outstanding. Please circle one number in each category.

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Aria has been a fashionista from an early age, instinctively putting together the most unique and unexpected outfits—each one a small glimpse into who she is. Fueled by her creativity, imagination, and natural artistic ability, her personal style has always been a genuine expression of her spirit. As she's grown older and her artistic talents have continued to evolve, I've watched with pride as she's begun to explore fashion not just as a passion, but as a possible future. Seeing her confidence grow and her vision take shape has been incredibly meaningful, and I truly believe this is something she will not only be exceptionally good at, but deeply passionate about.

* Maine College Circle defines "college" as one-, two-, and four-year colleges and universities, trade colleges, and other career-specific educational programs after high school.

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026

To be completed by the student

I have written my name (including my last name), my address, my school, my grade, my teacher, and the date.

I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

Choose one.

I am very proud of the effort I put into this application.

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Grade 4

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
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Grade 5

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
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Grade 6

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student

Aria Kibe

Teacher

[Signature]

Fashion designer

My favorite number is Four, because the number four has shown up a lot in my life. It is in my birthday month and year.

Fashion has been an interest of mine, and always has been my entire life.

When I was little, I was given a light pink box for Christmas. It came with tracers for drawing people and outfits, and I became obsessed. Everyday, everytime I had a chance to use it, I would. Even when I couldn't use it, I would always be thinking about different outfits and items together. I would always be so grateful towards my sister when she would give me her old clothes. It gave me a chance to design new clothes and outfits, so lately I've decided I want to pursue my dreams in designing fashion.

I honestly think being a fashion designer would be the best choice for me because I'm very creative, and I'm very good when it comes to public speaking. I mostly just draw in my freetime, especially when it comes to clothing items. To prepare for this career, I can start to learn how to sew, and possibly start to create a certain clothing item like a skirt. There's a camp that I would go to called SFOA(Summer Festival Of Arts). There you can take classes and learn how to create many things related to fashion and clothes. For high school I'd take fiber arts. Even though it's only for knitting and crocheting and similar things to that, it would help me take a step forward towards the career.

In the future I plan to go to the *Fashion Institute of Technology*. It has a 53%-58% acceptance rate and I would need to complete the AAS or equivalent college level credits, in an Art & Design program. The courses I would take would be *Advertising and Marketing Communications, Fabric Styling, Fashion Business Management, Footwear and Accessories Design, and Fashion Design*. It's most common for fashion designers to get a bachelor's degree, so that's what I'll do.

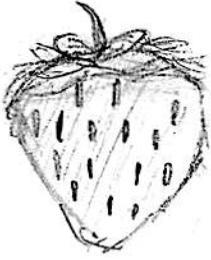
A quote I found on their website: "You're not just getting a beautiful dress, you're getting a beautiful image of this place and how it's affected by global warming. You're wearing what you're saving." This is important to me because it shows you can create clothing for a purpose for yourself, and that the piece of clothing was designed to be beautiful, but to also represent the serious talk about climate change.

I eventually found a pre-recorded interview from CareerOneStop.org

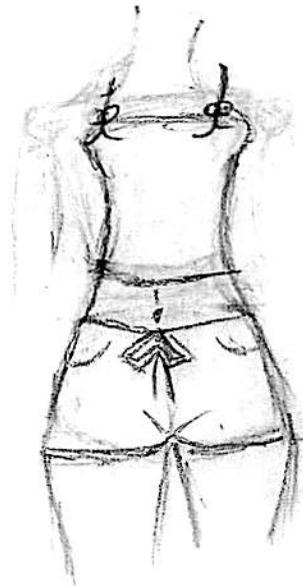
The person in the interview stated that Fashion designers design many things, and that could be accessories, shoes and garments to clothes with unique designs. Sometimes, they can be *so* unique that they can get accepted to fashion shows where models wear their amazing ideas. One of the struggles can be long hours and hard work. I think I can manage that because I'm usually hard working in things (especially fashion) and I can work through long hours. Fashion designers can also experience hectic deadlines, which I'm okay with.

Fashion design is truly the perfect job for me as I love designing pretty much anything. This career matters so much to me because it's the only job that calls to me. I just know that I would love to work in this job when I'm older. If I were to win, I would use the scholarship to buy a sewing machine and buy classes at fabricate LLC. Thank you for putting my application into consideration and taking your time to read my essay.

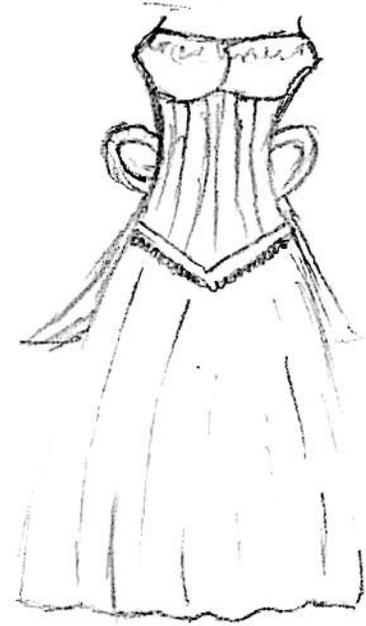
strawberry



Casual clothing



Dresses



Renee Quebbeman

ELA Teacher | Conners Emerson School
Bar Harbor, Maine

March 25, 2026

To the Selection Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm and without reservation that I recommend Aria Kibe for the College Aspirations Essay Contest. In my years as an educator, I have had the privilege of working with many remarkable students, and Aria stands among the most exceptional.

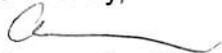
From the moment Aria entered our school, she distinguished herself not only through her outstanding intellect but through the quiet, confident way she carries herself among her peers. She is one of the most insightful students to walk through our halls — a reader and thinker who notices nuance, asks meaningful questions, and draws connections that consistently surprise and delight those around her.

What truly sets Aria apart is her perseverance. As the editor of our school newspaper, she took on a significant leadership challenge: guiding a group of enthusiastic, energetic, and at times rambunctious student writers through the process of producing a polished, thoughtful publication. She did so with grace, patience, and remarkable skill — offering feedback with kindness, holding high standards without discouraging her teammates, and shepherding the process from first draft to final product. That kind of mentorship is rare at any age, and exceptional in a student her age.

Aria is also simply a wonderful person — a dedicated student and a genuine friend to those around her. She brings thoughtfulness and warmth to every interaction, and her presence in a classroom elevates the experience for everyone.

I have no doubt that Aria Kibe will bring the same intelligence, heart, and determination to this contest that she brings to everything she undertakes. She has my highest and most enthusiastic recommendation.

Sincerely,



Renee Quebbeman

ELA Teacher, 5th Grade
Conners Emerson School | Bar Harbor, Maine

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Grace Catherine Ward Today's date 3/10/26

Mailing Address: 1014 St. Hwy 3 Apt 1

Your city/town: Bar Harbor Maine Zip Code: 04609

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Kala M. Ward

What school do you attend? Conners Emerson What grade are you in? 6

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilie Ginn



CE9

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Schools:

- Conners Emerson School
- Mount Desert Elementary School
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- Trenton Elementary School

Aspirations Partners:

- First National Bank
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To the applicant:

Respond to the following prompts on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on separate sheets of paper and attach them to this application. Your application may be handwritten or typed. You must also complete the Future of Maine Scholarship Application Expectations Checklist and attach it to your scholarship application. Scholarship Committees will only consider applications with completed Checklists that are signed by the student and the teacher.

1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

Grade 4: Your College* Options. Write about your interests today and aspirations for your future. What career or careers might fit your interests especially well? Given your interests and career aspirations, which college* or colleges might be especially good for you? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school or college* student about their pathway through high school and to college or other educational opportunity after high school. Share the most important points of the interview and what you learned.

Grade 5: Your College* Course. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? And, interview a college* student about their pathway through college* and to a career and lifestyle that will make them proud.

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2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

To the applicant:

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Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

To the teacher:

Please assess this student's level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Low. 7 = Outstanding. Please circle one number in each category.

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Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

See attached!

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Attached.

* Maine College Circle defines "college" as one-, two-, and four-year colleges and universities, trade colleges, and other career-specific educational programs after high school.

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026

To be completed by the student

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Choose one.

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- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed: Student Gabe HSD

Teacher Gina

ZOOLOGY: ONE SMALL FOOTSTEP FOR ME, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR ANIMAL KIND.

I like the number 41. The Ark had 40 days of rain. Moses wandered 40 years. Jesus fasted 40 days. With 41, change brought hope.

“Hi! My name is Grace and I’m a zookeeper here at the national zoo.” Or at least that’s what I hope to be saying in 20 years.

I love animals.

When I was in preschool, I wanted to be a paleontologist. I loved studying dinosaurs and learning about them. I took in every little bit of information I could. I am not writing about Paleontology. Then, when I was in kindergarten, I wanted to be a vet. I am not writing about that either, but both of these kind of shaped what I decided I want to do. I want to be a zoologist. I have always loved studying animals, and being around them.

Every summer, I go to visit my dad who lives in Virginia. On the way home my mom and I visit cities like Philadelphia and New York. Last summer me and my mom went to Washington DC for the second time. While there, we visited the National zoo. At this point in my life I vaguely knew that I wanted to be a zoologist, but this is when it clicked. At the zoo, I was in my element. I pretended to be a tour guide, and talked on and on about the animals we saw. I took in all the information I could. And I repeated it to my mom. We went to a sea lion show and afterwards I asked the zookeeper a few questions about how she got there, even though she wasn't famous, to me, it was like talking to a celebrity. In total, I’ve been to 10 different zoos, some of them multiple times. When I was two my mom took me to the zoo and we saw baby tigers, and I was angry that I couldn't go in to see them and I had to look through glass.

I know that I want to be a zoologist, specifically working in a zoo or wildlife refuge. A job like this allows me to do two things I love, study and learn about animals, and also be able to take care of animals. I love being able to study by seeing and being hands on, and I've had multiple pets. All of these things help me know that I would make a great zoologist. I have some plans for how I can get more experience and learn more about this career. I am on the waitlist to go to a day camp at the Virginia zoo. At this camp, I would learn things about taking care of animals, and what it’s like to work in a zoo. I am going to get two pet hermit crabs this summer that will live at my dad’s house. In taking care of these hermit crabs, I will learn skills of taking care of animals and being responsible, plus I would be able to study and watch these crabs; which is one of the things a zoologist would do.

In high school, I plan to volunteer at the Hancock County SPCA, which will get me more hands-on experience in my field. I also hope to work at a pet store like *crystal clear* in elsworth, which will get me experience while having fun doing it. I also plan to take as many science

classes as possible, including AP biology, and college prep biology. I also plan to try to start a science olympiad team for division C and join a biology club.

After high school, I plan to go to the University of Maine in Orono. There, I will double major in wildlife ecology and zoology. I will take classes such as WLE 200 - Ecology, BIO 433 - Mammalogy, and BIO 329 - Vertebrate Biology. Though the wildlife ecology course is intended for people that wish to go into fields related to the department of fisheries and wildlife, I feel that this program will help me learn more and have more certifications to work in a zoo or wildlife refuge, plus the classes listed are very interesting. I chose to study at UMO because its campus is about an hour drive from where I live, and where my grandparents live, plus I have had the opportunity to go to the campus a few times and I've really enjoyed it. I know that it would be my honor to be a black bear.

I used a prerecorded interview with Mike Miller, also known as "Wild Mike". Though I was not able to speak to anyone in person, this interview was still helpful. Mike said: "Now these days are eight hour days and at most facilities it can be anywhere from five to seven days a week. And that's going to be happening 52 weeks a year over all holidays" Especially after hearing what Mike had to say, I knew that I was prepared to work through holidays. If you're working at a hotel you can't just leave because it's five o' clock on a Friday night. Plus, animals need you. They can't feed themselves, enrich themselves, schedule their own veterinary appointments or anything! I am fully prepared for a baby tiger to need me as much as a human baby would. I was also able to get some answers to interview questions from a zoologist in the national zoo (my dream workplace). His name is Paul and he works on the asia trail. When I asked him "Did you get good grades in 6th grade? Do you need to get good grades to do this job?" I really liked his answer because I could relate to it. He said, "I did get good grades in school most of the time." This is also like me, science is one of my favorite classes and I've gotten good grades in most subjects. I think it's really cool that I can relate to a zookeeper in this way.

To conclude, I think being a zoologist is a good idea for me because I will get to do the two things I love most, studying and growing my knowledge of animals, and taking care of animals. I've always asked lots of questions and when people ask me why I do that I say, "people who ask the most questions learn the most." I also say "you can't get answers without asking the questions, and the best place to start is always WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? Or HOW?" I also know that I am not afraid to get a little dirty for the sake of my animals, and I also know when to be serious and organized. As the famous saying goes, when you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life. I know that Zoology is what I love, and who ever wants to work a day in their life? I know I can connect to the animals I work with and make a lasting impact on their lives. I want to change the world when I grow up, and the best way to start is changing my animals' worlds. If I were to win this scholarship I'd probably put it toward

taking care of my pet hermit crabs. First of all, if I want to do it right it's going to be expensive. Second of all, through having hermit crabs I would learn the basics of field zoology because I would be constantly observing them, and I would learn the commitment that it takes to be an animal care specialist. If not the hermit crabs, I may put my money towards my college fund or buying books about zoology. I could also use my scholarship to pay for online zoology programs. Thank you for taking the time to read my essay.

"We are all interconnected, people, animals, our environment.. When nature suffers, we suffer. And when nature flourishes, we all flourish."

-Dr. Jane Goodall



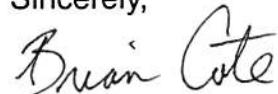
March 10, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Grace Ward. Grace was a 5th grade student in my middle school science classroom last year at the Conners Emerson School in Bar Harbor, Maine. During her time here, Grace tackled general science topics including the scientific method, ecology, water quality studies at The Bar, geology, astronomy, high pressure water rocket engineering, and a genuine inquiry project. Grace is a phenomenally dedicated student and has a genuine passion for science. She is uniquely inquisitive about science topics most often digging further through inquiry. Grace is an integral member of the CES Science Olympiad team. She and her team meet once a week all year and sometimes on weekends to engage in the topics that they love. Grace has travelled and competed locally and nationally for two years now highlighting her drive and passion for science. Her love of animals combined with her advanced understanding of science for her age are a perfect match for a career in zoology.

Aside from Grace's passion for zoology and all things science, she is an incredibly kind and caring person. As Grace leaves 6th grade this year, I have no doubt that she will seek out more opportunities in science that interest her. I have no doubt that Grace will be a positive asset to the world around her. If you have any questions about Grace Ward, don't hesitate to contact me at bcote@mdirss.org.

Sincerely,



Brian Cote
CES Science Teacher

Hello -

I think Grace did a great job explaining her interests and desire to be a zoologist. She is sincere in her hopes and has had progression in this interest over the years. Grace has been passionate about caring for animals and being connected to them throughout her life. I'm thankful to have been able to take her to many zoos and aquariums. Whenever we have to travel I try hard to add a detour to some sort of enrichment like museums, zoos or other experiences and what has always brought the most joy is seeing animals. At home, far from the world of zoos and aquariums, she reads books about zoology and animals. Grace is also in her 2nd year on the CES Science Olympiad team where she immerses herself in the foundational science that she will need as she advances her dream. CES doesn't always have science available to students (none in 6th and 1/2 of 7/8), but when she does have science class it has her full attention. When we take the family dog to the vet she participates in the care and asks questions. She is truly passionate about animal conservation, educating others about animals and caring for the needs of God's creatures. Grace is a hard worker and I believe she will continue to work at this goal. It has been great to see her desire to work with animals become clear goals and aspirations.

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Shari McFarlane Today's date 3/16/26
Mailing Address: 6A Bowles Ave Bar Harbor, ME
Your city/town: Bar Harbor, ME Zip Code: 04609
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Sarah Hinchley
What school do you attend? CEs What grade are you in? 6
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilie Ginn

2026

CE14

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Pemetic Elementary School
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Maine College Circle

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To the applicant:

Respond to the following prompts on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on separate sheets of paper and attach them to this application. Your application may be handwritten or typed. You must also complete the Future of Maine Scholarship Application Expectations Checklist and attach it to your scholarship application. Scholarship Committees will only consider applications with completed Checklists that are signed by the student and the teacher.

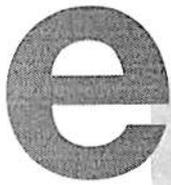
1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

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Grade 5: Your College* Course. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? And, interview a college* student about their pathway through college* and to a career and lifestyle that will make them proud.

Grade 6: Your College* Pathway and Beyond. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? Also interview (or analyze an existing interview of) a person in a field related to a career that interests you. Please share some of what you learned from that interview, including what you might like or dislike about that career. (Maine College Circle will provide a link to existing interviews if you are not able to set up your own.)



Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

2026

To the applicant:

Please assess your level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Your level of effort is minimal. 3 = Adequate. 7 = Your work shows your highest level of effort possible. Please circle one number in each category.

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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To the teacher:

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Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Shavi is an excellent student who has great work ethic. Above all, he is very kind, thoughtful, and is unafraid to do the right thing. Shavi brings up the energy level in every room he enters. He initiates and guides thoughtful conversations respectfully. He would be an excellent candidate for this scholarship. - Allyson Bender

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

This project was a wonderful exercise in watching how Shavi approaches difficult situations and perseveres to work through them. Few people have a clear picture of what career path they would like to take after high school when in sixth grade. Shavi has always been an athletic child therefore it makes sense he would like to pursue a career in that field. In discussing the project, our conversations morphed from one path to professional participation in sports to Shavi recognizing there are multiple options within the fields of athletics, as well as social and biological sciences. He enjoyed researching colleges, exploring majors, future classes and regions of the country to further his education. I enjoyed watching his enthusiasm grow and our conversations about how people take different paths in their lives. Because of this, I look forward to seeing which career Shavi ultimately chooses and know that he will be successful.

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026
To be completed by the student

I have written my name (including my last name), my address, my school, my grade, my teacher, and the date.

I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

Choose one.

I am very proud of the effort I put into this application.

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I have rated my effort in school and on this application at the top of page 2.

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I have made an effort to write this in a way and with a voice that is fun to read and helps the reader know more about me.

Grade 3

- I have written about my aspirations for my future.
- I have explained why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me and why it would make me proud.
- I have interviewed a high school student and have written a little about what I learned.

Grade 4

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me and have explained why I think they would be good for me.
- I have interviewed a high school or college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 5

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
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- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 6

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student

Shari McFarlane

Teacher

G. M. [Signature]

SHOOTING FOR MY DREAMS

By Shavi. M

My favorite number is 23 because it was my first sports number, and it's also LeBron James's and Michael Jordan's numbers. They are inspirational players.

One day I want to be a high level soccer player who inspires young people to shoot for their dreams.

I've been playing soccer since I was four and living in Colorado. I played in my back yard and at school. I played with my mom, my cousins and my aunt. My mom had a garden in the back yard, so we used the base of the garden bed as a goal. I remember the feeling of scoring a goal. The exhilaration, the rush felt amazing. When I was four, we, my Mom, Dad and I, moved to Maine.

Last fall I played soccer for my school and for a travel team (Down East/Acadia Fire soccer club). I have been playing for Acadia Fire for seven years. Now I am 12, and I have gotten better. I'm planning to play soccer for my school this fall so I can continue to improve. During the off season, I play at the YMCA near my school. Every day, I go and practice for at least 30 minutes, lift weights and go around the track 20-30 laps.

To learn more about soccer leadership, I interviewed Emily Ellis because she was the Executive Director of Acadia Fire and a soccer coach. She began playing soccer in her youth and went on to play for Colby College. I was interested in what drew her to soccer and what she did to become a leader in soccer. When I talked to her I learned that she wanted to study the behavior of wolves after high school. A career in soccer was not one of her goals at the time. In high school she started playing soccer and played again in college and coached a little. Talking to Emily inspired me because she got so high up in the Acadia Fire Soccer Club through her passion for the sport.

I also interviewed Michael Curless to understand more of what he does and how he got into soccer. He is a psychologist and a soccer coach. He is a clinical psychologist who does play therapy with kids ages 3 and older. He coaches U16 soccer for Acadia Fire. He also coaches his daughter individually. He made me want to get better at soccer so I can inspire other players to be their best. I think doing psychology and soccer would be a good career path for me also because I could help people get better at the sports they play. One thing that really helped inspire me was he told me some traits that help you become a better soccer player, and those traits were, “Be able to help people understand, understand how to change behavior with laughter.” That made me feel better because I have a great sense of humor! 😊

To learn more about soccer leadership, I interviewed Emily Ellis and Michael Curless. Both of these people have served as the executive directors of Acadia Fire Football Club. Both Ellis and Curless have had a passion for soccer since their youth and went on to play at the college level. Curless

played in Austria and eventually was recruited to play on a professional soccer team in Europe

If I win the money I will put it into new soccer cleats and other soccer gear so I can become a better soccer player. In high school I will play soccer and take Physical Education & Wellness. I will go to Colorado College or Washington College for Psychology, Neuroscience, Biology, Sociology and Economics. After retirement I am going to become a psychologist and if not that a P.E teacher. I am interested in these schools because they have good soccer programs. I am going to help people get better at sports. I practice everyday and I'm very hardworking.

Thank you for looking at my essay. Sincerely Shavi McFarlane.

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Oliver Gariepy Today's date 3/10/26

Mailing Address: 7 Abby Ln

Your city/town: Bar Harbor ME Zip Code: 04609

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Adam G Brooke G

What school do you attend? CES What grade are you in? 6th

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? MS GIAN



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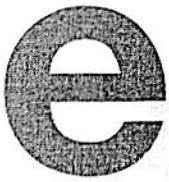
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2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

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To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Oliver loves to design and build things. He has a creative brain that is able to see both the big picture and the small details. Oliver's computer and technology skills combined with his love of hands on projects makes him an ideal person to become a mechanical engineer. One of Oliver's greatest strengths is his ability to stick with a project. He gets an idea in his mind and he is going to problem solve and strategize until the completion of the project. Oliver continues to learn and grow with each project he completes. He is learning the technical skills needed for each design but he is also learning the design process.

* Maine College Circle defines "college" as one-, two-, and four-year colleges and universities, trade colleges, and other career-specific educational programs after high school.

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026

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- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student



Teacher



Building My Dreams

4 is my favorite because I was born on July 4th, and its my basketball number That helps me make baskets and gives good luck

Ever since I was little, I always liked building anything I could. When I was 10, I built a potato launcher out of pvc piping. I took a bike pump, a valve and pvc connectors and I made an air powered potato gun.

I knew my aspiration could be to become a mechanical engineer.

Mechanical engineering would be a great job for me because it's a fun job and pays well. The steps I will need to take include taking AP classes in high school like AP Calculus, AP Science and AP Physics. In high school, I will also get a job working at a car place to help me get experience and to make money to save up for college. When I am a junior, I will apply to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Colby or the University of Michigan. I will be going to one of those schools which all have good programs for mechanical engineering. I will work in an office where I will build robots and machines. I will live in a dorm for my

freshman year. Then in my sophomore year my grandparents own a house 25 minutes from my campus. I will take public transportation or I will drive.

I interviewed Tyson from the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition . He said it's best to go to a mechanical engineering school. His workday looks like he goes into the office and starts the 3d printer. Then he has meetings and then he spends the rest of the day designing, and that sounds fun because I like to build things. A quote he said was "Seeing something you designed come to life feels good."-Tyson,And he works 40-80 hours a week. Something he said was challenging is the deadlines because they are stressful. After I interviewed Tyson I want to do this job more than ever.

I like building structures. When I was 5, my grandpa got me my first tool set and let me build with him. It gave me so much joy. If I win this scholarship, I will spend it on 3d printer fillement so I can print more things, like parts for my potato luncher. Thank you so much and taking time out of your day to read and thank you for considering my essay.



HEATHER WEBSTER
PRINCIPAL
MICHAEL FOURNIER
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CONNERS-EMERSON SCHOOL
11 Eagle Lake Road
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609
(207) 288-3631

3/15/26

Dear Future of Maine College Aspirations Scholarship committee,

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Oliver. I have had the privilege of working with Oliver for the past 7 years in Physical Education classes and more recently as the Athletic Director at Connors Emerson School.

Oliver is a hard working young man. Oliver would like to be a mechanical engineer and it shows in his creativity in our classes. Oliver is working on his leadership skills and works well with others. He is kind to others and always has energy and lots of enthusiasm for the activities he is involved in.

I encourage you to strongly consider Oliver for this scholarship. Oliver is a passionate, hard working, and thoughtful young student/athlete who aspires to be a mechanical engineer. If you would like to further discuss Oliver's abilities, please do not hesitate to call me at (207) 460-1218.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Dionne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bryan Dionne

Athletic Director/Physical Education teacher

Connors Emerson School

11 Eagle Lake Road

Bar Harbor ME 04609

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Izzy Wagner Today's date 3/10/26

Mailing Address: 13 Bowles Ave

Your city/town: Bar Harbor ME Zip Code: 04609

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Emily Dwyer & Shane Wagner

What school do you attend? Connors Emerson What grade are you in? 6th

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilie Lion



CS 24

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Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

Grade 4: Your College* Options. Write about your interests today and aspirations for your future. What career or careers might fit your interests especially well? Given your interests and career aspirations, which college* or colleges might be especially good for you? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school or college* student about their pathway through high school and to college or other educational opportunity after high school. Share the most important points of the interview and what you learned.

Grade 5: Your College* Course. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? And, interview a college* student about their pathway through college* and to a career and lifestyle that will make them proud.

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Future of Eastern Maine

2026

Aspirations Scholarship

To the applicant:

Please assess your level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Your level of effort is minimal. 3 = Adequate. 7 = Your work shows your highest level of effort possible. *Please circle one number in each category.*

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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To the teacher:

Please assess this student's level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Low. 7 = Outstanding. *Please circle one number in each category.*

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Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

I teach Izzy in music class and I have seen her swim at many meets. She is polite and engaged in music class. In the pool she works super hard to become the fastest she can. Her aspiration is to become a restaurant owner and an olympic swimmer. I believe she can do it.

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Bella is very engaged in swim and a decorated athlete. She knows what it is like to succeed when giving her all in a sport. In the kitchen she is always asking to help, getting creative and wanting to make food for friends. She had a successful hot cocoa and baked good stand last January and made over \$200 profit!

* Maine College Circle defines "college" as one-, two-, and four-year colleges and universities, trade colleges, and other career-specific educational programs after high school.

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026

To be completed by the student

I have written my name (including my last name), my address, my school, my grade, my teacher, and the date.

I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

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I have a fun and engaging first sentence.

I have provided some details about my interests that hopefully show that I know something about my interest.

I have made an effort to write this in a way and with a voice that is fun to read and helps the reader know more about me.

Grade 3

- I have written about my aspirations for my future.
- I have explained why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me and why it would make me proud.
- I have interviewed a high school student and have written a little about what I learned.

Grade 4

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me and have explained why I think they would be good for me.
- I have interviewed a high school or college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 5

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
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- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
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Grade 6

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- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student

Isabella Wagner

Teacher

Gini

Swimming & Owning My Dreams

16 is my favorite number because it's my birthday, it would be my golden birthday, and my sweet 16, and I would get a car.

Do you know how to be a competitive swimmer while owning a business? It isn't easy but it can be done! Once your business is established, you can hire people you depend on. To become an Olympic swimmer, I will need to practice at least ten or more hours a day. And as for business I will need to run my own business, and I will need to work 50+ hours per week.

I've wanted to be a cook/restaurant owner/ Olympic swimmer for 4 years. What I mean is ever since I moved to Bar Harbor I wanted to swim. I had extravagant food in Bar Harbor which inspired me to want people to try food that I made, and when I first started swimming I knew that I could stick with it for the rest of my life. I've always wondered about my thoughts even though I knew that I could try and fail or try and succeed. And as for cooking it would be the same for Olympic swimming, trying and succeeding. Although I do know that when people try and fail they can get frustrated.

Because of my interest in becoming a cook, restaurant owner, and an Olympic swimmer some of the classes I am taking in high school will be related to business plans, like accounting. I also want to take some foreign language classes so that if I travel abroad I can understand the language. When people try my food then I'll be ready to work at a restaurant, and I believe that I will do my best. When I'm ready I will work at a specific restaurant and be a cook or a sous chef. As I get more experience to be a chef, and as more people come, I will have faith that as I grow my skills will too. As for an Olympic swimmer it takes a lot of work which I am ready for, because I know that I can do something hard and handle it.

When I am older I plan to go to University of Florida for business, and to be an Olympic swimmer. I will go to school full time for business and part time for swimming. I plan to focus hard on my studies and to get better at both of them everyday. Some of the classes I plan on taking are Mathematical skills, Sales Management, Finance, Professional Writing, and Leading Organizations. I have been dreaming of going to the University of Florida since January 1st 2026, but also to pursue my dreams with one of my friends.

I interviewed my aunt Jena Young and Dan Granholm who is a teacher at CES. Jena owns Side Street Cafe which is a very popular place. My aunt said in her own words, "Being a business owner takes a lot of hard work and dedication. So if you wanted another job after being a business owner, employers would be impressed! It would definitely help you get a future job." Dan Granholm told me "You'll swim for your high school team and try to get as fast as you can. Then, some college would recruit you for their swim team, and if you are fast enough, you would be able to try out for the olympic swim team."

I am excited to pursue my dream of becoming a business owner and continue my swimming career, and hopefully become an Olympic swimmer. If I won the scholarship I would put it all to my education. Thank you for taking the time to read this application.

"The water doesn't know your age" Dara Torres

"Cooking is a caring and nurturing act. It's kind of the ultimate gift for someone, to cook for them." Curtis Stone

ADI Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Oliver Presa-Guzman Today's date 3/10/26

Mailing Address: 15, Thomas bay lane

Your city/town: Bar Harbor Zip Code: 04609

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Maximiliano Presa-Karina Guzman

What school do you attend? Connors Emerson What grade are you in? 6th

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilie Ginn

2026

CE 29

\$100 Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarships will be awarded by community members to grade 3 - 6 students living in communities served by the schools listed below, and students who best demonstrate effort -- effort to do well in school, effort to pursue education beyond high school, effort to reach their goals, and effort to complete this scholarship application especially well. You are strongly advised to read the "12 Tips" under "Informational Resources" at www.mainecollegecircle.org.

Schools:

Connors Emerson School
Mount Desert Elementary School
Tremont Consolidated School
Pemetic Elementary School
Trenton Elementary School

Aspirations Partners:

First National Bank
Machias Savings Bank
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

Maine College Circle

All applications must be received by **March 27, 2026**. ALL parts of your application must be completed. Scholarship recipients will be selected and celebrated shortly after the deadline. Recipients may use their \$100 Aspirations Scholarship for educational programs and resources to help them pursue their aspirations. Submitted applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Review Committee and may also be read by a small group of prospective scholarship funders.

To the applicant:

Respond to the following prompts on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on separate sheets of paper and attach them to this application. Your application may be handwritten or typed. You must also complete the Future of Maine Scholarship Application Expectations Checklist and attach it to your scholarship application. Scholarship Committees will only consider applications with completed Checklists that are signed by the student and the teacher.

1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

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2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

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To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Attached.

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Expectations Checklist

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- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student

Oliver Presa Guzman

Teacher

Anita

Building My Future

My favorite number is 11 because I was born on October the eleventh and because it's a prime number that's relatively easy to multiply by.

Since I was young, I've always loved building stuff and trying to make them work. At one point over vacation I tried to make a little sailboat but it didn't work so I added foam supports to make it a catamaran and I covered it in wax until it didn't leak. It took a while and it was mostly trial and error until I got it to sail. Nowadays, I really like working on a hovercraft that I'm building for a science competition and I recently got #1 at Harvard University for one competition. That's why I want to be a mechanical engineer when I grow up.

I think that being a mechanical engineer is a good job for me because I think it would be fun to create something that serves a useful purpose. It would be fun to create things, satisfyingly see them work, and do something I like. I am getting ready right now by working hard on Science Olympiad events such as Circuit Lab (circuits and electricity), Hovercraft, and Machines(building a scale and learning about physics).I will try to take The Business Of Speed, Advanced Placement Calculus, College Prep Physics and more in high school to get ready for a career in mechanical engineering.

When I graduate high school, I am thinking of going to Purdue college in Indiana because I can explore a wide range of topics like physics, electronics, 3D printing, fluid mechanics, heat transfer and controls. At Purdue, I can gain hands-on experience by designing rockets, serving the community, and conducting graduate-level research. I also have more chances and opportunities to become a mechanical engineer because I can speak Spanish, and at Purdue they have an extensive study abroad program where I could even go to Spain. If I go to Purdue college, I would try to take Modeling Damage And Strengthening Mechanisms In Materials. There, I would learn things such as advanced micromechanics and elastic microstructural phenomena which will help me to become a mechanical engineer. If, when I grow up, I want to study close to home in Maine I could also go to the University of Maine, which has a big mechanical engineering program with many courses mostly focused on robotics and computers.

I interviewed Angel Laredo, a graduate research assistant in mechanical engineering that studies at the University of Maine. He said that he started his job because someone told him that there was an open position that was hiring. Laredo studies how plastic and

materials react under stress and fatigue. He uses a machine that can stretch and compress materials to see how they respond.

Angel began interested in mechanical engineering during middle school and the beginning of high school. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and is working to get a masters degree. Laredo took several AP classes during high school, and most of them were recognized and accepted by UMaine. Some of those classes include AP physics, chemistry, calculus, statistics. These are also some of the classes I am planning to take when I go to high school.

He also mentioned that he took thermodynamics classes in college. One interesting thing about Angel Laredo is that he got grants from the army to support his research.

Angel says that the most challenging part of the job is the coding and the math saying that the math can be intimidating at first. But although it might seem like Laredo's job is really difficult, he said that the most rewarding part is the thrill of being one of the first to study or find something new and the feeling of contribution. When asked if he works with other people he quickly said "in research, it's[mostly] team based."

When I asked Angel about recommendations for a career in this field, he said to be passionate about it, saying that he knows some very hard workers that "come [to work] from 7-5... they are very passionate about it." When I asked him how much someone starting out in mechanical engineering can earn he said "the more you know, the more you can expect to make."

In conclusion, I want to be a mechanical engineer because it would be awesome to build something that serves a purpose in the future, I have lots of experience building and studying things, and because I could keep doing what I love to do, creating active things. I think that Purdue College is a good place to go because of its big engineering programs. If I won the scholarship, I would probably dedicate the money to college supplies or a 3d printer. Thank you so much for taking your time to read my application.

3/25/26

Oliver has made quite an impression in his short tenure at Connors Emerson. Arriving last year as a fifth grader, he joined the Science Olympiad team. A motivated self starter, his value to the team was evident from the start. He competed at the regional level (Harvard University), the state level (University of Maine), and the national level (University of Nebraska) as a full-fledged member of the team.

This year in sixth grade, Oliver's dedication has meant joining our weekly meetings after school and also meeting on the weekends. His efforts paid off at the regional tournament at Harvard where he and his teammate took first place out of 39 participating teams in the Hovercraft event. He placed 10th in the Machines event.

Oliver has also created a website with a teammate for the National History Day competition with regionals scheduled on Saturday, March 28.

He does all of this in addition to his regular schoolwork. His thirst for knowledge and meaningful experiences is clear.

I heartily recommend Oliver for this scholarship.

Mary Mackay
Gifted & Talented Specialist
Science Olympiad Head Coach
Connors Emerson School

Oliver has a strong interest in building things that move and understanding how systems work, and he enjoys designing useful things that can help society. He enjoys working on engineering-style projects and is currently part of his school's Science Olympiad team, where he recently helped design a hovercraft that earned first place at a competition at Harvard. Oliver is especially curious about motors, circuits, and transportation-related designs, and he often builds projects at home using simple materials to test his ideas. He is a strong hypothesis-driven thinker when facing problems and consistently demonstrates strong creative reasoning skills, along with strong functional thinking as he works to understand how parts connect and systems operate together. Oliver is advanced in mathematics and is currently working at the Middle School 3 level, which is helping him develop resilience, persistence, and consistency as he stays focused and motivated each day. Oliver is a hardworking and respectful student who is passionate about science and a good communicator. He enjoys learning through hands-on experiences, and we see his interest in engineering and problem solving continuing to grow as he explores possible future career paths.

As his parents, we are happy to support him as he explores these interests and continues developing his curiosity during this stage of his learning. Please let us know if you need anything else.

Karina & Max

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Emma Marley Grickis Today's date 3/23/26
Mailing Address: 582 Indian Point RD.
Your city/town: Bar Harbor, Me Zip Code: 04609
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Rachel Grickis & Kevin Grickis
What school do you attend? Conners Emerson What grade are you in? 6
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilie Ginn



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1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

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2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

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Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

For the past several years, Emma has remained consistent in planning for a future career as a marine biologist. She prefers the STEM courses in school, with a special appreciation for math and science. Growing up in an active-duty Coast Guard family, living near the coast has been a constant in her life, so it is little wonder that she has developed a passion for learning about sealife. Since moving to coastal Maine, this passion has only increased with every trip to tide pools or hike along rocky ocean cliffs.

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Expectations Checklist

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Grade 3

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Grade 4

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
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Grade 5

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- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
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Grade 6

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student

EMZ

Teacher

G. Miller

Swimming to My Career

My favorite number is 18 because then you're an adult. Also you can have a car by then. In addition I'm done with high school!

Hey there, do you know what a marine biologist is? A marine biologist is someone who studies ocean life and the animals that live there. I have loved sea life since I was a little girl. One day I asked my grandma what job involves sea life and she said marine biology.

When I was a little girl I wanted to be a dolphin trainer. Nowadays you can't train dolphins or keep them anymore. So I was really disappointed but happy for the dolphins. Well that doesn't stop me! I still want to study the ocean because I want to know what other animals are down there. If some of them are still alive or just to see more ocean life and help the ocean. I also already know a lot about sea life and the animals that live there. Like how octopuses have three hearts, nine brains, and if they lose a leg they can just regrow it. Did you know that sea stars have an eye on each tip of their arms. How jelly fish are blind and just fall to the sea floor, turn into a coral type thing and then come alive again. Also do you know that sharks prefer cow's blood more than human's blood?

In my opinion, I think marine biology is a perfect job for me. I think this is a promising job for me because you get paid a pretty good amount per year for this job. Also, I would be doing what I love because I'm studying and interacting with the animals and that is what matters most. I can start to prepare for my career in high school and maybe go to a summer camp, which is called Allied Whale. Another thing that I am already doing is research on sea animals, which will help me know more about the sea animals when I'm older and have to take

courses. Some of the high school classes that I'll take will be mathematics, science, and biology because of the limited choices they have.

I would choose to go to University of Miami Florida because one it is more affordable and two it is a medium size college. If I would go there I would live in Miami for 1 to 2 years so then the college would cost less money because I would be in state. While I am living in Miami for 1 to 2 years I could work at the Phillip & Patricia Frost Museum of Science. It has a deep sea exhibit, a coral reef exhibit and it is all about science so that sounds perfect for me! Also I want a medium size school because then I would have a better relationship with my teachers and be more close to them. So maybe I could even learn more than if I were in a big school. Also I feel like UMI would be a more acceptable college for me. If I want to be a marine biologist I would live in Florida because the sea animals that live in the ocean are more tropical and more fun to study. The sea creatures are also more exciting to interact with than in Maine. That is why I prefer this college better than a college in Maine. The college classes that I would be taking are marine biology, oceanography, invertebrate zoology, science, and mathematics. Invertebrate zoology is the study of sea animals who do not have a back bone or spinal column. The meaning of oceanography is the study of the ocean.

The person I interviewed is Karlee Markovich, also known as Ms. Karlee. She is a marine biologist and she teaches stuff about ocean life at our school. When I was talking about marine biology with her, I figured out that I want to be a scuba diver. Then I can explore and interact with the sea creatures. What I learned when I was interviewing Ms. Karlee is since she wanted to be a marine biologist she did lots of research and volunteering. Ms. Karlee worked at aquariums and she also did beach clean up and she helps out at the COA. Now I get to help her with the tank and feed the fish from 10:55-11:20 if I want to and if my ELA teacher allows it. Also marine biology has more math in it than

you think. This is important because you need to find the volume of the tank, find how much water you need to put in it, and for salt water animals you need to find how much salt to put in the tank for every liter of water. I love math so much, so this was really exciting to hear. What might be tricky for me, will be the swimming which I'm good at but not great at and I need to be able to do this if I want to be a scuba diver. What I will not like about being a marine biologist is the research because I don't like doing research that often.

I have treasured the sea since I was a little. I've been thinking about that conversation with my grandma, and realizing that I've had this passion for sea animals for a while. I also adore going to aquariums and seeing all the different species of animals. Once I went to this really cool aquarium in Maryland and the types of animals there were sharks, fish, stingrays, manta rays, turtles and so much more. Have you ever thought of how the animals are treated or if they even like it there. They probably don't so that is one reason why I want to help sea animals. Another example why I want to help sea animals is because of what happens in the ocean. Like how there is so much pollution coming from factories going straight into the ocean. Also more and more animals keep dying everyday by people poaching them, and using the valuable parts of them. They also keep dying from habitat loss by people destroying the place where they live.

If I win the scholarship I will use the money to buy a gopro or a microscope. Why I want a gopro is because I go swimming a lot so then I could film some of the ocean life that I swim in. I would want a microscope because then I could take water samples and see what tiny organisms live in the water. Thank you for reading my essay. I hope you take it into consideration.



March 24, 2026

Dear Future of Maine Scholarship Review Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Emma Grickis for the College Aspirations Scholarship. As her homeroom and math teacher throughout 6th grade I have had the opportunity to observe her growth as a mathematician, classmate, and individual. Emma is a remarkable kid. Having worked with many middle school classes, it is invariably refreshing to watch students navigate their adolescent years with a commitment to and confidence in their own abilities, interests, and style. Emma appreciates the interests and abilities of others, and brings her own zest to the Connors Emerson Community.

Reading Emma's essay, it was interesting to glean additional insight into Emma's mind. Emma describes her love of the ocean and sea life. She clearly shares how she wishes to learn about and care for the organisms and ecosystems in marine life. Emma considers the type of education and college she would attend, paying particular attention to the type of relationship she'd like to have with her professors and classmates. She also shares her interview with Ms. Karlee, noting how this interview led to a volunteer role helping Ms. Karlee to maintain the school's fish tank. Emma is strong, bright, and determined, and it was interesting to recognize that a 6th grader would look ahead and predict the skills she would need in order to study and protect the ocean.

Emma is an exceptional 6th grader! She will find success, and joy, in whatever she sets her mind to exploring. I highly recommend Emma Grickis as a College Aspirations Scholarship Recipient. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at cnicholson@mdirss.org.

Regards,

Christina Nicholson

Christina Nicholson
6th Grade Math Teacher
Connors Emerson School

March 9, 2026

To Whom it Concerns,

I am writing on behalf of Emma of Connors Emerson School. I just met Emma this year, and I have been very impressed with her motivation and passion for marine biology. When she found out that I was a marine biologist (and Ocean Science teacher at her school), she sought me out, to interview me for her college essay, but also to see how she could get more involved in this field now. At 11 years old, she already possesses the drive and determination to live her dreams, and to become a marine biologist in whatever ways that she can. I can honestly say that we need more people like Emma in marine biology – helping our ocean by doing their part to understand and protect it. I can tell that Emma will pursue her dream of becoming a marine biologist, and that she will excel in this field. It has been a pleasure having her help me to care for my classroom salt water aquarium, and seeing her learning more and more about this field already. She is open to any opportunity that involves the sea, and her love of math and science will help her greatly in her educational venture.

I fully endorse Emma for this scholarship. I know that the opportunity will allow her to explore the sea even more, and develop a greater passion and understanding for this field, and that it will help her to realize her dreams.

If you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you so much for your time.

Best,



Karlee Markovich

Marine Biologist/Ocean Science teacher
Connors Emerson School
11 Eagle Lake Road
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Marshall Maghanic Today's date 3/10/26

Mailing Address: 752 Norway Drive

Your city/town: Bar Harbor, ME Zip Code: 04609

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Rebecca Goyette

What school do you attend? CIS What grade are you in? 6

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. King



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Mount Desert Elementary School
Tremont Consolidated School
Pemetec Elementary School
Trenton Elementary School

Aspirations Partners:

First National Bank
Machias Savings Bank
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

Maine College Circle

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To the applicant:

Respond to the following prompts on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on separate sheets of paper and attach them to this application. Your application may be handwritten or typed. You must also complete the Future of Maine Scholarship Application Expectations Checklist and attach it to your scholarship application. Scholarship Committees will only consider applications with completed Checklists that are signed by the student and the teacher.

1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

Grade 4: Your College* Options. Write about your interests today and aspirations for your future. What career or careers might fit your interests especially well? Given your interests and career aspirations, which college* or colleges might be especially good for you? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school or college* student about their pathway through high school and to college or other educational opportunity after high school. Share the most important points of the interview and what you learned.

Grade 5: Your College* Course. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? And, interview a college* student about their pathway through college* and to a career and lifestyle that will make them proud.

Grade 6: Your College* Pathway and Beyond. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? Also interview (or analyze an existing interview of) a person in a field related to a career that interests you. Please share some of what you learned from that interview, including what you might like or dislike about that career. (Maine College Circle will provide a link to existing interviews if you are not able to set up your own.)



2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

To the applicant:

Please assess your level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Your level of effort is minimal. 3 = Adequate. 7 = Your work shows your highest level of effort possible. *Please circle one number in each category.*

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

To the teacher:

Please assess this student's level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Low. 7 = Outstanding. *Please circle one number in each category.*

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Effort on this application:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

Marshall has a creative intelligence that would be a huge asset in the legal world. He always is logical and has lots of questions as to why things are. I think that he would be a great attorney!

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Marshall had always expressed interest in being a lawyer. His sense of fairness and right vs wrong has actually been something that has often come up in parent/teacher conferences because as commendable as it is, it has presented challenges in Peer dynamics. Its great and fitting to see that his interest in law is based in that sense of defending and protecting and not just in what is viewed as a high profile career. I myself wanted to be a lawyer at that age, but I just liked arguing. The fact that 2 of his grandparents on his father side chose that as a career path is a great connection to his paternal side, especially since his father passed away.

* Maine College Circle defines "college" as one-, two-, and four-year colleges and universities, trade colleges, and other career-specific educational programs after high school.

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026
To be completed by the student

I have written my name (including my last name), my address, my school, my grade, my teacher, and the date.

I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

Choose one.

I am very proud of the effort I put into this application.

I worked fairly hard on this application.

I didn't do as well as I could have on this application because _____

I have rated my effort in school and on this application at the top of page 2.

My teacher has rated my effort in school and on this application on page 2.

I have included comments from a parent or some other adult who knows me well and supports my aspirations for the future.

I have a fun and engaging first sentence.

I have provided some details about my interests that hopefully show that I know something about my interest.

I have made an effort to write this in a way and with a voice that is fun to read and helps the reader know more about me.

Grade 3

- I have written about my aspirations for my future.
- I have explained why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me and why it would make me proud.
- I have interviewed a high school student and have written a little about what I learned.

Grade 4

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me and have explained why I think they would be good for me.
- I have interviewed a high school or college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 5

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
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Grade 6

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me.
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- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed: Student Keshale Macharia
Teacher Gini

Defending people in need

marshall

My favorite number is 36 because it was my dad's sport number in baseball, once my mom surprised me with it as a jersey number.

Since I was a wee little lad I've yearned for the courts. I have wanted to be a lawyer since I was about eight, because two of my grandparents were lawyers. I always liked defending people, knowing things and proving people wrong

To help me become a lawyer I will read more law books and join debate teams so I can get practice at arguing, rebuttals, and preparing. I am going to take AP and honors classes so I get more credit so I can enroll in more classes in college.

After high school I would like to go to Harvard for Ancient History and then go to Harvard law then. Then I will join a firm and defend people.

I interviewed scot Machanic who was a lawyer in massachusetts I asked him "How did you get started in being a lawyer." he replied, "I originally want to be a doctor but my roommates want to be lawyers, and one afternoon they went to the bar and I had nothing to do so I went along and I immediately fell in love with the job." I felt like that was really interesting. I then asked "What education do or training do ybou need to be a lawyer" he said, "Not much other than law school and college and you need to pass the bar exam. then some people advertise them self some work for a company and some join a firm there are all different type" I felt like that was very interesting I thought that there was only one type of lawyer but I was wron.It was time to finish it off. I asked "Will AI take over this job?" he said ,“ Yes but not soon,” which I agreed with. So I said goodbye and thought about what he said.

I have always loved defending people and this money would help me achieve the necessary education to become a lawyer. Thank you for your consideration.

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship



Name: Brycen Salvatore Today's date 3/10/26

Mailing Address: 185 pretty Marsh road

Your city/town: Bar Harbor, ME Zip Code: 04609

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Eben Salvatore, Denise Salvatore

What school do you attend? CES What grade are you in? 6th

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. Ginn



CG 44

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To the applicant:

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1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
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2020

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

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Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Brycen is very kind and likes helping people. He loves being with friends and family and being active-playing sports and enjoying outdoor activities. I can see him being involved with his Dad's businesses and being involved with helping people.

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Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026

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I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

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I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

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- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student

Brycen Salgado

Teacher

Gini

My Dad's Work and My Future

Brycen Salvatore

My favorite number is 490,896,904,764,841,786,677 because it looks cool and I like big numbers. And quintillen sounds like needle.

When I was little, and even today I have hated seeing homeless people on the side of the street, begging for food and sitting in the cold, with only a wet jacket and thin pants and walking around. I want to be that person that helps out others in need. I also want to donate a lot of money some day to a cancer treatment place. Recently, I unfortunately lost my grandpa to cancer, and I don't want that to happen to others because it was hard, painful, and very, very sad. But I will have to wait just a little longer, and then I will be able to help others. I want to play sports in college, and get a business degree. My dad owns and is the CEO of 4 hotels, West street, Harbor Ridge, Regency, and Atlantic Ocean Side. When I do get enough money, I am going to buy a hotel and turn it into a homeless shelter. Here the homeless can get in for free, and stay for life, and there will be free food, and water for life. For other beginner companies I want to donate to them, and encourage them through the hard challenges.

I want to do these careers because I really like helping people in need. It always brings me a smile, and seeing other people smile makes me smile. I didn't want to not do my dad's job and just leave it because that's just not right. He is a hotel manager and someone will need to take over someday. I want to do my dad's job anyway. I promised my grandpa that I would do good in life and I would succeed and keep my dad's business running and not abandon it to do my own thing.

I'm planning to go to the University of Maine and working hard in school and I will get good grades. I will need to take these college courses, Financial accounting, business analytics, marketing principles, finance, and strategic management. They will be helpful because I will need to learn how to run a business. University of Maine college requires grades from a 3.3 to a 3.5 (Typically B grades). I'm usually a 2 to a 3 person at my school.

Being a business owner will be hard because you will have to do a lot of math. There will be a lot of stress involved, and it will be hard, but I will like

it because I will know a lot of people, which will be helpful because they can help me when I need it. The person I interviewed was Eben Salvatore, he is my dad, and he said that he is a hotel manager, and runs the hotels. He says that what he finds challenging about this career is that there are lots of discussions, and which ones come first. What he finds rewarding about this career is that he can help out others, and that he can also provide for people. He recommended that I do good in math because he does a lot of math in his job.

I want to help the homeless, and help out other people, help out other companies and make people's day.

Making other people smile makes me smile, and brings me joy. If I won the scholarship I would use the money to put into the University of Maine. This is a good career choice for me because I would know a lot of people in Bar Harbor and I love it. This career really matters to me because my grandpa died January 27 2026 <https://www.lohud.com/obituaries/pnys1403310>. Thank you for considering reading my application, and thank you for thinking about my application. And again, thank you.



HEATHER WEBSTER
PRINCIPAL
MICHAEL FOURNIER
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CONNERS-EMERSON SCHOOL
11 Eagle Lake Road
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609
(207) 288-3631

3/15/26

Dear Future of Maine College Aspirations Scholarship committee,

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Brycen. I have had the privilege of working with Brycen for 7 years in Physical Education classes and as the Athletic Director at Connors Emerson School.

Brycen is a thoughtful, caring, passionate and determined young man. He really wants to make a difference in people's lives. Brycen knows how good it feels to help others in need and wants to one day run his own shelter for the homeless. Brycen is a hard working student in class and tough competitor on the court. He believes in fairness and wants to do right by people.

I encourage you to strongly consider Brycen for this scholarship. Brycen has a huge heart and aspires to make a positive difference in the lives of others. If you would like to further discuss Brycen's abilities, please do not hesitate to call me at (207) 460-1218.

Sincerely,

Bryan Dionne

Athletic Director/Physical Education teacher

Connors Emerson School

11 Eagle Lake Road

Bar Harbor ME 04609

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Asylia Robledo Today's date 3/10/26

Mailing Address: 11 Lonely Oak Way

Your city/town: Franklin, ME Zip Code: 04634

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Brenna Fenton

What school do you attend? CES What grade are you in? 6th

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilie Ginn

2026

CE 49

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To the applicant:

Respond to the following prompts on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on separate sheets of paper and attach them to this application. Your application may be handwritten or typed. You must also complete the Future of Maine Scholarship Application Expectations Checklist and attach it to your scholarship application. Scholarship Committees will only consider applications with completed Checklists that are signed by the student and the teacher.

1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

Grade 3: Your Aspirations. What do you enjoy doing today that might make a great career for you in the future? Why do you think it would be a good career for you? What can you do today to prepare for this career? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school student about their pathway to and through high school. Write what you learned from this interview.

Grade 4: Your College* Options. Write about your interests today and aspirations for your future. What career or careers might fit your interests especially well? Given your interests and career aspirations, which college* or colleges might be especially good for you? And, interview a past Future of Maine Scholarship recipient or other high school or college* student about their pathway through high school and to college or other educational opportunity after high school. Share the most important points of the interview and what you learned.

Grade 5: Your College* Course. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? And, interview a college* student about their pathway through college* and to a career and lifestyle that will make them proud.

Grade 6: Your College* Pathway and Beyond. Write about your aspirations, about colleges* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. How will the courses help you? Also interview (or analyze an existing interview of) a person in a field related to a career that interests you. Please share some of what you learned from that interview, including what you might like or dislike about that career. (Maine College Circle will provide a link to existing interviews if you are not able to set up your own.)



2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

To the applicant:

Please assess your level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Your level of effort is minimal. 3 = Adequate. 7 = Your work shows your highest level of effort possible. Please circle one number in each category.

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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To the teacher:

Please assess this student's level of effort in school and on this application. 1 = Low. 7 = Outstanding. Please circle one number in each category.

Effort in school:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Optional: If you (teacher) wish to write additional comments in support of your student and his or her application for this scholarship, please feel free to do so below or on a separate sheet of paper. That will be helpful, but is not required. *Completed Expectations Checklists are required, must be completed by the student with the teacher's help if needed, and must be signed by the student and the teacher and attached to the application.*

To the parent or other adult mentor:

Asyilia has been very into sports this year, and trying new things. She also does a lot of drawing/painting and re-organizing her books and trinkets. While she doesn't like to talk much about stressors in her life, she does feel that sports and things she enjoys, help her feel better. She has come out of her shell a lot the past year or so, and is now the most social of our family! Like many children, Asyilia has shown interests in a variety of different areas and some of them she's even considered as future careers. One that stands out to me is that she used to want to do something with the environment. She's mentioned marine biology or something to do with getting rid of the litter problem around the world. Even though her interest has shifted towards architecture, when I asked her what kind of dream building she would want to design, she said a recycling plant. I love that her heart still wants to make a difference in the world, no matter which career she is pursuing.

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026
To be completed by the student

I have written my name (including my last name), my address, my school, my grade, my teacher, and the date.

I even spelled my teacher's name correctly.

I have written my 25 word response that is exactly 25 words long.

My spelling on this whole application is perfect . . . (choose one)

I am quite sure.

I think.

I am not sure.

My grammar and punctuation are pretty good also. I begin sentences with a capital letter. I end sentences with a period or some other appropriate punctuation. I even capitalize "I" every time I write the pronoun "I."

Choose one.

I am very proud of the effort I put into this application.

I worked fairly hard on this application.

I didn't do as well as I could have on this application because _____

I have rated my effort in school and on this application at the top of page 2.

My teacher has rated my effort in school and on this application on page 2.

I have included comments from a parent or some other adult who knows me well and supports my aspirations for the future.

I have a fun and engaging first sentence.

I have provided some details about my interests that hopefully show that I know something about my interest.

I have made an effort to write this in a way and with a voice that is fun to read and helps the reader know more about me.

Grade 3

- I have written about my aspirations for my future.
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- I have interviewed a high school student and have written a little about what I learned.

Grade 4

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
- I have identified one or several colleges that I think would be especially good for me and have explained why I think they would be good for me.
- I have interviewed a high school or college student and have written about what I learned.

Grade 5

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
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Grade 6

- I have written about my aspirations for my future and why I think it would be a good career and lifestyle for me.
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- I have identified five high school or college courses that will help me pursue my aspirations and have explained how they would help me.
- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed:

Student

Asylva Robledo

Teacher

[Signature]

Architecture

My favorite number is nine because my older sister's soccer number was nine, and it's on my birthday date. It was also my soccer number.

When I am older I would like to be an architect because I'm really good at math and I like to be very creative. I like to draw because it expresses myself and takes my mind off of stressful things. I would love to use my creativity to design unique and functional houses. I'm looking forward to overcoming new math challenges so I can prepare myself for a career like architecture. I first started liking math in elementary school when I got into the gifted and talented program after showing that I understood tricky problems. I am a good communicator, which is an important part of being an architect because you want to make sure you understand what your clients want.

My career choice is an architect, and I think that would be a good job for me because I'm really good at math, drawing, and being creative. Some classes that I think will be good for me in high school are: Mathematics, science, visual arts, technical/computer skills, and humanities and business.

The college I would like to go to is Cornell University in New York. I picked Cornell because not only has one of my sisters gone there but also because they have a great architecture program. Overall Cornell is a great school for me. Some classes I'm particularly interested in are: Representation I: Freehand Architectural Drawing, Structural Concepts and History of Architecture I. The classes would help me with drawing by hand that I would use as a tool for the design process, I would learn how to analyze structural systems and lastly, I would study earliest to more recent times of architecture and come up with themes, territories and ideas in architecture.

I watched a video of an interview with Mike Sealander from Sealander Architects. Some things that I learned from the interview were that you have to make sure you have good communication, you get to manage teams, you spend about 30% of the day drawing, and you have to go to college and get a degree in architecture. Also, he said that if your drawing skills are not that good, you can still be an architect. If you enjoy creativity, that's the most important thing. One thing I would not enjoy is sitting at a desk most of the day. However, I

would enjoy getting to draw a lot each day. I would also enjoy being able to create my own building designs. If I could design a building, it would be a recycling center because I want to help the environment.

In conclusion, I want to be an architect because I'm really good at math and I like to be very creative. I am looking forward to being able to communicate with new people. If I were to win the scholarship, I would use the money towards colleges and maybe some drawing supplies to get me started. Thank you so much for considering my application and reading my essay.



HEATHER WEBSTER
PRINCIPAL

MICHAEL FOURNIER
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CONNERS-EMERSON SCHOOL

11 Eagle Lake Road
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609
(207) 288-3631

March 17, 2026

Dear Future of Maine Scholarship Review Committee,

It comes as no surprise to me that Asyia is thinking about becoming an architect! I was Asyia's 4th grade teacher and, in 4th grade, she was super creative and artistic. It is my pleasure to recommend Asyia Robledo for the College Aspirations Scholarship.

Asyia has always been a strong math student. Even in 4th grade, she was up for challenges and persevered on those challenges. She was even creative in her problem solving; often solving problems in unique ways.

In 4th grade, she was creative and artistic. When given the opportunity, she would show this creativity through projects, such as drawing, models, etc. This elevated her work and we got the opportunity to see how she thought about her projects through her art.

Asyia's strong math ability and her creativity are traits that will serve her well as a student and architect. I highly recommend her as a College Aspirations Scholarship recipient. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at hdority@mdirss.org.

Regards,

Heather Dority
5th Grade Math Teacher
Connors Emerson School

Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Emerson Brasher Today's date 3/10/26
Mailing Address: 14 Sandy Ln
Your city/town: Bar Harbor Zip Code: 04609
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Dylan Brasher Tara CURRY
What school do you attend? Connors Emerson What grade are you in? 6
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilia Ginn



\$100 Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarships will be awarded by community members to grade 3 - 6 students living in communities served by the schools listed below, and students who best demonstrate effort -- effort to do well in school, effort to pursue education beyond high school, effort to reach their goals, and effort to complete this scholarship application especially well. You are strongly advised to read the "12 Tips" under "Informational Resources" at www.mainecollegecircle.org.

Schools:

- Connors Emerson School
- Mount Desert Elementary School
- Tremont Consolidated School
- Pemetic Elementary School
- Trenton Elementary School

Aspirations Partners:

- First National Bank
- Machias Savings Bank
- Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
- Maine College Circle

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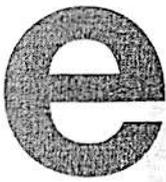
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2026

Future of Eastern Maine

Aspirations Scholarship

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To the parent or other adult mentor:

Please add comments to support this student's effort and aspirations for the future, below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Ever since Emerson was a small child he has been fascinated with the cosmos. He loves to look through telescopes, watch meteor showers, and watch videos about space. Emerson has always had posters of distant nebulas and galaxies. He has always wanted to be an astronomer, and we would love to see him pursue his passion.

* Maine College Circle defines "college" as one-, two-, and four-year colleges and universities, trade colleges, and other career-specific educational programs after high school.

Emerson

Expectations Checklist

Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship, 2026

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- I have interviewed a professional and have written about what I learned.

Signed: Student Emerson

 Teacher Ami

Beyond the stars

I love the number five because there are five fingers on each one of our hands and because I love the great shape it has.

I want to be an astronomer because I love space. I study it a lot. I use telescopes a lot. I look into the stars at night and I've been researching it for a long time. Please let me work for Nasa. I've been wanting to be an astronomer for a very long time ever since I was six. I want to find new planets and study more about the universe. I want to know more about the universe.

I also should be an astronomer because I am also very good at knowing what kind a planet is like if it's a gas planet or not so that's another reason I should be an Astronomer so I think I will have to go to college for about eight years to work at Nasa and become an Astronomer. To prepare to go to college in high school I will need to go to classes like chemistry, astronomy, math and physics to become an astronomer. I would need to study math to know how big a planet is. I would also need to study physics to know what a planet's atmosphere is like and I would need to study chemistry to determine if a planet is a solid, liquid, or a gas planet.

To be an Astronomer I need to study planets, black holes, The universe, and much more about space. I will need to take classes about astronomy and I will need to take classes about science. I will also need to study math to become an Astronomer. I want to go to the University of Maine because it is close and I will get a chance to go to all of the classes I want to go to like astronomy, chemistry, physics, and math. I want to go to the planetarium in the University of Maine because I could learn more about planets.

I watched an interview of John Haley at the University of Maine's planetarium. He uses the planetarium in south Portland to teach more about stars. He says that the star next to the big dipper exploded 80 years ago. He did not originally want to be an astronomer, he originally wanted to be a scientist.

Being an Astronomer is a good choice for me because I have always been interested in space. I use telescopes. I researched about it and I originally wanted to be an Astronaut but I believe being an Astronomer is a better choice because I can study more and learn more. Thank you, nasa.

You need to have the same fonts
More commas to extend your paragraphs

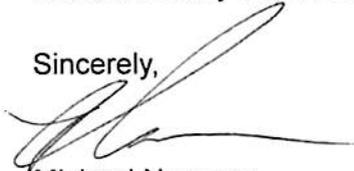
March 19, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Emerson Brasher in his application for the Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship and his endeavor to become an astronomer. Emerson joined our school this fall, and he has proven to be a highly creative student. He is also a skilled writer, especially in creative writing.

While I have only known Emerson for a short while now, I know for certain that he is a good kid who has a significant interest in space and the worlds beyond our own. I read his plan for college, and it looks like he has thought hard about this career choice. I think Emerson would make a great employee at NASA, or wherever else he chooses to study space, whether it be a university, a planetarium, or a private company. I sincerely hope he accomplishes his goal, and I enthusiastically endorse him for this scholarship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Newman', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Michael Newman
5/6 Social Studies
Conners Emerson School
Bar Harbor, Maine