

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Abel Norwood Today's date 3/26/26

Mailing Address: 1903 Bayside Rd

Your city/town: Trenton Zip Code: 04605

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Courtney Rich

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

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 reach their goals, and effort to complete this scholarship application especially well. For more information, see "Informational Resources" at [www.mainecollegecircle.org](http://www.mainecollegecircle.org).

## Schools:

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

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Abel's mom did not return his application page in time for these to go out.

All applications must be received by **March 27, 2026**. ALL parts of your application celebrated shortly after the deadline. Recipients may use their \$100 Aspirations Scholarship to pursue their aspirations. Submitted applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Review Committee 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

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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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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.*

Abel worked hard on this when he was given the chance at school. He was not able to get his application packet back to school in time and then, he was absent today — so I filled it out for him.

### 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.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

# 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](mailto: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](http://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**

### **Abel Norwood**

I want to be a professional chef. I love food and cooking just as much and I think it's the perfect job for me. Things that chefs have to do are: Cooking/preparing when you're cooking you usually need to prepare something and obviously you need to know how to cook. You have to keep the kitchen clean and sanitary.

Another important thing you have to take care of is cleanliness. It can't be dirty. Where people are eating food. Plating / getting ready to serve you need to plate the food so people can get it and you have to give it to them. Multitasking you sometimes have to multitask by cooking 2 things at once or cutting food while having stuff cooked. Being under pressure you sometimes have pressure on you while cooking so you dont burn the food or ruin it. So it comes out good and tasty.

I like to cook and also cook for other people. I also like to come up with new recipes and just have fun and wing it. Ever since I was like 6 I always thought that cooking was interesting. I used to help my mom cook. And I thought that was really fun and cool. I used to help her make all sorts of different things. And now that I'm older I usually cook once every 3 days. I love tasty food. I think experimenting is cool and trying new things.

I like having fun and also you get to have more fun once you have the final product. When cooking it's important to have fun and make sure that it comes out edible and not dangerous. Also sometimes you have to experiment. I think cooking is fun because there's a lot more than you think and there's a lot of thought that goes into it.

I love science and being able to get a tasty meal and have fun doing science is fun and I think I excel / love putting some thought into it. I think cooking is fun and I would love for it to be my job so I can cook all day and have fun doing it well cooking and getting money.

You would want to have a job that you like and through those 2 reasons I love cooking. Chefs also have to have some brainpower to know how much to put ingredients in and I like doing things that you have to put brainpower into like puzzles. I love doing a lot of stuff and then having a good finished product in the end. That's 1 of the main reasons why I love cooking.

Some college courses that you might have to take are. Food safety so the food is not raw and so that you don't mess up so you don't burn stuff and for baking. Mathematics for adding ingredients and also percentages.

A job duty that you have is control and management because you have to control the heat and manage multiple things at once. So in the end

cooking is really cool and fun and getting money well doing something I love would be my dream and I think I'm good for the job.

### **My Favorite Number**

My favorite number is 7 because i was born on the 7th day of april i also first went to boston when I was 7.

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Addyson Parsons Today's date: 3-17-26  
Mailing Address: 71 Stoneham Way Trenton M  
Your city/town: Trenton Zip Code: 04605  
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Whitney Kilton  
What school do you attend? Trenton Elem What grade are you in? 6  
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Mrs. Harriman

2026

E4

TT9

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## Aspirations Partners:

First National Bank  
Machias Savings Bank  
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust

Maine College Circle

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202

# Future of Eastern Maine

## Aspirations Scholarship

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Addyson has worked very hard on this essay, as usual. She has been genuinely interested in accuracy and articulating precisely her career aspirations. When the rough draft was due, I was so pleased that Addy had taken each aspect seriously - so much so that she had very little revision work to do to polish it up. I think it's a winner!

Mrs. Harriman

### To the parent or other adult mentor:

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**Grade 6**

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

Signed:

Student

Adyson G. Parsons

Teacher

Joanne Hariman

# **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.



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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.



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## **My Aspirations Scholarship Essay**

***Addyson Parsons, 6th Grade, Trenton Elementary School***

*Have you ever thought being a hair dresser is easy, then you are really wrong! I would like to become an owner and stylist of my own hair salon. Being a hairdresser includes helping people feel more confident with how their hair looks, also which helps them emotionally. I think that this is the most interesting part. I want to be a hairdresser and have my own business because you can improve someone's confidence, you can learn about the clients that come and you can stay physically fit.*

One of the most important things that hair stylists do in their work is make sure their clients feel their best, and like their new hair style. In addition, stylists must work to build a strong working relationship with their clients. This will make their clients feel important and comfortable and will also keep them coming back for more. Finally, a very important aspect of being a stylist is to stay current with new coloring, cutting, and

hair care techniques and products. This also helps the client feel like they can trust you, and rely on you for their best care.

A lot of times people start caring about how they look as they get older, and then start thinking of how other people think of them. So what I want to do is boost their confidence and make them feel even more beautiful than when they came in. Some of the things that I like to do in my free time is experiment with my hair with new styles and pretty ways to put it up that look good. Also several times me and my mom would get new tools to style our hair together which is a good time for bonding.

Then I would be especially good at this kind of work. For one, I really like to help people work through their emotions about their looks. Also I really enjoy all types of people and getting to know about others, their likes, dislikes, hopes and dreams. And the problems that overwhelm them in their personal life.

I will get a chance to change a whole personality with just some shears which I think is absolutely crazy. The technology

of hair styling, knowing what styles fit certain faces and builds, and what chemicals and colors to mix and blend to get the outcome for the clients wishes and needs which really sounds interesting. So to learn how to do all these things is taking the right courses.

Some of the great high school classes that I can take to be a hair stylist and owner are **Art/ Fine Arts (Color Theory)**. This class is for students to understand mixing techniques, tints, shades and tones and even more. Then the next class is **Chemistry** which can help a hair stylist safely use hair chemicals, like perms, lighteners and more which can protect a client's health. Next the class that will actually help me with being the owner is **Business Management** which will teach a person financial management, marketing and operations. The next and final class that I can take in high school for being an owner and stylist is **Biology** which is for understanding scalp skin and hair structure.

I read an interview done with a girl named Elena Vance who is a master colorist and salon owner who spent the last

decade transforming not just hair but the confidence of everyone who sits in her chair. The main two things that I learned from her is that it is very hard to start your own business go to cosmetology school and start putting in money to get a place and business up and going, and have enough money left over to have human basic needs but this is what she would say to her younger self is that her hand will hurt her back will ache but the first time a client looks in the mirror and actually cries because they finally feel beautiful in their eyes makes every late night every chemistry exam worth it.

The biggest misconception for being a hair stylist is that people just cut whatever and just mess around with the hair which is completely wrong. People need to think about all the other things like the course you take at school, all the things you have to learn before you even start working. Then the things you have to do to make your client comfortable like making sure they like their new hair style, talking to them, building a relationship and just keeping up with all the new

trends. The career of a hair dresser is a lot more complicated than I thought because there are several phases to reach the goals that I have.

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### ***Favorite Number***

My favorite number is seven because my birthday is July on the 7th day so my birthday month and day are both related to seven.

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# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship



Name: Magnolia Carleton Today's date 3-2-26

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1043

Your city/town: Northeast Harbor, ME Zip Code: 04662

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Amanda Carleton, Fredrick King

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

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

MD 3

\$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](http://www.mainecollegecircle.org).

**Schools:**

- Conners Emerson School
- Mount Desert Elementary School
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- First National Bank
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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?
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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.

**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
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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.

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Magnolia Carleton

Teacher Comment:

Magnolia is a kind and empathetic individual who makes the effort to reflect on herself and others. A reserved and quiet student, Maggie is very observant of human nature and spends time watching how people interact with each other. In this way, she works to make our classroom a comfortable place for all. She is also a strong all-around student who takes the extra time and effort to do her best, keep an open mind, and learn new things.

Parent Comment:

I have always known that Magnolia would grow up and choose to devote her life to others. She has the biggest heart and has always shown such kindness and empathy towards others, even as a small child. Initially I was unsure about Magnolia's choice of career for her Essay, strictly because as a mother it's my job to shield and protect her from such things. Although alcohol and substance abuse is all too common, it is also ugly and heartbreaking. We come from a small town where there are more addicts than not. We have also been affected by family members who have chosen that life in the past. I have worked hard to shield her from these things which is why I was so apprehensive about her choice. Then I read her essay, seeing it through her eyes and hearing it in her voice turned something ugly and painful into something inspiring and hopeful. Not only does Magnolia have a beautiful mind, strong will, determination and thirst for knowledge. She also has the patience, understanding and enormous heart it takes to dedicate her life to something like substance abuse counseling. Magnolia already shows such strong work ethic whether it's school work, science and engineering club, band, helping out at the restaurant I manage in the summer or volunteering at the Neighborhood House. Her volunteer work is so important to her and the children she works with adore her as well as the staff. I admire the way she balances her schedule and honors each of her commitments. I know that no matter what Magnolia chooses to do she is going to conquer. This world and our future is so lucky to have her, she is going to do amazing things and be the change that we so desperately need.

# Expectations Checklist

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

---

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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 interviewed a college student and have written about what I learned.

**Grade 6**

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

Signed:            Student Magnolia Carleton  
                          Teacher Kerry Taylor

# Helping the World in a Different Kind of Way

By: Magnolia L. Carleton

Five: My favorite number; it's everywhere you look. It's like the sand on a beach that's between the road and water, right in the middle.

Since I was little, I've always wanted to help people, but I didn't know how. I used to think that a nurse or a doctor would be a good fit, but soon realized I can't handle the bodily functions or fluids that come with those jobs. I went on to think about a social worker, but after a bad experience with one, I soon decided that I wouldn't enjoy that either. When I got a little older and started to understand what drugs and alcohol were, I was fascinated by how they could affect our daily lives and our brains. I was also fascinated by how they can negatively affect someone's life, especially if they have an addiction. I really hope that I can study and pursue this career because I want to help people who struggle with addiction!

*"Recovery is about progression, not perfection" -Bill W.*

I remember going to this house when I was little; it was my mom's friend's and her husband's house. They had a son around my older brother's age, whom I used to play with a lot, but he's a story for another time. I remember the lady's husband being kind of scary looking, but the sweetest person ever when you talked to him. I always had mixed feelings about him since he was like 3 feet taller than me. When we moved, I never really talked about that family since there was no reason to. But a couple months ago, I heard my mom talking to my stepdad about that family. The father had died from both drugs and alcohol because he overdosed. I paused and let myself process this information. When I was little, I remember him never drinking when my older brother and I were around, so I was shocked. This makes me want to become a substance abuse counselor even more, so I could potentially save innocent lives like his.

*"Healing takes courage, and we all have courage, even if we have to dig a little to find it." -Tori Amos*

I want to become a substance abuse counselor because I could help people get back with their families and/or fix their lives. To become a substance abuse counselor, here are some things I could do in high school to up my chances: take a nutrition class, take psychology classes, volunteer at rehab places, take typing classes, and help with the suicide and crisis hotline. Some things I'm doing now are: taking notes in health class related to drugs and alcohol, talking to people I know who've used drugs and overcome them, and I'm working on my empathy and listening skills. These are some of the ways I'm getting ready to become a substance abuse counselor and trying to pursue this career.

*"Recovery begins from the darkest moment." -John Mayor*

Once I graduate from high school, I want to attend James Madison University. This school is great for people who want to study psychology and counseling, which are two areas I need to become a substance abuse counselor. It is located in Harrisonburg, Virginia with a large campus and school pride that will never die down! James Madison offers a Psychology and Counselor Education program. With this program, I would take these classes: Advanced Developmental Psychology, Practicum, Counseling Process, Crisis Intervention Strategies, Counseling Theories, and Counseling Techniques. Crisis intervention strategies cover the theories and techniques of crisis intervention; some specific topics are group and individual interventions and trauma informed community. For an advanced class, I could do Advanced Developmental Psychology, which is an overview of "the theories, research, and applications that are relevant to the development of behaviors and mental processes throughout the lifespan." After I take these classes, I'll start my path to becoming a substance abuse counselor.

*"Recovery is hard. Regret is harder." -Brittany Burgunder*

I interviewed Kip Young, who works in substance abuse! He told me about how he never wanted to be a substance abuse counselor until his late 20s, when he went to a rehabilitation center and was inspired to help people who have gone through the same thing as him. I asked him what he wanted to be when he was younger, and he wanted to be a rockstar. I giggled a little bit at the thought of him becoming a famous rockstar! He told me that he had to take a supervised 12 course function. For his test, he had to contact the counseling board, and soon he was on his way to a small room for a 150 question test! The interviewer tried to get him mad, but he stayed calm and completed the test. A few weeks later, he received a letter...he passed!!! He told me that he loves his work and his greatest accomplishment is writing an article on medicated recovery. When asked to describe his day he said, "Well, I usually arrive half an hour early to look at people's charts and notes from previous days. I usually try for a lunch break, but it doesn't always happen with such a busy schedule! There's also lots of listening, typing, and paperwork included in this job, but I don't mind!" I ended the interview asking what I can be doing now. "Well, the only thing I can give you is to work on typing and start researching!" We said our goodbyes before ending the interview. He made me want to become a substance abuse counselor even more!

*"The best view comes after the hardest climb." -anonymous*

In conclusion, being a substance abuse counselor would be good for me. I've watched people's lives get saved with counseling, and I want to do that too! Being a substance abuse counselor would mean the world to me. I've always loved to help people, but never knew how. But now I know! Thank you for reading my essay and considering my application to become a substance abuse counselor.

*"People often say motivation doesn't last. Neither does bathing.  
That's why we recommended it daily." -Zig Ziglar*

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship



Name: Aisha Marcial Today's date 3-2-26  
 Mailing Address: 25 Farnham's Way  
 Your city/town: Mount Desert, ME Zip Code: 04660  
 Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Chris Marcial  
 What school do you attend? MDES What grade are you in? 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Mrs. Kerry Taylor

MD8

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2026

# Future of Eastern Maine

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Aisha Marcial

Teacher Comment:

If Aisha approaches her chosen career the way she approaches her schoolwork, I have no doubt she will be a huge success as a fashion designer. Aisha is a very engaged learner who jumps right into our class tasks with enthusiasm and joy. She is always friendly and kind to all classmates. She is very creative and responds to teacher feedback, making necessary revisions to her work. You will not find a harder worker, nor a more eager learner, than Aisha.

Parent Comment:

Aisha is very creative, she loves singing, reading, acting and especially spending time with friends. She is very interested in pursuing a career in the fashion industry where she can create garments that will make people be seen for who they are inside.

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**Grade 4**

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**Grade 6**

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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

Aisha Marcial

Teacher

Kerry Taylor

# Designing My Dream

By Aisha Marcial

My favorite number is 14 because that is Valentines day. The day to celebrate love. It also represents Eros (Greek) or Cupid (Roman) in mythology.

Since I was little, I have always loved clothes. I love looking at clothes, admiring them, and even thinking about what little tweaks I would make. I love the idea of making people feel and look just like they are on the inside. And I do not mean their organs; I mean the part that everyone has in them, the part of you that says I am beautiful and I am confident. When you wear an outfit you love and know you look good in, you feel on top of the world. In 4th grade, my best friend, Magnolia, and I drew lots of outfits and felt so proud.

"People will stare. Make it worth their while." - Harry Winston.

When I was two or three years old, before my family moved from Mexico to Maine, my mom made and designed a Jaguar dress for my big sister, Nahia. I was just sitting there playing with a toy when my mom called for Nahia and told her to try it on. Looking at Nahia in the dress made me smile at how happy she looked. It was a dress with a Jaguar pattern. It had a garbage bag with ruffles on the rim of the sleeves and on the collar, with an attached tail to match. And it was one of the things my family put in the only suitcase we took to Maine when we left. It was very important to Nahia. When I got big enough to wear the Jaguar dress, I felt the same way Nahia felt in it. Later, my younger sister, Lila, also loved it. I would love to make someone that happy, just by being in an outfit that was made with love and care. So that's why I want to be a fashion designer.

"Your style says who you are without you having to speak." - Unknown

Fashion Design has many aspects. Some things I am doing to get ready for this career are practicing drawing humans and trying to get the proportions right. I am making simple skirts, and with more time and practice, I will make more complicated garments such as pants. In the summer, I would love to do some

fashion camps, like I have done in the Summer Festival of the Arts program. In high school, there are many classes that can help me with this career. For example, math and drama can be useful. In drama, I can design costumes for the productions. Math can be useful to create patterns. During classes like printmaking and fabric and clothing construction, I can be creative and practice with new fabrics. I would also do human anatomy, which would help me get the shape of the human body right when I draw. These are some things that I'm doing and will do to help get ready to become a better fashion designer.

The college I would like to go to is the International Fashion Academy Paris. In IFA Paris, I would do the bachelor's program for three years. For each year, they have a different focus. For the first year, I would learn the fundamental techniques and rich history of fashion. I will also develop a creative process and practice making things visually attractive. In the second year, I would be able to depend on my technical skills and have more creative freedom. In year three, there will be a shift in what I am learning, and I will be able to start a mini-collection. I will be able to showcase a six piece collection. With the skills I gained in the previous years, I will be able to succeed. The school is located in the historic Hôtel Scipion Sardini in the heart of Paris. When I'm not studying at school, I will be exploring the "City of Love." I think the school will be a good fit for me because I'm not too picky about the size of my college, but I want it in a city. The location is great since I have always loved the idea of going to Paris. And for a job, I could work at a boutique. And for long weekends and vacations, I would go to Pamplona, Spain, with my mom's family. So that is my plan if I go to the International Fashion Academy Paris.

I interviewed Maya Bracken, and she told me that the college she went to was Polimoda, the Fashion School, in Italy. She is a local fashion designer in Bar Harbor, Maine. Her model is Abby Harmon, who is a Pre-K teacher at my school. One of the dresses was Maya's first, and Abby modeled it. Maya told me that you need to think about who is going to buy your garment, because it is not for everyone. You need to decide whether it will be a shop with one location or if it will be an online store. It takes more time to set up an online shop than selling your garment in a store, because you need to set up the website, photos, marketing, and make business cards. The length of time to make a dress is one week. Maya answered my questions about the process of making a garment. It was so nice talking to her, and it made it more clear that I want to be a fashion designer.

“You can have anything you want in life if you dress for it.” —Edith Head.

In conclusion, I would like to be a fashion designer to make people happy and help them feel magnificent. When I am done with college, I can give people makeovers, and try to give them a Barbie day, like my mom likes to call a great day. If I win the scholarship, I would use the money to get fashion supplies or towards a trip to Paris, so I will know my way around and experience the customs of Paris before I live there. It will be the world to me if my dream comes true. Thank you for reading my essay today.

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship



Name: Theo Schwartz Today's date 3/2/2026

Mailing Address: P.O. box 211

Your city/town: New Harbor, ME Zip Code: 04675

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Ian and Abigail Schwartz

What school do you attend? MDES What grade are you in? 6<sup>th</sup>

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



MD13

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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
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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.

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Theo Schwartz

Teacher Comment:

Theo is a focused and attentive learner. He applies himself to our class activities and also participates very enthusiastically in activities outside of school. Theo is committed to doing well in school and in sports. He can be competitive and has a go-getter attitude. Being very active himself, I can see how he is interested in a career related to physical fitness.

Another Teacher Comment:

Once Theo sets his mind to something, he is relentless in his pursuit of mastery. This determination is evident in the sports he plays, the music groups he performs in, and in the classroom. This quality will serve him well while he pursues an education to become a fitness trainer at Ohio State University.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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 Shree Schwartz

Teacher Kerry Taylor

## My Road to Become a Fitness Trainer By Theo Schwartz

My favorite number is 7. When I was little, I was doing Khan Academy and couldn't figure out the answer. I guessed it was 7.

When I was 8 or 9 years old, my brother and I started getting into football. At that time, just for fun, not really seriously. When I turned ten, my brother got me a football. We started playing with friends. In games with scores and competitiveness, I became better, very fast. This is about the time I got serious about football. I think football would go very well into my life. I love it; it's so much fun to play. I could go to a college that has a good football program. I would study to be a fitness trainer and get a bachelor's degree in that area of work, while trying to pursue my dream of playing football at a high level. If I could play in the NFL, that would be my dream come true.

One time it was summer, and we were having fun with friends, just playing a game of football. We were playing in the road and my friend and I had just eaten a really spicy gummy bear. This game of football that we were playing was very dark as we were playing at night, so we tried using phone flashlights to see properly, but that didn't work out. When I headed home that night with my brother, he talked to me about football and going all the way. My brother inspires me to try to go all the way with sports,

and to me, that would mean playing while getting a degree in fitness training.

If I could train to be a fitness trainer, I would go outside a lot more for runs, as it relates to sports to stay fit and healthy. I enjoy the outside and exercising. I taught kids in the past, and I liked it a lot, so I could continue to do that. I can still do football as an extracurricular activity while studying for the future. High school will be fun; I'll have football practice. While I do that, I want to intern at MDI hospital to learn more about the human body. This would help me because I could intern for my mom who is a nurse and she could mentor me.

I want to go to Ohio State, located in Columbus Ohio. It seems to be warm in the summer and cold in the winter. I love cities, and Columbus would be the perfect match because there are so many things to do there. Columbus has a zoo that has warm and cold weather animals from all around the world. Ohio State has fitness training classes and fitness trainers that could help me study and learn. Also, Ohio State has a very prestigious football program. I would try to study either fitness training or to be a sports engineer. I would study Physiology, Human Anatomy, Engineering Fundamentals, Materials & Manufacturing and Bio Engineering. Human Anatomy is the study of the human body. Bio Engineering is the study of how the muscles and bones move. If I could pick which campus in Ohio State University, I would choose the Columbus Campus. It is roomy and appears to be in the middle of Columbus, and it seems to be aesthetically

pleasing. One of my best friends is also planning to go here, so I think it is a perfect place to go for me.

To find out more about fitness training, I interviewed Nate Donaldson, and he's a doctor. He said he wanted to be a pediatrician back when he was a kid. Pediatricians are doctors for babies and children. He said that working as an Emergency Medical Doctor takes 4 years of college plus med school and 3-13 years of Residency. Even though I want to be a Fitness Trainer, this is still helpful information as it relates directly to being a doctor. He stated that one of his days looks like 10-13 hours in the ER. Some advice he gave me was to work hard and enjoy work.

In conclusion, my path to becoming a fitness trainer will be long and hard, but I will not give up on my dreams. As Frank Lloyd Wright said, "I know the price of success: dedication, hard work and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen." I think that goes for me. I have serious amounts of dedication, and I am stubborn. I won't give up pursuing my dream of becoming a fitness trainer. If I win the scholarship money, I will use it to buy a bike that I can use for exercise. Thank you for reading my essay.

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Kenzie Seavey Today's date 2/6/26  
 Mailing Address: Po Box 115  
 Your city/town: Bass Harbor Zip Code: 04653  
 Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Kristi Lunt and Justin Seavey  
 What school do you attend? Tremont What grade are you in? 6  
 Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. Rabasca

2026

TM 5

\$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](http://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: teacher

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: student

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.

\* 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.

Kenzie Seavey

# 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.

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I worked fairly hard on 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**

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- 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

Kenzie Seavey

Teacher



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

My favorite number is two hundred fourteen because it's my uncle's boat number. Also, fourteen is the number after my birthday, and 214 is even.

**Future of Maine College Aspirations Scholarship****School:** Tremont Consolidated School, Tremont, Maine**Student:** Kenzie Seavey**Teacher:** Elizabeth Holbrook-Rabasca, Middle School ELA**Teacher Comments:**

Kenzie is a standout 6th grader who combines meticulous precision with an infectious sense of humor. She navigates learning challenges with exceptional self-awareness, setting clear boundaries and advocating for her needs with maturity beyond her years. Through unwavering diligence and a disciplined, step-by-step approach.. Her ability to meet exacting standards while bringing a vibrant energy to the classroom makes her a truly remarkable student.

**Parent Comments:**

Kenzie Seavey is a motivated and compassionate 12-year-old with a growing interest in becoming a teacher. She enjoys working with others and takes pride in helping her peers succeed, often stepping into supportive and encouraging roles. At home, Kenzie frequently plays “school” with her friends, naturally taking on the role of teacher and creating fun, structured learning experiences. Her passion, goal-oriented mindset, and genuine respect for her own teachers reflect a strong foundation for her future aspirations in education. Thank you -Justin Seavey

## Teaching My Brother, Finding My Future

Let's go back to when my little brother was born. Seven years ago when I went to the Bar Harbor Hospital, I got to hold my brother, Jameson Seavey, for the first time. I was wearing my Tinkerbell bathing suit, and now I am teaching him math, reading, and writing, etc. I am trying to be his teacher, but it does not always go according to plan, so he goes in the break corner. When I was 7 or 8 I was pretending I was a teacher and I had my lanyard and I have my mom's old computer that does not work, but I would use it like it was a real one. I would set up my desk or sit at the table and work on my computer. I would set up parent teacher conferences for the bad students. I would get my mom to print me out papers with math problems on them. At the end of the school year, I would ask my reading specialist for sheets of paper with little stories with questions about them, so I could play teacher. Helping people is what will make me proud and I love having the goal to learn and try new things. It would make me proud because you need to learn to succeed. Teaching my brother gave me a real experience of what could happen and how I would react. Playing teacher helped discover my real passion.

My aspirations for the future are to become a teacher, help kids learn, and to have my own classroom. I would like to go to college at University of Maine at Farmington (UMF). I would like to go there because UMF has a great teaching program. I need to get a Bachelor's degree in education to teach. Some courses I have to take are: Student Teaching and Seminar in Elementary Education, Science Methods for Elementary, Becoming a Teacher, Children's Literature, Social Studies Methods and Global Perspective Elementary Education.

I interviewed Mrs. Fournier. She is the third grade teacher at Tremont School. I learned from Mrs. Fournier that she teaches from 8-3 each day. She also has recess duty, meetings, emails, prepping

stuff after school and is thinking about school even at bedtime. But it is also important to find balance and time for yourself. She said to make sure your ready and to work hard. Even if you're bad at first, no one is amazing at teaching right away so don't give up. She also said, "Kenzie you're so patient and hard-working, so you would make a great teacher."

My future will look like: I will start by going to college and getting my Bachelor's degree and student teaching. I would use this \$100 dollars for my college savings. Someday I will have kids learning new things in my very own classroom!!! "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." — Nelson Mandela.

**MDI**

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

2026

Name: Cameron Webber Thurston Today's date 3/25/26

Mailing Address: 40 Freeman Ridge Rd ME

Your city/town: Southwest Harbor Zip Code: 04679

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Brida Thurston, Adam Thurston

What school do you attend? Pemetic Elementary What grade are you in? 6

Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Bonnie Norwood

P2

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**Schools:**

- Connors Emerson 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.

**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:

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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.

Cameron had trouble visualizing the future and it took him quite a while to jump into this project. Once he decided that lobstering was it... he took off!

### 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.

See attached recommendation

\* 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.

Southwest Harbor, ME  
Cameron Thurston  
Pemetic Elementary School, 6th grade  
Teacher: Mrs. Norwood  
March 26, 2026

My favorite number is 0 because there is no good number but Zero means nothing.  
It has "Z" in it amazing and a funny word.

Southwest Harbor, ME  
Cameron Thurston  
Pemetic Elementary School, 6th grade  
Teacher: Mrs. Norwood  
March 26, 2026

## Commercial Lobstering

Imagine waking up before the very first rays of the sun light, the Moon is setting as you're prepping the boat for the long day ahead of you. The career I am currently interested in is commercial lobstering and I just described the morning of a lobster crew. If for some reason you don't know what commercial lobstering is, normal lobstering is for recreation and commercial lobstering is for profit. I am interested in this career because my Dad is currently a commercial lobsterman and my grandfather was a commercial lobsterman. The reason I want to be a Commercial Lobsterman is because that would make me the 3rd Thurston Lobsterman in a row!

I'll tell you how I need to do my job. Basically I go out on the boat with some bait and look for one of my orange, white, and black buoys' bobbing in the waves. Once I locate my buoy, I haul it up out of the water. I then open the trap and throw all the short lobsters, crabs, star fishes, and other things that aren't needed. One by one, I check if the lobster is a female and if there are eggs. If there are eggs then I have to make a V-shaped cut on the tail so other lobster men don't keep it. All female lobsters get thrown back in so that lobster reproduction continues. If the lobster is a male, I measure it and throw all of the ones that are too small and ones that are over 5 inches back into the water. All of this sorting and selection of lobsters helps maintain a steady lobster population. After sorting the lobsters I open the sack in the trap and re-fill it with fresh bait and move onto the next buoy. The skills that are needed are seamanship, technical skills, physical stamina and strength.

The education that is required for obtaining a Commercial Lobster licence is apprentice ship, safety training, knowledge and skills, and lastly licensing. The school I am interested in going to is Washington County Community College (WCCC). I am interested in this program because it's 1 to 1.5 hours away from where I live, and it offers a "Business of Maine Lobster" program. The amount of time the training will take is a minimum of 24 months, logging every time I go fishing over the span of two years.

The interests or talents that I have that connect with this profession are: the first time I remember going out on my Dad's boat is when I was like 2 to 4 years old I think, I just like water and swimming and pouring water in and out of cups, I know how to catch lobster but I already said that. This career will help others by giving them yummy lobsters to eat, boil, stew, fry, saute, cook, bake, steam, and roast to make a perfect dish.

I will start working towards my goal of being a Commercial Lobsterman now by researching, reading, and training. I can also start asking more questions of my Dad and what it's like being a lobsterman. After writing all this, I realized just how much work I put into this. With the hours that I did researching and reading, I know that now I can appreciate all things I do, even if there are just little things. In the end I hope you think that this is a great essay and I appreciate your time it took to read this, thank you.

# 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.
- 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

Cameron Thurston

Teacher

Bonnie L. Norwood

3-2026

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of Cameron Thurston's goal to become a commercial lobsterman.

Cameron's intelligence and sense of logic will serve him well in the fishing industry. I believe that working for himself in this complex industry would also suit him. Cameron's father is a harbormaster and commercial lobsterman, so the "rules of the water" are familiar ideas he has grown up with.

Cameron could succeed at many different career paths, but this idea makes a lot of sense for him. He would become the 3rd generation in his family to make a living from the water, and daily connections are important to Cameron.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Bean-Ingram

Pemetic School

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Adella Seronde Today's date 03/10/26  
Mailing Address: 22 Beach Plum Circle  
Your city/town: Bar Harbor Zip Code: 04609  
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Jean Seronde, Chinn Seronde  
What school do you attend? CES What grade are you in? 6th  
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilie Ginn

2026

CEI

\$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](http://www.mainecollegecircle.org).

## Schools:

Conners Emerson School  
Mount Desert Elementary School  
Tremont Consolidated School  
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## 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.

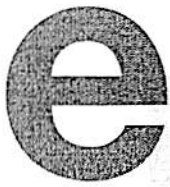
1. In exactly 25 words, what is your favorite number and why?
2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

**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

2020

## 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

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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.

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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.*

- very artistic and creative - has designed own jewelry for in her father's Native American jewelry shop
- makes a goal, organizes to reach it, and sees it through
- as a person, you've always been kind and considerate to everyone
- communication is strength, well spoken
- Adella is a wonderful person to have met.

Adella has a lovely sense of color, of composition, of relationships and balance, in her Art work. She is energetic, persistent, capable of learning and doing many different things well - She is a "do-er". It is beautiful for her to apply these, and her many more qualities to her Aspiration to be an Interior Designer. She has already sought out and received good guidance. Adella can apply her energy and drive, her sense of relationships and how these affect the spaces People live in. For Adella it's in the doing, it's in the steady careful persistent work, being fully present, putting herself fully into, and carefully minding the patterns and relationships, and learning from them.

\* 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.

Adella

# 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

Adella Soronde ☺

Teacher

Gini

## **Design And Success**

**By: Adella Seronde**

My favorite number is 34. It is my favorite number because it is the number on my very first sports jersey from playing international soccer.

I've wanted to be an interior designer for quite a while, really when I learned the job existed. The thought of helping people design the inside of their dream home just sounds really amazing to me. I remember when my mom told my sister and me to clean our play area and each time we would clean it, everything would be in a different place. The doll house on the opposite side of the room, the storage cabinets moved by my sister to the corner of the room. Every time I finish cleaning, and see the finished product of the area I smile, seeing how I improved it from the last time.

To help me prepare for becoming an interior designer, I am going to take regular high school classes, along with architecture and 3d design. To get into that class I first have to take the fundamentals of art and geometry. That's going to be easy for me because I am very creative and love art. I also love math. I am also going to take multimedia design classes at HCTC in the afternoon after school is out. Lastly, I am going to become an intern to an interior designer, her name is Conny Dedham to gain experience in the field. I met Conny at the Aspirations Fair, she was at one of my career stops and I really found this particular job interesting.

The college I want to go to to help pursue my goal of becoming an Interior designer is New York School of Interior Design. They have multiple courses that I want to take that will help me pursue my dream. Some of the courses are pre college courses. They are Interior design 1 and 2, Bachelor of fine arts in Interior Design, and Masters of fine arts in Interior Design. I really think these college classes will benefit me by giving me hands-on experience on designing places and to get a point of view of how life might be being an Interior Designer.

I interviewed Conny Dedham who is an Interior Designer. She knew that she wanted to be an interior designer ever since she was 12 and her aunt shared her house decorating magazines with Conny too. One of the questions I asked her was; "What kind of education do you need for this career?" she replied " I attended a four year college program with a major in interior design, and a minor in art and architectural history. I do ten hours per year of continuing education to maintain my certifications. I am a Maine Certified Interior Designer, a Certified Master Kitchen & Bath Designer, and a Certified Aging In Place Specialist." I learned from the interview that you have to

do 10 hours per year of studies to maintain your certifications as an interior designer. I think this might be the only thing I might not like about this career but other than that everything else I love. Conny also said that communication is very important in this career, especially with your clients and suppliers. That's not going to be a problem with me because I am a very communicative person. I asked Conny what her greatest achievement in this career was, and she said that her greatest achievement is happy clients. I also asked Conny "What advice would you give to someone who is looking toward pursuing this career?" She said "My advice for you would be to draw and color, visit interior furnishings stores, become an intern to an interior designer, and look around you in nature for inspiration." After speaking with Conny I think the most challenging part of this career for me would be the studying to maintain the certifications.

I also interviewed Nancy McKechnie who is also an interior designer like Conny. She, unlike Conny, did not do any type of interior design education; instead she started in work force development then decided to start her own business. I asked her, "What do you find challenging about this career?" she said, "Listening to the clients ideas and putting her own preferences aside, and learning to compromise." I also learned that you don't have to do any education to do this career. Another question I asked Nancy was what a day in this career looks like, she said "Balancing doing research, paperwork for clients, and working with more than one client at a time and also shopping for furniture." I think I can do all that because I'm a very tidy person and very organized. And similar to Conny when I asked her "What advice would you give to someone looking to pursue this career?" she replied, "Get as much exposure as you can to interior design, build resources, study color fabrics etc." After my interviews I've learned that interior design is for me. The fact that you need different skills for this career is what is really cool, along with the way it combines different forms of art and architecture.

I really love to create different forms of art and to help people. I think Interior Design is for me because I love how it combines art and architecture, and it would also allow me to work with a variety of people and help them design their dream spaces. I've always loved doing these things. If I won a scholarship, I would use the money to look at colleges or get better equipment for drawing and drafting. Thank you for taking time to read and consider my application.

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Remy Pelletier Today's date 27/26/may  
Mailing Address: 1637 Crooked Rd ME  
Your city/town: bar harbor Zip Code: 04609  
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? John pelletier, Rachel pelletier  
What school do you attend? Conners Emerson What grade are you in? 6  
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. Gin

2026

CE 6

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## 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.

**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.)



2021

# 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.*

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.

I love Remy's aspiration to become a yoga instructor. Yoga has many positive benefits. I'm glad she realizes it can help her feel calm and centered. I have fond memories of a yoga class we took together at the Y and of many more streamed classes in our basement.

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# Yoga teacher.

Six is my favorite number because I think it is an elegant and clean looking number and it's an even number which is always best.

I have always been interested in yoga since I was young and I think that is what I want to do for the rest of my life. My reasons are it's always made me feel calm, happy and reset and it's just something that has always made me feel confident and good with myself and I feel like that's something I have always struggled with. Me and my mom have always bonded over yoga classes or just a video on the tv in my basement. That's why being a yoga instructor is what I want to do with my life.

My plans are to start taking more classes at the YMCA and start doing more yoga in my basement now, and then when I'm older I will start to help volunteer teaching classes to younger kids at the YMCA and then work my way up to older kids and adults. My high school plans when I'm older I will go to MDI high school and I will take the classes wellness with Desiree Sirois and P.E foundations of fitness with Mattew Umphrey.

You have to be brave and willing to try new things. I plan on going to California to take classes at YogaSix where I would take a 200+ hour training course to get a certificate to become a yoga teacher. I also want to go to Arizona State University where I would take their health sciences program to learn more about mental health and physical health.

I asked one of the teachers at my school Ms. Edie who teaches yoga my questions about becoming a yoga teacher. Some of the things she responded with were that you have to be brave and willing to try new things. She talked about the courses she took as in a 200 hour training course at Sewall house in 2009-2010, and at a place called Kreipalu. She said that it wasn't

something that she always wanted to do but she enjoys her work now. Overall you have to put yourself out there and be brave.

I choose this career for the rest of my life because it's something that I have always loved since I was little, it's something that has always made me feel like life is sunshine and rainbows which is great. But overall it's an amazing thing to love because of the health benefits of yoga.

# 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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.
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**Grade 4**

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**Grade 5**

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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

Ramy Pelletier

Teacher

Grimm



HEATHER WEBSTER  
PRINCIPAL

MICHAEL FOURNIER  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CONNERS-EMERSON SCHOOL

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

March 25, 2026

Dear Future of Eastern Maine Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to support Remy Pelletier's application for the Future of Eastern Maine Scholarship. I am Remy's English Language Arts teacher and her homeroom teacher this year, but I have known Remy since she was in fourth grade. I have truly enjoyed getting to witness her growth academically, but also personally.

Remy is a good student who is developing strong work habits in sixth grade. She continues to demonstrate perseverance, especially in her work on this project. After a late start on the application due to circumstances out of Remy's control, she has worked incredibly hard to make sure she completed all components of the essay and application.

I had the opportunity to sit in on part of Remy's interview with Edie DuBois. I could hear how enthusiastic she was to be learning about what her future as a yoga teacher could look like. Her follow-ups to Edie's answers demonstrated clear engagement and excitement about potential future opportunities. I'm thrilled that Remy has begun to explore the path of yoga instructing because I think it will suit her well.

Remy is a quiet and calm presence, even in overwhelming situations. She is a loyal friend and builds strong connections with those around her. She is creative and fun, and can channel the energy of the environment around her. These qualities, among others that Remy has yet to discover, will help support her future success as a yoga instructor.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Emilie Ginn  
6th Grade ELA, Connors Emerson School

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Ilia Mancilla Today's date 3/19/26

Mailing Address: PO box 340 Mount Desert Main 04660

Your city/town: Bar Harbor Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Isabella Mancilla Daniel Mancilla Cortez

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

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



Please see video  
Supplements on Google Drive.

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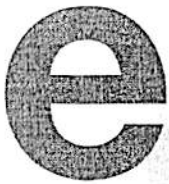
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**Grade 6: Your College\* Pathway and Beyond.** Write about your aspirations, about colleges\* that you think might serve you especially well, and also identify five college\* or high school courses that will help you pursue your goals for the future. 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.)



# Future of Eastern Maine

2020

## Aspirations Scholarship

### To the applicant:

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

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Lilia has grown so much as a student and performer since I've known her in 4th grade. As a performer, she leads her peers by example; practices the material on her own to prepare for rehearsals, helps others, and gives 100% to her performance. I envision a future for Lilia full of performances & rehearsals. She shows dedication to the performing arts that support her goal of becoming a performer.

### 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.

Lilia is a passionate singer and dancer with strong inclinations towards acting as well. She is a devoted chorus and show choir kid, and participates in all kinds of dance, music and theater each summer with SFOA. She has expressed herself musically since she was tiny, has always had a dramatic flare, and is a beautiful, natural mover.

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# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

*waived*

Signed:

Student

*Lilia Mancilla*

Teacher

*[Signature]*

# Dancing through life

My favorite number is 10 because it means a decade in years and because it's your first year in the double digits so it's special.

Have you ever been to a show where the performance is just so amazing you never want it to end, that has been my reaction every time I go to any play since I was little.

Ever since I was little, I have loved singing and dancing, something I do every day. I love music in general, and voice imitations; being like someone else for a time. With time I have realised that there's something that has it all: acting. Sure it's kind of scary and stressful at times on stage but that doesn't mean I love it any less.

I remember when I was somewhere around 4 and we were driving to San Francisco, to my(non-biological) grandma Danka's house. I don't remember what the song was, all I remember is my parents gawking at me from the front seat, because I was just sitting there looking out the window, bouncing my legs and slapping them to the beat. My parents were staring at me, their mouths open in shock at a 4 year old patting enthusiastically away to the beat.

I have a very musical family so we have music on a lot at home. I also have my dad's ear for lyrics so I memorize lyrics quickly, and my mom's ear for melody.

I will free dance a lot and sometimes I get so carried away that I will dance (and sometimes sing) from the living room to the kitchen without even realizing I'm doing it. I just really love listening to music and singing along with music in general, in English or Spanish (sometimes French).

For high school I'm definitely going to MDIHS and taking drama and show choir as well as art and a few others. But for now I attend every class of our schools show choir and almost every chorus class, and I go to SFOA (Summer Festival Of the Arts) every year, its normally 4-5 classes a day and then at the end of the three weeks we have a HUGE

performance/ show of all the classes we have done. Last year my schedule was all acting, I had hip-hop in the morning then showchoir, lunch, and then I had Matilda for two blocks then lastly I had let's make a play, and it was really fun.

When I go to MDIHS the main activities that I want to join are Drama and Show choir as well as Art, SAGA, and the Anti racism group.

I love being in a team or group on stage, and I have been on them almost all my life. I have been in multiple plays and performances, including Wicked, Matilda, Genie in a Bottle, Labyrinth and am currently in Barbie. And I have been doing dance for almost my whole life. I did ballet from ages 4-7, jazz, hip-hop and tap from 6-10 and one contemporary dance class. I think that high school drama and show choir would be fun because I would get to know more people and be part of a community where we are all doing something we love, but it would also help boost my confidence on stage.

For my gap year I want to join the community theater(s), and maybe be the assistant director to help and also be part of the play as well as having a job and being around other kids too. And then for college I'm thinking of going to the California institute of the arts although their acceptance rate is very slim 26%.

I watched an interview with Actor/ singer Ariana Grande, and she was mostly talking about her journey to being an actor. She said that "you shouldn't take no's as no's or discouragement, they're just not the right thing for you" and that "you just have to trust that the right thing won't pass you by" and that when things don't go your way you need to have someone that you really trust to keep close. This is good advice because in acting you don't always get the roles you want, So it's good to have someone in your life that you trust to be there for you/ someone you can lean on but also someone that will encourage you to persevere.

I have always loved singing, dancing and acting. It's a big part of me and I hope that someday that love will take me somewhere in an acting career, and in preparation I will join community theaters and go to California institute of the arts. If I won the award I would use it for private singing lessons or for a microphone. In conclusion, I thank you for taking the time to read my essay and for taking it into consideration.

Sincerely, Lilia.

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Blue Noble Today's date 3/10/26  
Mailing Address: 8 Crooked Road Unit 8  
Your city/town: Bas Harbor Maine Zip Code: 04609  
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Dana Noble Greg Noble  
What school do you attend? Conners Emerson What grade are you in? 6  
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. Gunn

2026

CE/6

\$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](http://www.mainecollegecircle.org).

## Schools:

Conners 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.)



2024

# 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.*

### 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.

Blue did an excellent job on this paper, and I'm very proud of the effort she put into the assignment. She took the project seriously and thoughtfully explored her interest in starting a design company and learning more about architecture and interior design. She completed strong research on the classes she would need and even identified a college that seems like a great fit for her goals. I think she has wonderful potential as a designer, and I'm excited to see where this interest may take her in the future.

\* 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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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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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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**Grade 3**

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**Grade 6**

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

Signed:

Student

Blue Noble

Teacher

Ami

## *MY DREAM*

*My favorite number is the number 9. Number 9 is cool because it's my birthday number. This season I'm playing softball and that's my number.*

Do you know why people pay more than \$25.00 for a stuffy shaped like a croissant? Do you know why when people open up the Jelly Cat web page you hear "awww". I'll tell you why. It's because their designers have the cutest ideas, the right material, and the perfect colors. They know what will bring people joy. When I started to think about my future, I knew I wanted to do something with design. I was driving around Northeast Harbor with my mom and noticed some of the beautiful houses. I looked at paint colors, windows and doors, porches, and roof lines, and landscaping. When I got home I started drawing mansions for my entire family. After I drew them, I began revising them again, and again, and again. That's when I realized I wanted to do interior design. My career aspiration is to own a company that specializes in finding or designing the right home, and then decorating it for the customer.

To reach the goal of my own home design company, I will need to learn about architecture, interior design, and what it takes to be a real estate agent. I know this is the job for me because I love beautiful things and I know what looks good. I always have to coordinate my outfits with my shoes. I enjoy shopping, drawing, and fashion which will help with the interior design part of the work. I also enjoy cheering, and softball and cross country, so I know how to work hard and work with a team. Mostly, I work really hard at being the best student I can be. I am lucky that MDI High School offers a number of classes that will help me get started. I know I will need math through pre-calculus, physics, and business management courses. Then there will be fun stuff like Architecture and 3D design, digital media, sculpture and photography. These courses and my high school experience will help to prepare me for college.

After high school I plan to go to college, but I know that I want to live somewhere where it's warm most of the year. I also know I want to go to a large school because I come from a small town and I'd like to meet people from all over the world. One excellent college I'm looking at

is Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia. SCAD has interior design programs and I can major in Interior Design with a minor in Architecture. Some of the classes they offer that look impressive include Sketching and Drawing, Color in Context, History of Interior Design and Interior Design Studio Time. I think History of Interior Design will be interesting to me. For example, looking at the evolution of something as basic as a chair or couch design over the last few centuries is so cool. Some designs come back over and over again through time, just as it does in fashion. SCAD is the perfect college for me and will make me a better designer.

In my school there is a display of a 3D art design project that older students do that I can't wait to do too, so That's why I interviewed Ms. Allison Dubois, an art teacher at Conner Emerson school. Ms. Dubois is passionate about art and teaching art. She has a bachelor's degree in art and a minor in art history. She said I have to be flexible and creative in art. I need to balance theme, unity, and space tied into a room aiming for coordinated design. She has independence about what she teaches and how she teaches art. After talking to Ms. Dubois, I think learning about art will be important to my career in Interior design because balance, unity and theme are important to consider when I design. Something I liked was the idea of using color and shapes to tie a room together to express an idea, and I appreciated her talking to me.

I am going to be an interior designer because I pay attention to detail and color. I want to design houses for people to make them happy. I want to own a business for architecture, interior design, and real estate. My plan is to make a blue print, design the inside, and then sell the house. People would want to come to my company because of the material, design, quality, thought, and care I will put into it. If I win this scholarship I would put it toward SCAD. SCAD is going to be the best fit for me to reach my goals. Thank you for reading my essay.



HEATHER WEBSTER  
PRINCIPAL

MICHAEL FOURNIER  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CONNORS-EMERSON SCHOOL

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

March 23, 2026

Dear Scholarship Review Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Blue Noble for the Future of Eastern Maine College Aspirations Scholarship. As Blue's 3rd and 4th grade teacher, I have long been impressed by her aptitude for art and her keen eye for design. Blue is one of the most creative, detail-oriented students I've had the pleasure of teaching. Additionally, she has an incredible work ethic and tremendous perseverance, which she exhibits in every class. When Blue sets a goal, there is simply no stopping her.

When Blue was in 3rd grade, she and her classmates would play "real estate" during their free time. They would sketch elaborate dream houses, and share persuasive sales pitches. I was always humored by their playful design features, like a room filled with stuffed animals, and their incredibly low prices. A waterfront home for \$25? Sold! As Blue continues down her educational path, I see this dream as taking shape in a much more serious manner. Her sophisticated drawing skills, her passion for fashion and architectural design, and her fierce determination to meet her goals leave me feeling confident that she'll succeed on her path to SCAD and a career in interior design. Furthermore, Blue's cooperative, friendly nature would be a perfect match for the highly personalized level of attention and collaboration this career requires.

Blue's chosen career as an interior designer and her goal of attending Savannah College of Art and Design are a perfect match. Her essay clearly outlines her plan to make these dreams a reality.

Blue is a well-deserving applicant for this scholarship. Thank you for considering her for this opportunity.

*Meryl Sweeney*

Meryl Sweeney  
Grade 3 Teacher  
Connors Emerson School

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship



Name: Jasper Kiers Today's date: 3/10/20  
 Mailing Address: 16 Cornwall Harbor Road  
 Your city/town: Bar Harbor Zip Code: 04609  
 Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Mike Kiers - Jen Frowbridge  
 What school do you attend? Conners Emerson What grade are you in? 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Ms. G.M.

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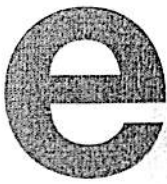
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2. And, please respond to the prompt that matches your grade below.

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2026

# Future of Eastern Maine

## Aspirations Scholarship

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### To the parent or other adult mentor: *Teacher:*

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

JASPER IS A VERY TALENTED PERSON, BOTH IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. JASPER IS A HUMBLE OVERACHIEVER AND A GREAT FRIEND. JASPER WILL BE PHENOMENAL AT WHATEVER HE DECIDES TO DO. AFTER READING HIS ESSAY ON BEING A PALEONTOLOGIST I THINK JASPER HAS BEEN THOUGHTFUL ON HIS CAREER PATH AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS AWARD.

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# Expectations Checklist

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**Grade 4**

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**Grade 5**

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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

Jaapen K. Kemo

Teacher

Emilia

# Digging up my dreams

By Jasper Kiers

My favorite number is 10 because it is my basketball number on the Connors Emerson team. Also I like it because I was born on May tenth.

When I was five years old, I dug up a little T. Rex tooth in a fossil kit. I was very happy because the T. Rex was my favorite dinosaur. When I grew up I learned that you can have a job digging up dinosaur bones and it is called being a paleontologist. I am excited about becoming a paleontologist because I have had fun experiences like digging and mining lots of different fossil kits, digging in my backyard, reading an encyclopedia about dinosaurs that my grandmother gave me and visiting the Natural History Museum in Washington, DC.

I want to be a paleontologist because I love dinosaurs. I think this would be a good job for me because I love digging, doing math, and especially like trying to find dinosaur bones. Also, I like being adventurous and exploring like when my friends and I went up a hill in my backyard and found lots of stuff and we had a good time! Maybe I could volunteer at the Abbe Museum or Friends of Acadia, or I could go to a summer camp for paleontology because it could help me to choose an area of paleontology to study in college. The high school courses I will need to become a paleontologist are biology, chemistry, physics, statistics, calculus, geology and computer science. To be a paleontologist, you need to know lots of math and science, which are my favorite subjects in school.

I want to go to Montana State University because they have 150+ miles of mountain bike trails, the campus is 89 miles from Yellowstone National Park and there are two ski areas less than one hour away. I really enjoy being outdoors so this sounds like a good fit for me. I want to major in Earth Sciences and paleontology. The undergraduate program at Montana State University is unique because it has hands-on field opportunities that you usually can only do in graduate school. Some of the courses I want to take are GEO 211 - Earth History and Evolution, GEO 419 - Field Paleontology, GEO 429R - Field Geology, GEO 309 - Sedimentation and Stratigraphy and GEO 443 - Principles of Sedimentary Petrology. Earth history and evolution will be a good choice because I will learn about plate tectonic processes and the development of

the continents and ocean basins which will be helpful for me to understand the environments that dinosaurs lived in. Another thing that will help me is field paleontology because it will give me hands-on experience learning what it is like to have a paleontology career. Also, field geology will help me to learn mapping techniques for lots of different problems. These great college courses plus the variety of outdoor activities close by are the reasons why I want to go to Montana State University.

I interviewed Adrian Boeye, a College of the Atlantic student who recently discovered how *T. rex* ran, Dr. Wes Gapp, an evolutionary biologist who studied at the Maine Maritime Academy, and Dr. David Reich, a famous paleogeneticist at Harvard University. First, I heard from all three people that you have to do a lot of math in paleontology. Also, they suggested finding a college that has lots of unique hands-on opportunities, not just things you learn in the classroom. This was great news because it reminded me of what I read about Montana State University! Next, as a paleontologist it can be rewarding when people get excited about your work. But also there are lots of challenges like making sure that the work you publish is correct and to quote Wes Gapp “getting access to specimens you need to do your research can be challenging.” The people that I interviewed gave me lots of recommendations including that I should work hard in school, try to get over a 3.0 GPA, and according to Adrian Boeye “think about what you want to do in 20-30 years, explore lots of areas of paleontology that sound interesting to you and don’t get focused on anything too early.” Another recommendation from David Reich was “don’t worry about your resume, do things that you are interested in and excited about and you will have a strong resume as a result.” I am thankful for the people I interviewed and the quotes made me feel even more excited about being a paleontologist.

In conclusion, I want to be a paleontologist and spend time outdoors to discover new dinosaurs and help research how they moved and lived. I think this career will be a good fit for me because I can pay attention, find little details, and I enjoy doing math and working hard. I really want to become a paleontologist to discover a new dinosaur. Discovering a new dinosaur is my dream because I think that is the greatest achievement in paleontology. If I win this contest, I will think about using the money to help pay for me to go to a summer camp for paleontology or put the money into an investment account to help save money to enroll in Montana State University. Thank you for taking your time to consider my essay.

Since he was very young, Jasper has had a deep and sustained interest in dinosaurs and has been fascinated by the concept that you can learn about long-extinct creatures just by studying their bones. Jasper has a wide variety of talents and interests - he excels in math and loves reading non-fiction books, and is an avid outdoorsman and basketball player. In preparing his essay, I am proud of the effort, thoughtfulness and time that Jasper has spent choosing professionals to interview and researching what schools and programs would allow him to pursue paleontology in a hands-on way while also offering access to nature and extracurricular activities that he would really enjoy. To me, this shows a balanced perspective and maturity beyond his years. I think Jasper would be an excellent paleontologist, but also could excel in any number of things related to math or science, and I think receiving a scholarship like this would really be a boost to his confidence and give him the encouragement to dream big for his post-secondary education.

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Jonquil Rampacek Today's date March 3, 2026

Mailing Address: 37 Ladyslipper Ln.

Your city/town: Bar Harbor Zip Code: 04609

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Lynn Rampacek

What school do you attend? Connors Emerson What grade are you in? 6<sup>th</sup>

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

2026

CE 26

\$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](http://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.)



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

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.

Jonquil has, throughout her life, shown a great capacity for tasks that fully engage her mind and dexterity. She has a good attention to detail and is very spacially organized. Cooking and baking both require these natural skills, so it does not surprise me that she is interested in this career path. Her father is a retired professional chef, and cooking in the kitchen is something that they have always done as a way to spend enjoyable time together. It will be interesting to watch as she expands on her interests, and we encourage her to choose a career path that she really connects with.

\* Maine College Circle defines "college" as one-, two-, and four-year colleges and universities, and 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.
- 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

Joquiel

Teacher

[Signature]

# Cooking my dreams

My favorite number is thirteen because it was the day I was born and it was the day I got the best and greatest dog :

Welcome to the Aspiration Essay here is the menu.

Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a cook and a restaurant owner. It has been a dream of mine, as I get older the dream gets bigger and stronger.

One time, I went to the local store and bought a mini ice cream set with pots and pans. With the ice cream set I made my first homemade ice cream.

And then after that I knew I wanted to have a job with anything related to cooking or being a pastry chef. It went from mini ice cream to making muffins to making edible slime (which made me sick!) but it was still worth it to cook the things I love.

I am vegan, which means I don't eat meat or dairy products. So it was hard to look at cookbooks and not be like "this is impossible". But I have learned that it is ok to be able to make something that I need to improvise.

In cooking, it is important to have a good attitude and mind space to cook. My parents always encouraged me to grow up to be whoever I wanted, even though I couldn't perfect muffins or slime.

I could always do something that involved cooking, and that always inspired me to keep on cooking and doing what I loved. Once I was older, my dad and I started to cook more complicated things like salsa and soffrito. I have always had a place in my heart for cooking and I would love to pursue this passion.

Looking toward the future, in 7th grade there are Clubs and Classes and I will take the Cooking one to expand my knowledge.

In high school, I would like to go to HCTC in the morning and to learn more about Culinary Arts. It is recommended that you spend up to two and a half years in the kitchen and so this will give me background experience. I would take the classes the HCTC offers, which are-

- Vegetable preparation
- Preparation of classic soups and sauces
- Potato and grain cookery
- Product identification
- Introduction to breakfast cookery
- Introduction to yeast breads, quick breads, pies, cookies, cakes and baking
- Knife cuts and safety

After high school, I want to go to the CIA- the Culinary Institute of America because it is a very good school with great courses including,

- Farm to Table
- Advanced Cooking,
- Advanced Bread Making
- Advanced Pastry
- Advanced Principles of Service Management and Hospitality

These are the classes that I would take if I went there. I would definitely take more but these are my favorite classes that I researched.

I would go to the CIA and get my bachelor's degree in Management and Hospitality.

The CIA is in New York which is close to Maine, so I can be close to my home for the holidays.

I think that the CIA is a great school to pursue my passion of cooking. There is a 91.8% acceptance rate and it is a 4 year private school.

I interviewed Mark Rampacek (my dad) who has an Associate's degree in Culinary Arts from the CIA. I interviewed him because he owned his own restaurant and some of the things he said were...

“It is a very creative job, You need a lot of experience, There are a lot of hours, very overwhelming and fun.”

I think that this will be a very fun job to do even though it might be hard, and if i have learned anything it is that *you have to try your best to do your best.*

After this interview I felt a little discouraged with this career path but I am ok with getting up early and staying up late because I have a lot of experience in competitive swimming, so I am used to getting up early and going home late.

I realized that not everybody needs to wake up at 9:00AM and go home at 1:00AM. If I owned my own restaurant I could have my own hours.

I think that cooking management would be a great career path for me in the future. It is a great way to still be a cook and still be connected to people. With this scholarship money I would be able to get new cooking supplies like pots and pans and different spices or I could start a savings account for a restaurant when I am older.

Thank you for considering my application for this scholarship.

*“A party without cake is just a meeting”.*

*- Julia Child*

Future of Eastern Maine  
College Aspirations Scholarship 2026

Recommendation for Jonquil Rampacek

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Jonquil Rampacek over the past year. I quickly learned that Jonquil is a curious person. Our conversations range widely from books and games to science and wildlife. However, what consistently finds its way into our discussions is Jonquil's passion for cooking. This is one of the first things people learn about Jonquil. In her essay she says, "I would love to pursue this passion." She already does at home and I know she's excited for all the opportunities upper middle school and high school will provide. She demonstrates a strong sense of self-awareness and a belief in pursuing one's passions. I always enjoy hearing about the dishes she creates and experiments with at home. Something that stood out to me in her essay is this line, "cooking management . . . is a great way to still be a cook and still be connected to people." Jonquil's interest in cooking is matched by her genuine desire to connect with others—something I have seen firsthand. She consistently takes the time to check in and ask how I am doing and this will be a wonderful asset as she grows and helps people on her team feel welcome. Additionally, although I have not taught Jonquil in a classroom setting, we have spent time playing games and doing activities together. She learns new rules quickly, pays close attention to detail, engages thoughtfully, and shows initiative—especially cleaning up without being asked. She's also a great sport, cheering me on when I'm doing well. These small but telling actions reflect a strong sense of responsibility and a willingness to contribute to a group. If selected for the Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship, I know she will make the most of this opportunity. I recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,

Jaylene B. Roths  
7-8 Social Studies Teacher, Connors Emerson School

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship



Name: James Miller Today's date 3/10/26  
Mailing Address: 12 Gazebo Way  
Your city/town: Bar Harbor Zip Code: 04609  
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Monique and Aaron Miller  
What school do you attend? Conners Emerson What grade are you in? 6th  
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilie Giron

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Maine College Circle

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### 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.

**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 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.

\* 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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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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**Grade 3**

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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.
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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.
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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 James Millar  
                  Teacher Gmisi

# Try Acting

First I will start my essay with my favorite number. My favorite number is 2042 because it is my birthday and birth year added together.

Drama! Drama has always been a part of my life, if it's trying to make people laugh or watching movies with friends and family. My favorite thing to do is to watch TV and make people laugh with my parents. Some of my fondest memories are laughing at comedy and TV shows. My favorite movie I ever watched was a horror comedy. The movie was just about two people who went to their cabin, and a few college students went to the forest to celebrate and they thought the two people were murderers etc. I was laughing so hard, I couldn't breathe. Acting was always a thought of mine.

I have wanted to be an actor for many years and have thought about the career for more. Some good practice before a full acting career would be to sign up for extracurricular activities that I can participate in now is signing up at camps and for school plays. I am very dramatic and express myself in funny ways, some traits that may have been passed down by family members. Some highschool courses I can learn are career in technical education, HCTC, and visual arts. I think some of these courses with technology and drama would prepare me for acting, and give me the tools to start my career.

To prepare for an acting career I will need training and college courses on different types of activities. My college choice would be Emerson College, located in Boston Massachusetts. Emerson college is not an

acting focused college but has good courses in it and is taught well. I will need many different courses to achieve my goal such as: bachelor of fine arts in stage production management just in case someone is short with stage production and is a good tool in general. Bachelor of fine arts theater and performance. These courses will help me with different areas of work such as drama and other types of stage work.

The interview I watched of Nick Turner was inspiring for me, it made me think deeply about why I want this career, and why I like it. The questions he answered were in depth and easy to understand. The main idea that I took away from this interview was: enjoying your job and loving what you do. The interview was informational and engaging. I can tell this career is going to be very challenging and the work I have to put into this is going to be great, and I realize that. The interview helped me prepare for how to deal with problems and challenges I will have along the way to my career.

I have always wanted an acting career and take steps to get it. This career is a good choice for me because I express myself in acting and try to make people laugh while doing it. This career is important to me because this will give me a challenge but also doing something I love. If I were to get the scholarship I would use it on getting into college and activities, like Theater programs outside of college. Thank you for reading and considering my application.



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 James is thinking about a career in the theater! I was James' 4th grade teacher and he brightened our classroom every day with his stories and funny approaches to telling those stories. It is my pleasure to recommend James Miller for the College Aspirations Scholarship.

James joined our CES community at the beginning of 4th grade and quickly became friends with many students in the class. His imagination led to various games with peers during recess. And he would perform his own stunts! This imagination and playing various parts are all preparation for his acting career.

In 4th grade, he was a thoughtful and insightful student. He was always prepared and showed perseverance on challenging problems. Or if the problem got the best of him, he would ask for help/clarification so he could continue his work. This trait will help him be successful in his college career.

James' dedication to his learning in the classroom and his ability to use his imagination to create and act out different characters are traits that will serve him well as a student and actor. I highly recommend him as a College Aspirations Scholarship recipient. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at [hdority@mdirss.org](mailto:hdority@mdirss.org).

Regards,

Heather Dority  
5th Grade Math Teacher  
Connors Emerson School

Both of James's parents come from families with a lot of creative people: artists, performers, writers, teachers and librarians. Art was an integral part of the curriculum at James's preschool and his former elementary school. Self-directed, hands-on learning was also a priority. From an early age, James enjoyed drawing, story-telling, and reading and listening to stories, among other things. We have always read together as a family and listen to podcasts and audio books. Many of James's family members have chosen career paths that align with their personal interests; as Aaron says, they are dream-followers. As a family, we believe that much of the beauty in life comes from creativity and togetherness: creating things with other people and communicating our ideas and creations with others. Creating meaningful experiences with other people is much of what makes life joyful and beautiful. Sometimes those things can be messy, complicated, and difficult, but we think this is what makes them worthwhile and human. James is attuned to feelings, stories, and creative pursuits. He also prioritizes strong connections with family and friends. We love the way he expresses himself with his words, drawings, and more. It is not surprising to us that he is interested in acting as a profession.

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: CORBIN Johnston Today's date 3/10/26

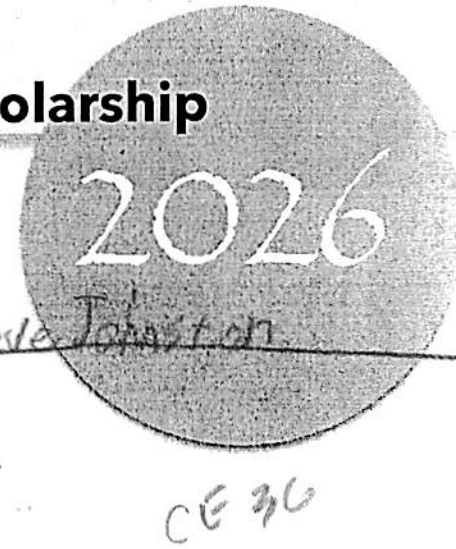
Mailing Address: 824 P.O. Box

Your city/town: Bar Harbor, Me Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s)? Lauren O'Connell Steve Johnston

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

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



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## 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.

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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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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 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.

Corbin is a bright and curious young man. He enjoys solving problems and puzzles in both 2D and 3D. He spends much of his free time painting, sculpting, and drawing worlds and characters. Corbin has also spent time doing Minecraft programming, and Lego Robotics building and programming. I look forward to the stories he'll tell within the worlds he creates.

\* 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 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)

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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."

Choose one

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

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**Grade 4**

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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~~<sup>2</sup> 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



Teacher



# Digitally Making my Dreams

My favorite number is 23. This is my favorite number because it's the day I was born. I love celebrating my birthday with my friends.

Imagine yourself as a kid playing a video game and seeing all the amazing colors that make up the characters, backgrounds, the ground, buildings, etc. Now imagine the guy who did that. As a kid I wondered who it was and I honestly still don't know but... I want to do it. I want to make that beautiful color. I want to. Ever since I was young I always wanted to be a video game artist. When I was four I played my first video game. It was called Little Big Planet 2. It's a game where you solve puzzles as a sack of beans. I want to make video games because when I play them it makes me happy so I think it'll make others happy when they play my games. It makes me even happier when people play the things that I've created. I want to go to a college with great tech programs. This is good for me because I want to do digital graphics for video games. One thing I don't like is that there are a lot of people coming every year.

I'm going to be a Video Game Artist because I want to do digital graphics for video games, and have people play the things that I've created. I think this is a promising career for me because I'm creative and put a lot of effort and color into my drawings. This is a good choice for me because I can put all my creative thinking out into reality. To prepare I've drawn a lot of drawings of already existing video games, and my own kinds of games. I've also done a ton of coloring pages too. My plans for high school is to go to MDIHS (Mount Desert Island High School) for Computer Science with John DaCorte as my teacher. Brooke Gariepy, and Ellen Bailey are going to be my teachers for Mathematics.

Some specific activities I should do include: 2D Digital Art, 3D Digital Art, Figure Drawing & Anatomy, drawing classes with Mom, and playing video games. These courses and activities give me more skilled techniques for making characters, and sprites. A good college for my career path would be Digipen Institute of Technology, RIT . My high school will most likely be MDIHS. A good experience would be drawing classes for me.

I interviewed my Mom, the video game artist for the games Robocosm and Automania. Something she found challenging is that computers weren't widely used at the time, so she had to be willing to teach herself. Something I learned from the interview is that a week of doing this job is pretty packed. She recommended that taking complete foundational art classes would be helpful. Another thing she recommended was to learn to use good art apps for my work.

I want to study digital graphic design in a college with great tech programs, this is good for me because I want to do digital graphics for video games. One thing I don't like is its got a lot of people coming every year. I think this is a good career for me because I'm really, really creative, and I'm also interested in making drawings, and clay figures for video games.

Julie Fulton Kelly  
Conners Emerson School  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

March 22, 2026

Dear Scholarship Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Corbin Johnston for the Future of Maine Aspirations Scholarship. I have worked in the classroom, as an ed tech, with Corbin for the past two years. I have no doubt that he will become a successful video game artist.

Corbin is a creative student, who works hard, is curious and always willing to learn. He is especially excited and adept when it comes to using his school computer. He is adaptable to different situations and is a good problem solver. Corbin loves to draw, tinker, and create gadgets whenever there is any down time in class. His eye to detail in his drawing and creations is impressive.

Corbin's love of video games, and computers is evident. Whenever I have a conversation with him about his weekend plans they usually involve playing with his friends that are as equally enthusiastic about video games. Corbin is a devoted attendee of the weekly afterschool Dungeons and Dragons club. I know he looks forward to Wednesday afternoons engaging with his peers and friends and playing D and D.

Thank you for considering Corbin for the scholarship. I believe that he will succeed in his endeavor to become a Video Artist and attend Digipen University.

Sincerely,  
Julie Fulton Kelly

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship



Name: Ryan Avila Today's date 3/10/26

Mailing Address: PO box 277

Your city/town: Hwy 115 Cove Zip Code: 04644

Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Chris Smith / Joel Avila

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

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



CE 41

\$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](http://www.mainecollegecircle.org).

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Mount Desert Elementary School  
Tremont Consolidated School  
Pemetec Elementary School  
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2026

# Future of Eastern Maine

## Aspirations Scholarship

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### To the parent or other adult mentor:

Ryan's curiosity has always been nearly boundless. Ed Yong's "An Immense World" hit the sweet spot for him, as it connected his fascination with animals, science, and surprising fun facts. The field of sensory biology also taps into his deeply empathetic nature, as it compels the scientist to imagine a life lived with different constraints and available options. I am truly grateful that this Aspirations work has provided Ryan with the opportunity to consider steps he might take to reach his goal, including joining the Outdoors Club at his school to further prepare himself for field work. It's a gift, too, for him to begin thinking through post-high school education and what factors to consider when there are so many options out there. We could all benefit from taking a cue from Ryan, and imagine seeing the world through his eyes - full of wonder and possibilities!

*specific educational programs after high school.*

# Expectations Checklist

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I am quite sure.

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Choose one.

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

Signed:

Student

Ryan A.

Teacher

Emilie

# Sensing my Dreams

My very most favorite number in the whole wide world is eight because I really like even numbers and it is very fun to write.

Ever since I listened to the audiobook *An Immense World*, which is about how the senses of animals define their world, I have wanted to be a sensory biologist: a person who studies the senses of animals. I would study killer flies which are flies that prey on other flies instead of humans. As soon as I had even gotten halfway through I was hooked, and no one was going to change my mind about what I wanted to do.

Even before I heard the book, I was always fascinated with animals, and I knew more about them than my parents by the time I reached fourth grade. My favorite animal is the pangolin, which looks like a cross between an armadillo and an anteater. A great example of when I knew more than an adult is when I was eight years old. The bio lab where my mom works was having a trivia on zoom, and my mom asked me if I had any ideas for questions to put in the trivia. I asked if pangolins were more closely related to cats and bears or anteaters and armadillos, and the answer was cats and bears...no one got it!

I am currently participating in Science Olympiad, and I plan to join Outdoor Club next year. I will participate in the biology club at MDI high school. I will also take honors biology and college prep biology. I can also help my mom at the MDI Bio Lab. These things will help me because I will have practice in science and doing experiments. I will also be used to doing outdoor experiments and being down in the dirt. I also greatly enjoy exploring the woods behind my house. I am very creative, and this trait will help me think of creative experiments to figure out what I want to know. Listening to *An Immense World* piqued my interest and inspired me, especially the part about killer flies which need to hunt other flies (and we all know how hard they are to catch!) so their visual processing speed is super fast. It is so fast that by the time an image has reached your retinas, the fly has *already* processed it and reacted! They also return to the same spot after catching a fly (which can take less than a second), so if you get it to land on you it will act like a tiny hawk, leaving to capture its prey, then coming back again with its victim. These are the reasons why I want to become a sensory biologist and study killer flies.

I will go to college at Haverford College in Pennsylvania and take many courses including biology, physics and math. In my junior year I will study abroad at University College Dublin in Ireland. There I will take biological sciences 3 and 4 plus biology, mathematics, and education. Then I will return to Haverford and finish a major in biology. At Haverford I will live in Barclay Hall for my first year then, I will live in community housing for my sophomore year and for my

junior year I will study abroad at UCD Dublin, and finally, I will live in returning student housing for my senior year. And it is an 11 minute drive from my aunt's and uncle's house, so I can drop by and say hi when I'm open or if I need something. I also asked my aunt if there was anything else I needed to know, and she said that instead of lawnmowers they have goats and that it is a really nice campus with lots of trails and activities.

I interviewed Iain Drummond, a geneticist at MDI Bio Lab, and he helped me decide which college I went to. I was originally going to go to the University of Pennsylvania. He changed my mind by saying that the big colleges are where most of the big discoveries are happening, but it is very competitive and you cannot take small side classes for fun. He went to a small college and had a lot of fun learning French, and later without even planning ahead he studied abroad in France! So, I changed to Haverford College which I am much more interested in. He also said that if you enjoy every step of the journey and doing something you love then it's not really work. "Finding something you love is the first step." Another thing he said was, "Revealing something no one knew before is like a window into the universe." Something that he said was challenging for some people in this career is thinking of the right questions to get answers, but I think I could work through this problem because I am very creative and good at thinking outside of the box. All these things helped me know what was in store if I was going to have this career.

I have always loved animals and testing my ideas. I have a unique perspective on the sight of animals because I have glasses, so I am more open to other animals' umwelten\*. I also have lots of connections at the MDI Bio Lab for aging and regenerative biology and environmental health, because my mom works there. These are all the things that I think lead to being a sensory biologist. If I had the privilege of winning the scholarship, I would use the money to buy a contact microphone\*\* for research in my backyard. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my application.

\*umwelten: a term popularized and created by the German biologist Jakob von Uexküll and refers to an animal's sensory world

\*\*contact microphone: a small microphone with a clip used for listening to the vibrations of bugs and insects hidden communication via plant stems and leaves, often used for field research

*"EARTH TEEMS WITH SIGHTS AND TEXTURES, SOUNDS AND VIBRATIONS, SMELLS AND TASTES, ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS BUT EVERY ANIMAL CAN ONLY TAP INTO A SMALL FRACTION OF REALITY'S FULLNESS, EACH IS ENCLOSED WITHIN ITS OWN UNIQUE SENSORY BUBBLE PERCEIVING BUT A TINY SLIVER OF AN IMMENSE WORLD."*

-ED YONG AUTHOR OF *AN IMMENSE WORLD*

3/25/26

Ryan has been on my caseload since second grade. He is one of the most enthusiastic students I've ever had the pleasure of teaching. He is highly motivated, focused, and a very quick study.

Ryan has been on the Science Olympiad team since 5th grade, competing at the regional level (Harvard University), state level (University of Maine), and national level (University of Nebraska). He was unaccompanied by a parent at Nebraska and exhibited a maturity that belies his age. He put his heart and soul into these events with very successful outcomes.

It is with complete confidence that I recommend Ryan for this scholarship.

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

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship



Name: Jackson Parkin Today's date 3/10/26  
 Mailing Address: 22 White Spruce Road  
 Your city/town: Bar Harbor Zip Code: 04709  
 Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Lisa Parkin and Stephen Parkin  
 What school do you attend? Conners Emerson What grade are you in? 6  
 Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emile Sinn

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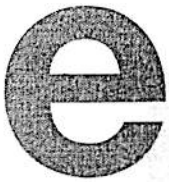
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2026

# Future of Eastern Maine

## Aspirations Scholarship

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As we watch Jackson's interests grow, it's clear that he has a natural curiosity about the world around him. He loves math and science and is always asking questions, wanting to understand how things work and why things are the way they are. He enjoys being outside, digging in the dirt, exploring, and discovering new things, which is why his interest in becoming a paleontologist feels like such a perfect fit for him. He gets excited about the idea of fossils, dinosaurs, and learning about the Earth's history. It's been really special to see him combine his curiosity, love of learning, and sense of adventure into something he dreams about doing in the future.

### 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.

JACKSON BLEND IN SCHOOL IN THE BEST WAYS, HE IS ALWAYS QUIETLY DOING THE RIGHT THING, AND SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE FELLAS. JACKSON'S POSITIVITY AND OPTIMISM ALWAYS BRINGS UP THE CLASSROOM. OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL JACKSON IS A MULTI-SPORT ATHLETE, AND A GREAT TEAMMATE. I THINK THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY WOULD BE LUCKY TO HAVE JACKSON AS A PALEONTOLOGIST.

\* 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.

Sign: *[Handwritten Signature]*

Jackson Parkin

# Expectations Checklist

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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.

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 parkin

Teacher

Gm...

# Becoming a Paleontologist

My favorite number is 7 because it was my number for sports and my sister wore it and my dad wore it his favorite too.

I want to be a paleontologist when I'm older. I chose this career because when I was younger I liked to help my neighbor in his garden. One day I was helping him and I planted a tomato in the garden. One time while I was playing in the dirt, I found a really big root and I started pulling on it, but it wouldn't come out. Another thing I like doing is trying to dig a really big hole with my hands, but I can't get that deep. One more reason I want to be a paleontologist is that when I was in 2nd grade at recess, my friend and I played in the dusty gravel and after recess we were really dusty. After that when I got home my mom and I went to the grocery store. And I saw a fossil kit with a gold bar that I dug with the tools it gave me then I brushed the shark tooth off with a little paint brush that was in the kit. I want to be a paleontologist when I'm older because I like to find cool stuff in the dirt.

In order to be a paleontologist I can take certain classes in high school such as science, biology, chemistry and geology and math. Also I can volunteer at some museums, such as The Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine, The Forest and Logging Museum in Bradley, Maine, and the L.C. Bates Museum in Hinckley, Maine. In geology class I will learn about different types of rocks which will help me when I'm a paleontologist. Also geology will help me find the age of the bones I find.

In order to pursue this goal I will need to go to a college, and the college I chose to study paleontology is the University of California Los Angeles. And in that college I will need to go to lectures and also study geology as a major and earth science classes for the study of fossil organisms. These classes will help me to be a paleontologist. In geology I learn about rocks and bones but mostly rocks, and I will study the rocks to find how old they are. If I learn how old the rocks are then I can learn how old the bones are.

I interviewed Aaron Miller, and I learned that he has really cool fossils at his house. He has been working at the Abbe Museum for 3 years. The advice he had for me is if you love the job you try to persevere. He has dug up shark teeth and trilobite fossils shells, and the thing he enjoys about his job is he likes to discover new things. He said to make sure you don't run out of water when you are on the dig site.

In conclusion, I will go to college for paleontology and if I get this money I will save that money up and go to college. I would like to be a paleontologist. Ever since I was a kid I always liked to dig in the dirt alot. The skill I need to be a paleontologist is patience because you need to be careful with the bones and the artifacts. Thank you for taking this into consideration.

# Future of Eastern Maine Aspirations Scholarship

Name: Niamh Stinson Today's date 3/10/26  
Mailing Address: Po Box 187  
Your city/town: Bass Harbor/Fremont Zip Code: 04653  
Parent(s) or guardian's name(s): Sibhan Ryan and Isaac Stinson  
What school do you attend? CEJ What grade are you in? 6  
Your teacher's name (spelled correctly)? Emilie Ginn



CEJ

\$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](http://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.

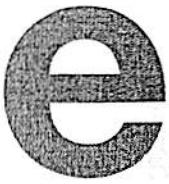
*my favorite number is twenty one because my birthday is one the twenty first and my brother also has a birthday on the twenty first*

**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.*

### 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.

Niamh is a kind, bright student who will make an absolutely fabulous teacher! She has such a positive attitude and puts in 100% to whatever she is doing.

Beth Gilma

\* 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 6**

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

Signed:

Student

Neamb Stinson

Teacher

[Signature]

# Dance Coach

My favorite number is twenty one because my birthday is on the twenty first and my brother also has a birthday on the twenty first.

Ever since I was a little girl, I have noticed how much I love helping my friends with any kind of problem, from a math problem to a random life problem. But I also know I don't want to be a person who gives advice all the time, so I know I want to be a teacher. I also have loved dancing and prancing around the house and everywhere else I go. So I'm thinking of being a choreographer for kids. I remember getting ready to go on stage for show choir in my first year and being so scared but then I got out there and all the worry left my body. I felt like I was a professional dancer, like I did *this* for a living. I remember loving that feeling and I just knew that I wanted to keep doing it.

How I know why I want to teach is because I've been friends with all of my teachers from when I was very little. I've thought of how I could have a connection with my students when I'm older and also have fun teaching kids. When I'm older, I will ask the local YMCA if I can teach a class there to help my skills. I will also try to be a junior counselor when I'm seventeen at a camp called Friends Camp in China, Maine. Friends Camp is a very fun camp because it is a sleepaway camp and everybody is so nice. What will help me be a choreographer is show choir and lots of other theater programs. How will this help me pursue my dream? Show choir, theater, and dance will help me know how to dance so I can teach it later. One way working at the YMCA and being a junior counselor will help me pursue my dream is that they will teach me how to work around kids.

After high school, I'm thinking about going to Colby College and studying how to teach dance to kids. Some classes I will take are ED433 - Student Teaching Practicum, which will teach me how to teach students, MU256 - Music and Childhood, which will teach me about music and childhood, TD254 - People, Place, Practice: An Introduction to Community Based Performance, will teach me an introduction to community theater, ED215 - Child and Adolescent Development in Education, is going to teach me about student development in education, and last but certainly not least ED101 - Education and Social Justice. These are very good choices for me because they'll help me move forward with this career.

I interviewed Sonia Berghoff, the music teacher at my school. One thing she told me about teaching kids was that you *need* to keep a positive attitude throughout the day even when a student is misbehaving. If you don't, you're really not going to learn to love your job because you'll run out of energy if you don't accept it. Sonia said that she loved helping and pushing the people in show choir last year to win a gold medal. We won best in the state getting a ninety seven out of a hundred. I think Sonia is a very inspiring person because she goes through the day with a smile on her face even when it's hard and I want to be that strong and positive when I grow up.

In conclusion, I would like to be a choreographer and to help me do that I will do lots of theater programs and volunteering to teach. If I won the scholarship I would spend the money on a dance class. Thank you for considering my scholarship application.



HEATHER WEBSTER  
PRINCIPAL

MICHAEL FOURNIER  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CONNERS-EMERSON SCHOOL

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

March 19, 2026

Dear Scholarship Review Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Niamh Stinson, whom I had the pleasure of teaching as a third grader. Throughout her schooling, I have observed her remarkable growth and development, both academically and personally.

Niamh is a creative student, bringing imagination and originality into everything she does. Her kindness stands out just as much. She treats everyone with respect and is always ready to lend a hand to a friend or teacher without hesitation. She approaches learning with genuine enthusiasm, eagerly participating and consistently asking thoughtful questions that show her curiosity and desire to grow. No matter the situation, she carries herself with a positive attitude, and her big smile has a way of uplifting those around her.

Niamh is a dedicated and an incredibly hard worker, always putting in the effort needed to reach her goals. I have no doubt that she will go on to do amazing things in college and beyond, continuing to grow and succeed in everything she pursues. With her passion, discipline, and natural ability to inspire others, she will make a wonderful dance teacher one day.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend Niamh for consideration by the Scholarship Review Committee. I am confident that she will excel in her future endeavors and continue to make a positive impact in her community.

Marianne Tripp  
Third Grade Teacher  
Connors Emerson School