

Evaluation Criteria for Awarding the Beckham Brown Clark HS Foundation Scholarships

We seek to award scholarships to candidates who are performing well academically **AND** who demonstrate character in their life.

This year, the Beckham Brown Clark HS Foundation is sponsoring competition for five scholarships: two \$500.00 (\$1,000 total), annual four-year scholarships for students who intend to begin college in the Fall of 2017.

We are offering these scholarships based upon a student's Science and Technology interests.

1. **Math and Science Criteria:** We will give at most one scholarship in which academics are the greatest weight in our selection. *The scholarships will be based on applicants math or science backgrounds.* Two \$500.00 (\$1,000 total), annual four-year scholarships may be awarded based upon the following weighted criteria:

- academic performance
- leadership
- creativity, mission mindedness, or acts of kindness
- heart for learning
- activities and interests

As for your submission itself, we are also looking at your overall presentation. In this regard, we review and evaluate:

- Your spelling
- Your grammar
- Your vigor of expression and your passion for your topic
- Your neatness

We evaluate your submission fully in all of these areas.

1. Criteria: We will evaluate your scholarship submission based on **one set** of the criteria noted above, and the specific inputs you offer as described below. Complete the Scholarship Application which will include the following points. (NOTE: The following are NOT listed in order of importance or weight for evaluation.)

Academic Achievement/Performance: Submit your standardized test scores from the SAT, ACT, or **other standardized test or other measures of your academic performance.** We are particularly interested in your overall academic performance, however best measured.

References: Submit at MOST three (3) reference letters with at MOST 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 point type (may be less, such as double-spaced, etc.) from parents (who better know homeschool students!), pastors, leaders in programs you've been involved in [AWANA, Boy Scouts, 4-H, FFA, YFC], etc. that confirm your involvement in the activities you've listed and that, to the extent possible, attest to your unique contributions in these areas. These letters should further attest to your creativeness, mission mindedness, or acts of kindness.

NOTES:

These letters ought not to be mere “character reference” letters. They should attest to specific contributions you have made, specific activities you have engaged in, specific achievements that have benefited—or that show some promise in the future of benefiting Charles County. In other words, these letters are primarily for the sake of acquiring outside confirmation that you have really done or achieved what you claim to have done or achieved in your scholarship application.

We only need one letter attesting to your contributions in any one activity. In other words, for example, if you’re going to send us letters from two pastors in your church, make sure they speak about different aspects of your participation.

The best letter will describe specific contributions you have made and/or specific observations that your reference has seen that demonstrate the contributions to which s/he is referring.

Future Plans: Submit a personal essay with at MOST 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 point type (may be less, such as double-spaced, etc.) along these lines:

- What I want to do with my life
- Why I want to go to college
- Why I want to go to *this* college

COMMENTS:

Clear Expression or Contribution: Regardless of whether you choose the Green or Blue criteria, you must choose to submit either a project or a second essay [do NOT submit both] as follows:

- (1) **Submit a copy of your best project** in the form of a review, digest, portfolio, etc. that consists of at MOST 3 pages, single-spaced, 12 point type (may be less, such as double-spaced, etc.) concerning any math, science, performing or visual arts related discipline of interest or concern to you. We are interested in seeing how well you can share your interest and passion from a previous effort, uninfluenced by the pressure of this scholarship competition and in a context that is less dependent on a written essay. [NOTE: You are free to share specific results or a summary of results of experiments, proofs, applications, tests, observations, trials, performances, and/or exhibits related to the physical sciences, math, or the arts.] A copy of any awards, recognition and prizes are welcome. We can only accept two-dimensional submissions (such as photographs of the actual work, reports, written descriptions, etc.) or audio/video recordings (such as CD/DVD or audio cassette). Total submissions for this project(s) should not exceed 3 pages if written or at most 10 minutes if presented via audio/video. NOTHING CAN BE RETURNED, so please do not send any original works, awards, etc.

OR

- (2) **Submit a copy of your best argumentative essay** to date with at MOST 3 pages, single-spaced, 12 point type (may be less, such as double-spaced, etc.) concerning any subject of interest or concern to you. We are interested in seeing how well you can

express yourself in a “normal” context, uninfluenced by the pressure of possibly “winning” or “losing” a scholarship. [NOTE: If you do not have a pre-existing essay of the length we are seeking, then please *edit* one as necessary to meet our length requirements. Your essay should include a bibliography, endnotes, etc., of course, but these scholarly devices do not count toward the page limit. The page limit applies to the body of the essay only.]

2. Prerequisites:

- a. **Purchases:** You **MUST** have **used a minimum of five full Sonlight Curriculum Core programs purchased from Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd., all purchased in 2000 or later. We must be able to validate your purchase from our records and/or your proof of purchase.** (NOTE: Core programs have gone by different names over the years. They include Basic, Core, Core Ultra™, Core Plus™, Newcomer, First Time Curriculum Packages, and Multi-Subject Packages.). All such programs included a Core (or "Basic") Instructor’s Guide, plus Readers/Literature, Read-Alouds, and History programs for the same year or level. Many packages also included Bible programs.) For the purposes of this scholarship competition, Core purchases may be made either as a single package, or in pieces over time. However, if such purchases are made in pieces over time, the entire program must have been purchased in a period of no more than 12 months. If you purchased only pieces of a program and not the whole, or if you purchased the equivalent of a whole, but over a period of more than 12 months, such purchases will NOT count toward qualification for the scholarship competition.

NOTE: While we are pleased to accept and evaluate applications for those using any five Core programs, we **will give significantly added weight** to those applicants that have used our curriculum *most recently and at the higher levels.*

- b. **Scholarship Photograph:** **Submit a photograph** with your application. Your photograph will not be given to the application review board and, therefore, will not be used in the application review process for selecting scholarship winners. However, photographs of the scholarship winners only will be used to announce the winners after they have been selected.
- c. **Assignment of Rights & Consent to Publish Scholarship Information:** **Sign and submit the Assignment of Rights and Consent to Publish Scholarship Information form** included with the application. By signing this form, you give us the right to publish your photograph(s) and basic information regarding your past accomplishments and future plans in the event you are a scholarship winner.

3. Deadline: For scholarships for the school year beginning in 2017, **all submissions listed above must be postmarked and/or emailed NO LATER THAN December 3, 2017.** We will announce winners by February 16, 2017.

4. Questions: If you have any questions regarding your submission or criteria, please email scholarship@bbclark.com or fax 301/202-3647.