

First Steps to Success Scholarship

Awarded By:

Dr. Amita Kumar and Dr. Gabriel Bietz

Most educators know, intuitively, that the 9th grade academic year is critical for students. Ninth grade is what some may call “The First Step to Success”. It is a time of discovery in a student’s life, which will set them on the path of achievement. Many young individuals begin to dream of their future career. The “First steps to Success Scholarship” will be there to help support that dream.

Students at this level have increased freedom and choices from an unprecedented array of options affecting academics, social engagement, and school behavior. It’s no wonder so many students struggle during the freshman year.

Three key factors contribute to success: attendance, academic performance, and engagement with school.

(Referenced from a revised edition of a Research Brief originally prepared in 2011 by Howard Johnston and Ronald Williamson)

This scholarship is intended to help the recipient achieve excellence. For example, one may use this scholarship to pay for tutoring in a difficult subject or purchase a chrome book and a backpack. These are just a few examples and we are open to hear creative ways the recipient would use this scholarship to better their ability to flourish in ninth grade.

Comments from past recipients:

“Receiving this scholarship is something I will forever be proud and grateful for. With the funds that I obtained, I was able to purchase a new computer that has been such an amazing tool for not only my school work, but for my everyday life. I also purchased many of my school supplies which have still lasted me to this day. I feel more motivated to get my work done now that I have my own device and I can feel proud while completing it because I know that I worked hard and put in time to be able to purchase it. It has made getting work done so much more convenient. If you are thinking about submitting an essay for “The First Steps to Success Scholarship”, I say do it. You never know what the outcome may be and it never hurts to try.”

- 2022 Scholarship recipient

“The First Steps to Success Scholarship has been a very helpful asset to me starting High School. Through the funds, I was able to purchase a laptop which I now use every night to study and finish homework. I had no idea going into High School how much of a help this would be to me. The jump from Middle School to High School, although challenging at first, was eased by this device because I was able to manage my time, work efficiently, and stay organized. Through this scholarship, I have been able to balance the weight of both school and sports and become successful in my High School career.”

- 2021 Scholarship recipient

INSTRUCTIONS: Deadline to submit applications is **Friday March 24, 2023 at 4:30PM** (this is a non-negotiable deadline).

Please email to:

Susan Christian- High School Counseling Secretary schristian@ahisd.net

Dawn Canales- Junior School Counseling Secretary dcanales@ahisd.net

or print and drop off to the guidance office.

CRITERIA: Personal essay discussing, “Why should you be the 2023 First Steps to Success Scholarship” recipient?