



**SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTIONS & INSTRUCTIONS**

**8<sup>TH</sup> Grade Student Applicants to SVdPHS students**

Questions? Contact Mrs. Falvey 707-763-1032 ext. 153 [afalvey@svhs-pet.org](mailto:afalvey@svhs-pet.org)

**STUDENT STEPS TO APPLYING FOR SVHS TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS:**

1. Complete and submit **ONE** completed *General Scholarship Application*. If you are applying to more than one scholarship, please only submit one general scholarship application with a Response Essay form for each scholarship.
2. Attach your *Response Essay form(s)* to the completed *General Scholarship Application*. Use one *Response Essay* for each individual scholarship you are applying for. You may apply for one-to-three scholarships that you qualify for as an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Applicant to SVdHS.
3. Submit your completed SVHS Scholarship Application packet **by 01/20/2023\*** to:

***St. Vincent de Paul High School c/o Mrs. Falvey 849 Keokuk St, Petaluma Ca 94952***

*\*Postmarked submissions of 1/20/23 will be accepted. ONLY complete applications submitted will be accepted.*

**Late, partial, or emailed applications will not be considered**

4. **Eligibility Criteria: ALL** student applicants must:
  - a. Be an **incoming applicant to SVdPHS**.
  - b. Earn a minimum GPA 2.50 (*if a scholarship has a GPA requirement*).
  - c. Possess strong character and compassion for fellow students.
  - d. Have a current and active community service record.
  - e. Be in good overall standing at current school.
  - f. Answer question(s) in essay format, double spaced, using the Fillable Essay form provided.

**Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are awarded scholarships will be notified through the Admission's Office. Invitations are generally sent out by the beginning of March 2023.**

**Scholarship opportunities:**

1. Ed & Stella Cella Memorial Scholarship for Community Service
2. Saint Vincent de Paul & BVM Sisters Scholarship
3. Tom & Judy Gavin Memorial Scholarship

***Remember: Applicants should write thoughtful, informative, and accurate responses to each essay question.***

***Ed & Stella Cella Memorial Scholarship for Community Service -8<sup>th</sup> Grade students; NO GPA minimum - Award \$500***

The Ed and Stella Cella family of 13 children are all alumni of St. Vincent de Paul High School. This scholarship was established several years ago by the Cella children in memory of their parent's many years of tireless dedication to the St. Vincent Community. Ed and Stella exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and commitment to a Catholic school education.

**ESSAY QUESTION:** *Double-spaced, minimum of 400 words.* Please share details from your community service experiences.

1. Describe your Community Service experiences.
2. Describe why you choose these services.
3. Describe what have you gained from these experiences.

**\*\*Be sure you have complete *Community Service Record* information listed on the *Activities Record* page of your *General Scholarship Application*.**

**Saint Vincent de Paul & BVM Sisters Scholarship - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students; No GPA Requirement - Award \$500**

*"Strive to live content in the midst of those things that cause you discontent. Free your mind from all that troubles you, God will take care of things." --Saint Vincent de Paul*

Among the many saints and great Christian leaders of the Church in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, **Saint Vincent de Paul** stands out pre-eminent as an apostle of charity and an educator of the clergy. His long life of devotion to the service of his neighbor is a model for our imitation. Charity was his predominant virtue; it extended to all classes of persons, from childhood to the aged.

Vincent de Paul was born in 1580 in France. Although his family didn't have much, Vincent always gave whenever he could. By age 20 he was ordained a priest and began his work on his doctorate degree in theology. In 1635, Vincent found the Congregation of the Mission, known as the Vincentians who devoted themselves to working to aid the poor. Vincent established many hospitals and orphanages, ransomed Christian slaves in northern Africa, founded seminaries, sent priests abroad to preach missions, organized relief programs for war torn areas, and wrote on many spiritual topics. *Vincent came to believe that when you have nothing, the only help you have is God.* Vincent devoted his entire life to helping others, trying to alleviate human suffering and misery. The 80 year-old saint died in 1660.

*"Thank God often. Love Him much in return for all His gifts." – Sister Mary Frances Clarke, BVM*

**Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, known by their initials **BVM**, are a Roman Catholic religious order in the U.S., founded in 1833 by Mother Mary Frances Clarke. To provide for the continued desire for a religious co-educational high school the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) were the third and last order of religious women of faith to come to Petaluma arriving in 1892. Since, they have been able to teach both boys and girls of all ages they began a long and committed ministry in Petaluma! The BVM Sisters of Charity taught at St. Vincent de Paul schools for more than 100 years. Over the years of their stay there were approximately 138 sisters who taught actively in the elementary school and approximately 95 who taught in the high school. Because of the strong influence of these women of faith, 20 young women of our parish have entered and served as members of the BVM order.

St. Vincent's is indebted to the work and zeal of all these religious women who came from 1867 to 1986 (119 years) to minister to the St. Vincent Parish Community. They came with the love of God embedded in their hearts. For them, Christ had no hands but theirs. With Christian humility and dedication, they served us all. The women of the BVM order have served in diverse ministries in multiple states and in at least three foreign countries.

**BVM Sisters uphold a mission of three basic philosophies of living:**

1. By living core values of freedom, education, charity, and justice.
2. By strong public witness against oppression brought about by unjust political and social structures,
3. By solidarity with those marginalized by society, and by speaking in supportive and non-violent action.

**ESSAY QUESTION:** In a minimum of 500 words, double-spaced, using the Essay Response form,

1. Describe the volunteer work you have completed.
2. Describe how this community service has affected you.
3. Describe how you have made a difference to those you served.
4. Describe how you plan to continue this service, and why is it important to you.

**Remember** in your responses, the *giving and serving* spirit of both **Saint Vincent de Paul and the BVM nuns**

**Tom & Judy Gavin Memorial Scholarship -8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students; NO GPA minimum - Award \$1,000**

The Tom Gavin Memorial Scholarship was established in 2008 by Tom's wife and daughter, an SVHS alumna. After Judy's passing in 2013 this scholarship was lovingly renamed by their daughter in both of her parents' names. Tom was the kind of guy who had an affectionate nickname for all of his friends and family.

**ESSAY QUESTION:** In a minimum of 250 to 500 words, double-spaced, using the Essay Response form, please tell the story behind your favorite nickname that you have been given. If you have never had a nickname, please share what you think it should be, based on your personality or a particularly memorable incident or story in your life that exemplifies your character.