



## **The Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship**

*Students in Grades 6-11, Nominated by a member of the Montgomery Catholic faculty and staff.*

### **Requirements:**

1. A student will be nominated to submit an application by a current member of the MCPS Staff.
2. Students who receive a nomination will then be notified of their nomination and requested to complete an application. Application letters will be given to each student.
3. Submit the completed application to the Business Office by end of school day March 1.



## **The Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship**

### **About the Scholarship:**

The Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship was established in August 2022 in memory of Luke J. Whetstone by his family and gifts made to Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School in his memory. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student that is nominated by the faculty and staff at MCPS. The scholarship seeks to encourage the Montgomery Catholic community to put kindness and compassion first. Luke's scholarship also offers a reflection on how living a life faithfully and selflessly, loving God and neighbor, makes a positive difference for those in our lives and those who will enter our lives.

### **Amount of Award:**

The Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship is a minimum of a \$1,000 tuition scholarship that will be awarded annually for a minimum of 5 years.

### **Qualifications for this Scholarship:**

For the purpose of this scholarship, the criteria are:

1. The student has received a nomination for the scholarship.
2. The student is currently enrolled at MCPS in grades 6-11.
3. Compliance with all application instructions.

### **Selection Committee:**

A committee comprised of: the MCPS President, MCPS High School Principal, and the Barranco/Whetstone family or their appointees.

**Application Deadline:** Submit the completed application to the Business Office by end of the school day on March 1.

**Announcement of Award:** The recipient of the Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship will be awarded at the scholarship breakfast in May.



## Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship Application

### Applicant Information:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please take the time to complete at least three of the following reflections, please use additional paper as needed:

1. Give examples of how you have shown kindness or compassion to someone who is struggling personally, academically, or socially. How did your actions make a difference in their life and your own?
2. Define compassion in your own words. Give examples of how someone's kindness or compassion made a difference in your life.
3. Who or what inspires you to live a life of kindness and compassion? What are some ways you can incorporate kindness in your everyday life?

4. "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always."  
What does this quote mean to you?
  
5. What do you think are your greatest strengths and gifts? How can you use your gifts and talents to love God and neighbor, making the world around you better?
  
6. How do you respond when life gets hard? Explain how you have learned to persevere when faced with trials, struggles or difficult situations.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School

## Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship Introduction Letter

Dear Montgomery Catholic Faculty and Administration,

My son, Luke Whetstone, who graduated from Montgomery Catholic in 2018, passed away in the summer of 2022. Some of you who have been here for a few years knew him. For those who did not, I'd like to tell you about him.

Luke started Kindergarten at St. Bede and then attended Montgomery Catholic Middle and High School, where he enjoyed many years of learning, friendships, and athletics. I would describe Luke as resilient, having had to navigate a lot of changes in his family life over the years. He was smart, easily distracted, perceptive, disorganized, and funny. He loved to do impressions and make his friends and family laugh. He was passionate early on about Alabama Football and fishing.

Towards the end of his life, even as he struggled with his mental health, he knew what was important to him. He preferred the simple things in life. Family, music, writing, art, traveling and being outdoors brought him joy and peace. He had a deep appreciation and love for the beauty of God's creation: waterfalls, sunrises and sunsets, trees, Spanish moss, streams, rivers, beaches, and mountains. He had a rare gift of being able to slow down, be in the moment and take the time to notice what others might overlook. He desired and enjoyed meaningful conversations. He loved his family. As much as he struggled, he got a lot of things right. I'd like to share his words from a text he sent me: "At the end of the day, I think a lot of people forget we're all human...Everyone has their own battles to fight and everyone copes with it differently, so why not be kind?"

During Luke's Memorial Mass, Monsignor Bill Skoneki told us "The best response to Luke's untimely death is for each and every one of us to live life faithfully and selflessly, loving God and neighbor...to live a life that makes the world around us better...to live a life that makes a difference for others." Establishing this scholarship is one way our family has chosen to respond, in hopes of living out this call to love God and neighbor and make a difference for others. Father Bill also said "Luke's sudden death reminds us how short life can be and how our everyday words and actions matter." You may have heard the quote "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." Luke echoed this sentiment in his text I shared above.

Luke's scholarship will seek to promote and recognize kindness and compassion. We chose to focus on these Gospel values, not because Luke was a model of kindness and compassion while he was a student here, but because as he struggled with mental health challenges, he recognized the importance of these attributes and desired them for himself and others who were facing similar issues. Luke's scholarship is an opportunity for you to recognize those students who live a life of kindness and compassion, making a difference in the lives of those around them. This scholarship is also an opportunity to encourage those students who may be "fighting an unseen battle" yet persevere through the challenges they face. They can be recognized for perseverance, hard work, service to others, or any other gift, talent or attribute that is less obvious and may go unrecognized by your typical scholarship/award. I thank you for taking the time to consider nominating one or more students and making a difference in the lives of our Montgomery Catholic Community.

With Appreciation,  
Katherine Barranco (Luke's mom)



# Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School

## Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship Nomination Form

**Instructions:** We appreciate your willingness to nominate an applicant for this award. We ask you as an MCPS teacher and staff member to prayerfully consider nominating a student for the scholarship. This is an opportunity for our adult community to acknowledge students who need encouragement, who have special talents or gifts that may go unnoticed, or who live a life of kindness and compassion.

**“At the end of the day I think a lot of people forget that we’re all human. We all have our own battles to fight and everyone copes with it differently, so why not be kind?”**  
- Luke Whetstone

With the establishment of this scholarship, Luke’s family wishes to honor his memory by extending the blessing of kindness to Montgomery Catholic students and their families.

### **About the Scholarship:**

The Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship was established in August 2022 in memory of Luke J. Whetstone by his family and gifts made to Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School in his memory. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student that is nominated by the faculty and staff at MCPS to complete an application. The scholarship seeks to encourage the Montgomery Catholic community to put kindness and compassion first. Luke’s scholarship also offers a reflection on how living a life faithfully and selflessly, loving God and neighbor, makes a positive difference for those in our lives and those who will enter our lives. The award winner will be selected by committee.

### **Amount of Award:**

The Luke J. Whetstone, Class of 2018 Memorial Scholarship is a minimum \$1,000 tuition scholarship that will be awarded annually for a minimum of 5 years, beginning May 2023.

### **Qualifications for this Scholarship:**

For the purpose of this scholarship, the criteria are:

1. The student has received a nomination for the scholarship.
2. The student is currently enrolled at, MCPS in grades 6-11.
3. Compliance with all application instructions.

### **Selection Committee:**

A committee comprised of: the MCPS President, MCPS High School Principal, and the Barranco/Whetstone family or their appointees.

**General Information**

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

**In Luke’s memory, and as a member of the Montgomery Catholic faculty I have prayerfully considered my nomination of:**

Student Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Nominee Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

as a candidate to receive a minimum of a \$1,000 tuition scholarship for next year.

Please complete to following questions to complete your nomination.

1. Keeping in mind that living a life of kindness will make a difference in the world around us, I would like to nominate this student because (please tell the committee why this student should be considered):

2. Are there gifts or talents that this student has that go unnoticed? Please explain:



3. Keeping in mind that Luke's scholarship seeks to encourage kindness and compassion, how is your nomination a reflection of these gifts?

May we share your name as the nominator with the student applicant?

- Yes
- I prefer not

Signature of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_