

## LAKE ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL

6680 Cradlerock Way Columbia, Maryland 21045 (410) 313-7600 FAX (410) 313-7633

December 1, 2016

Dear Parents:

Your child recently received the first quarter report card. Please review the report card to see if he/she has qualified for consideration in our search for the Carson Scholar Nominee from Lake Elkhorn Middle School based on their GPA for the first quarter of the 2015-2016 school year. The Carson Scholars Fund is a nonprofit 501© (3) public charity founded in 1994 by world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon and 2008 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, Dr. Benjamin S. Carson and his wife, Candy. The Fund “recognizes and rewards students grades 4-11 who earn the highest level of academic achievement and also display strong humanitarian qualities. Winners are designated as ‘Carson Scholars’ and receive \$1,000 scholarship awards that are invested for college.”

The following are the qualifications necessary for nomination:

- GPA of 3.75 or above for first quarter in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Language. (The GPA is weighted for GT/Honors classes. Please contact the school counselor if you need assistance in calculating your child’s GPA)
- Demonstration of humanitarian qualities in school and community through school programs and/or community service above and beyond what is required. (Please remember—community service is unpaid, volunteer work that benefits individuals, groups, or nonprofit organizations and the volunteer work must demonstrate unique accomplishments.)
- Typed essay on one of the following topics (500-word limit for either essay):
  1. “A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special.” – Nelson Mandela  
How has having a good head, heart, and education helped to shape who you are today? How may it help you in the future?
  2. What do you think an older generation could learn from you? What skills, attitudes or habits does your generation have that you think older people could benefit from adopting? Why?

Student’s **essays** and their **listing of community service activities** are due back to Mrs. OliverMcCain by **Friday, December 16, 2016**. No submissions will be accepted after this date. A staff committee will then blindly select one nominee from the essays/activities (i.e., your child’s document will be de-identified during the review). **Please ensure that your child’s name is only listed on the cover sheet provided.** If your child is selected, we will contact you to complete the application process.

More information can be found on the reverse side of this letter and at the following website:  
<http://carsonsscholars.org/scholarships/faqs>.

Sincerely,

Bettina OliverMcCain  
School Counselor

## Ben Carson Scholarship Information 2016-2017

### WHO?

- Students in grades 6, 7, & 8 are eligible.
- Only ONE STUDENT may be nominated from each school.
- Applicants must have a grade point average of 3.75 in the following combined academic subjects: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. (Courses listed as “Advanced” or “Gifted & Talented” are weighted by half a point.)

### WHAT? & WHY?

- The Carson Scholars Fund aims to recognize and reward students who earn the highest level of academic achievement and also display strong humanitarian qualities.
- Winners are designated as “Carson Scholars” and receive \$1,000 scholarship awards that are invested for college.

### WHEN? & WHERE?

- Student Essays must be submitted to Mrs. OliverMcCain in the Counseling Center on or before **December 16, 2016** by 9 A.M.
- Our *Lake Elkhorn Middle School* Scholar Nominee will be announced on Monday, December 19, 2016 and given the [online application link](#) to complete.

### HOW?

- Qualifying students will submit an essay to Mrs. OliverMcCain in the Counseling Center on or before **Friday, December 16, 2016** by 9:00 A.M.
- A Carson Scholars Nomination Committee comprised of administrators, school counselors, teachers, and support staff will select the nominee to be considered for this prestigious award.

### *What will the Nomination Committee Judges look for in the student essay?*

Since the student essay carries the greatest weight in terms of possible points earned, the applicant’s efforts should be concentrated on the essay portion of the application.

**CONTENT:** An essay with ample information, including supporting details.

**ORGANIZATION:** An organized essay with a well developed beginning, middle, and end.

**STYLE:** Interesting, varied and imaginative, age-appropriate vocabulary.

**MECHANICS & USAGE:** Correct punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and paragraph distinction.

**FOCUS:** Appropriate information to make the reader clearly understand the ideas being presented.

# Ben Carson Scholars Fund Student Essay 2016-2017

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

ESSAY QUESTION #: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Words in Essay: \_\_\_\_\_

(Can be found at the bottom of the Word Document)

# *FOR EXAMPLE PURPOSES ONLY!*

## **Community Service**

Worship & Dance Team Member at Church (Full year commitment)

Participated in Alabaster Coin Collection at Church

Prepared bag lunches for the homeless

Prepared toiletries for the homeless

Prepared disaster kits for local distribution center

Helped cook food to be served at the Route 1 Day Center

Shoveled the sidewalks in the community after snowstorms

Completed chores and tasks at home

Served as a Student Ambassador to new students to my school

### Ben Carson Scholarship 2016-2017 Timeline

December 1, 2016	Distribute Carson Scholars essay information to all middle school students & families
December 16, 2016	All Essays due by 9 A.M. (no exceptions)
December 16, 2016	Carson Scholars Committee judges essays and selects school representative
December 19, 2016	LEMS Carson Scholar nominee announced on LETV and given link to online application to complete between 12/19/16 – 01/06/17 by 5:00 P.M.  Selected teachers are also given their portions of the packet to complete between 12/19/16 – 01/06/17 by 5:00 P.M.
January 6, 2017	Nominee must complete the online application by 5:00 P.M.
January 10-13, 2017	Principal will receive an email that the application has been completed online and must verify the application materials and validity of the school's nominee.