



#RAKDavid Scholarship Guidelines

PURPOSE OF SCHOLARSHIP

David Xavier Castro would have graduated from Westside High School in 2022. Known to all for his wit and random acts of kindness, David challenged himself daily to be the best he could be. Involved in both Westside engineering and band, David enjoyed working hard and making others laugh.

ELIGIBILITY

#RAKDavid scholarships will be awarded to two (2) graduating seniors.

Applicants must:

- Be a graduating high school senior in good standing
- Have a minimum 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Be enrolled or planning to be enrolled in a full or part-time course of study at an accredited 2-year or 4-year college or university, or another accredited institution of post-secondary skill training
- Have excellent character and conduct
- Have demonstrated acts of kindness
- Have demonstrated community service
- Complete the application and its requirements submitted by deadline

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Awards are \$1,500 each. A total of two (2) scholarships will be awarded each year.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are solely responsible for gathering and submitting all necessary information. All information submitted is confidential and will be reviewed by WHS Scholarship Committee personnel only. Students must:

1. Submit the following items about you:
 - a. Application Form
 - b. Resume - Prepare a list of activities you have participated in and/or hours spent working or volunteering. Activities may include participation in WHS sports, clubs, etc., community service and paid employment.
 - c. One (1) letter of recommendation that references your character and conduct
2. Submit evidence of an act of kindness performed during the current school year and posted on #RAKDavid:
 - a. Perform the kind act
 - b. Document what was done either via video, photo, or written explanation
 - c. Post the documentation on #RAKDavid in a social media platform or on the www.rakdavid.org website
 - d. Submit a picture of the post

3. Submit a **reflection*** about the act of kindness by answering two (2) of the following questions:
- How did you learn about kindness?
 - How can you teach someone about kindness?
 - Have you been a recipient of a random act of kindness and how did that impact you?
 - How do you think your random act of kindness impacted someone?

The **reflection*** may be shown in the following formats:

- an essay (up to 250 words) or
- in a format including visuals (with up to 150 words) -
 - Posters (up to 22" x 28"),
 - Scrapbooks/brochures (up to 4 pages 10"x10"/8.5"x11"),
 - Power Point (6 slides), or
 - Video (up to 3 minutes), or
 - A self-authored song, or
 - A self-authored poem

* Supplemental items must be scanned or be in an electronic format and attached to the application email. NO PAPER/HARD COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Once the scanned application, evidence, and reflection is received, the student transcript and recommendation will be pulled by the Westside College Counselor.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations may be written by WHS teachers, coaches, club sponsors, administrators, or staff.
- Recommendations can be requested by following the College Center guidelines.
- If you are requesting a recommendation from your employer, please send the request by email with the recommendation form attached. Your employer should send the recommendation directly to aturner1@houstonisd.org

Please be sure to give each teacher or staff member enough time to complete recommendation form in Naviance before the May 1st deadline.

The application must be SCANNED and supplemental items, such as the essay or visual presentation, must be in electronic format or SCANNED and attached to the application email.

EMAIL the application, (with the attachments), to Mrs. Alaina Turner at aturner1@houstonisd.org by May 1st, 4:15pm deadline. NO PAPER/HARD COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

RECIPIENT SELECTION

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of their qualifications listed above, activities, participation in school activities, adult recommendations, and evidence and reflection of random act of kindness.

Scholarships awarded will be based on WHS Scholarship Committee selection procedures and available funds. Not all applicants will receive awards.

Selection of recipients will be made by the WHS Scholarship Committee. In no instance will any member of the Castro family participate in the selection. All applicants will be notified of their status on or before Senior Awards Night.

PAYMENT OF AWARDS

Scholarship payments will be authorized by the WHS Scholarship Committee and processed by the David X Castro Memorial Fund. Checks will be made payable directly to the university, college, or post- secondary training institute provided by scholarship recipient with form due to the Castro family by June 1.

OBLIGATIONS

Scholarship recipients must enroll in their education programs no later than twelve (12) months after their awards are given. Recipients are required to notify the Castro family of any changes of address, school enrollment, or other pertinent information.

REVISION POLICY

The general conditions and procedures under which scholarships are made are subject to periodic review by the Castro family, including termination of the program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the #RAKDavid Scholarship, or to download a copy of the scholarship application, please go to Naviance or to contact Mrs. Alaina Turner, Westside High School College Access Center, aturner1@houstonisd.org.



APPLICATION FORM

DEADLINE MAY 1st at 4:15pm

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

Dean's Name: _____ House: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

Scan and email this application to Mrs. Turner, aturner1@houstonisd.org by May 1. Be sure to include the following attachments, either scanned or attached electronically:

- This Application Form as a cover sheet
- Resume - list of WHS activities demonstrating school spirit
- Your 250-word essay or visual demonstration with electronic files emailed to aturner1@houstonisd.org
- One (1) letter of recommendation by

Adult's name: _____

Students: If you need a teacher or staff member recommendation, please request a copy of the Adult Recommendation from the College Counselor and upload it according to the college center guidelines. Please be sure to give each teacher or staff member enough time to complete recommendation before the May 1st deadline.