



The Future of Maine Martindell Teaching Scholarship

Amount of scholarships: \$250 - \$1,000.

For whom: Students in grades 3 – 8 at participating Future of Maine schools and who aspire to pursue a career in teaching.

Deadline: Anytime before April 15, 2024.

Redeeming the scholarship: Each scholarship may be divided as follows: 50% or more will be set aside for college costs or college admissions expenses. 50% can be redeemed to support college aspirations and so can be redeemed in the year the scholarship is received, or in subsequent years, to purchase a program or resource that will help the student pursue his or her aspirations. Recipients may petition to redeem all of the scholarship to support their aspirations. All scholarships must be redeemed before the student reaches the age of 19.

The application:

Student name: Claire Meader

School: Margaret Chase Smith School

Grade: 5th

Teacher: Kaitlin Dixon (Miss Dixon)

Today's date: 4/12/24

Have you previously applied for a Future of Maine College Aspirations Scholarship?

Y ☐ N ☒

On separate sheets of paper, respond to all four of the following prompts and attach them to this application. Give the application and the four attached reports to your teacher to submit to Maine College Circle by mail or by email. Maine College Circle, P.O. Box 1112, Ellsworth, Maine 04605. fomscholars@mainecollegecircle.org. If you have any questions, talk with your teacher or email Bob Stuart at bstuart@mainecollegecircle.org.

1) Briefly describe why you are interested in becoming a teacher and what grades or subjects you think you might be interested in teaching.

2) Interview four people older than 16, and not all from the same family, about the qualities of their favorite teacher and write a one page (or more) report about these interviews and what you learned from them. Were there some qualities that all of these four people mentioned as qualities of an especially good teacher?

3) Interview two teachers about the career of teaching, the qualities and training needed to excel in the career, what the teacher likes best about teaching, and what the teacher finds most challenging about the career. Write a one-page (or more) report about these interviews. This interview should conclude with one joint recommendation from a teacher and the applicant about how education could be improved in that school, this state, or nationwide.

4) Working with one of these teachers that you interviewed, design and teach a lesson to a classroom at the school. Write a one page (or more) report on what you and your teacher thought went well and what you would do differently the next time.

The Future Maine Martindell Teaching Scholarship

Hello, my name is Claire Meader from Margaret Chase Smith School. I am trying to win this scholarship to complete my dream of becoming a third grade teacher!

Briefly describe why you are interested in becoming a teacher and what grades or subjects you think you might be interested in teaching?

I am interested in becoming a teacher so I can make an impact on children's lives. I want to be a third grade teacher because the grade and age are perfect. I also don't want to go above fifth grade and I don't want to go below third grade so I think it is a good compromise. I think the subjects I'd like the most would be teaching math because I like designing lessons and being able to teach something that is sometimes a little complex and see if I can help that little light bulb light up in a child's head!

Interview four people older than 16, and not all from the same family, about the qualities of their favorite teacher and write a one page (or more) report about these interviews and what you learned from them. Were there some qualities that all these four people mentioned as qualities of an especially good teacher?

I interviewed two Ed Techs, my 5th grade teacher, and my aunt who is the assistant principal at a school in my district. I first interviewed my 5th grade teacher Ms. Dixon. She stated 4 qualities of her favorite second grade teacher, Mrs. Parlin. She said that Mrs. Parlin was patient with her students. In my opinion this is a very good quality to have as a teacher because dealing with disrespect or kids who are having a rough day can make teachers or just people in general, impatient or annoyed. When you have a great quality like being patient and even a good listener it will eventually

work itself out. She also said that her teacher was very kind and understanding, which again is a really good quality to have because I would feel especially special if a child trusted me with possible delicate information and could be helpful to know they have a trusted adult at home but at school too. The third quality was that she allowed her students to make mistakes. When a student makes a mistake it doesn't have to be a face of disappointment or frustration, it could be a face of "Here's what we'll do next time." Here's the thing, kids are supposed to be in school to learn, but how do they learn if they never make mistakes. Some kids at home could be raised up to high learning standards or expectations and may be scared of making mistakes, So at school having the freedom to make mistakes and not being frustrated at kids who are just trying to learn is a great quality to have! The last quality in some ways falls into all of the qualities that I've mentioned but still thought it was important to still say something. The last (but not least) quality was that she encouraged her students. Getting that push of encouragement to know that more than just one person believe in me at home but at school too. I wish this was always the case, but some parents cut off their words and say that their dream or their want in the world is ridiculous and not worth it, but just because you think that doesn't mean it's true, and teachers should always encourage students to follow their dreams and get what they want out in the world, even if they have that support at home or they don't you never know. What I learned from this interview is that sometimes it is the simple things that can help change someone's life. The second person I interviewed was Ed Tech one, their favorite teacher was Mrs. Lattin. I'm not sure what grade, but from what I know she sounds like an amazing teacher. Ed Tech one typed up a little paragraph of the qualities so I am going to share that and state a little bit of my opinion and what I learned from this after.

"My favorite teacher is Mrs. Lattin. What sets her apart is her unwavering dedication to her students' success. Beyond imparting Knowledge, she fosters a nurturing environment where everyone feels valued and supported. Her teacher style is dynamic, incorporating innovative methods to make learning enjoyable and engaging. Mrs. Lattin possesses an innate ability to understand each student's unique strengths and challenges, tailoring her approach accordingly. She goes above and beyond, offering guidance and encouragement both inside and outside the classroom. Her passion for teaching shines through every interaction,

inspiring her students to strive for excellence and instilling in them a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.” - Ed Tech one

When I read this I felt like my heart got a little bigger when they were talking about how her passion for teaching was really strong and powerful. I feel that having the dedication and time to help your students succeed is one of the most important parts of teaching, and a lot of the qualities of a great teacher seem to be in most of the four interviews like “Encouraging,” and “Understanding,” were probably the most used words in theses interviews which is amazing. In the paragraph, when it said fun and engaging lessons that made me think how when you set up a lesson that has no color no fun it’s not gonna look engaging and your not get the enthusiasm you’re hoping for, when you have fun colors and enthusiasm in the teachers voice thats when you will get the enthusiasm. What it sounds like Ed Tech one is saying is that if you don’t get excited for lessons or be a role model most likely kids aren’t gonna really engage in what you’re teaching. If you get up there and get excited to be up there and teach maybe just maybe you will have excited faces and enthusiasm! I learned that there are challenges in teaching but there’s gonna be a bright side especially if you’re passionate! Second to last person I interviewed was Ed Tech 2. They told me about their 10th grade teacher Mr. Elon Firmag. They stated 4 qualities of their favorite 10th grade teacher and coach at their school. They said that he was a great role model, which in my opinion is one of the best qualities because in 10th grade you could be starting to think about your future careers and being a good role model could help put more people into the teaching career or be inspiring in different ways! They also said he had a great sense of humor and great personality, which could let students know “Hey calm down just do your best.” That’s what I would need in my life as a 10th grader, someone who believes in me and says just do your best. When I interviewed Ms. Dixon, she said that her second grade teacher allowed her to make mistakes, Ed Tech 2 also said that Mr. Firmag allowed them to make mistakes because how else are you supposed to learn? It seems crazy that some parents or teachers don’t let their kids or students make mistakes like how are you supposed to learn or understand things if you don’t make mistakes?! The last (but not least) quality that they stated was that he was highly intelligent, the reason I think this also falls under the understanding umbrella because being highly intelligent about certain things means you could understand certain situations in kids. What I

learned from this interview is that a little bit of humor can change how you come off as a teacher, good or bad! The last person I interviewed was my aunt who is an assistant principal at a school in the Msad54 district. She said that her second grade teacher Ms. French was her favorite teacher and stated 4 qualities that she had. Her first quality was that she was very caring. Having this quality as a teacher and showing it is proving to a child that you care about the little things and you will be there for them which is great! The next quality she said she had was that she was very friendly and kind. When you first meet your student you want to come off as nice and kind. If you come off as rude or strict the student may not want to engage, still set boundaries and rules so it doesn't go out of control, but I know when I meet a teacher or just a person in general first impressions matter. Multiple people have said during these interviews how important patience is and honestly not surprising that she said that Ms. French was also very patient. I know I've said this alot but when dealing with disrespect or rough days patiences is key for sure, And what I've learned from every one of these interviews is that patience is very very important. The last quality she said was that Mr.French was passionate about teaching, I don't know if that includes showing it or not but, what being passionate is about is being excited to jump in every day even if there's bumps or changes in the road, and loving what you do along the way!

Interview two teachers about the career of teaching ,the qualities and training needed to excel in the career,what the teacher likes best about teaching,and what the teacher finds most challenging about the career. Write a one-page (or more) report about these interviews. This interview should conclude with one joint recommendation from a teacher and the applicant about how education could be improved in that school, this state, or nationwide. The first teacher I interviewed is my 5th grade teacher who I also interviewed for the qualities of their favorite teacher (I hope that's okay). First of all she stated the basic training you need is you need to go to college and get a 4 year degree also known as your bachelors degree,and pick a major and depending on the grade most likely childhood education,then you also have to take classes on how to teach certain subjects and run a classroom. I'm sure there are certain qualities needed to excel in the career but in my opinion most needed is patience. After she told me

about the qualities and training needed to excel she told me the things she likes best about teaching. She said she likes seeing the light bulb connection from the eyes to the brain (which I think I'd like that too). She also said that she loves to see when students are smiling and happy to be at school which I definitely understand why she would like seeing kids happy to be at school! The second to last thing she said is that she loves to have conversations with students and be fully engaged with her students and as the person I am I love to talk so I don't doubt for a second that I won't do that as a teacher! The last thing she said about the things she likes about teaching is that (this is kind of funny) she said she loves to learn about students' pets and their past pets, (I honestly think I would love that as well!) The last thing she said in this interview is about what should be changed in education in this school and our district is that she thinks we should have longer school days (8 hours instead of six) because in our school we can only have social studies and science twice a week because we only have six hours to do all the subjects but we always have to choose one or the other. What I think should be changed nationwide in education is to be less hard on students and allow them to make mistakes. When I interviewed people for qualities of their favorite teacher I was really happy when most of the teachers said their teachers allowed them to make mistakes. What makes me most mad when teachers don't allow students to make mistakes is, how are they supposed to learn? Imagine if you made a mistake while teaching, doing that makes you feel bad enough so when someone is saying "you should know this" it makes it worse. The second person I interviewed is another 5th grade teacher Ms. Dutterer (also known as Ms. Dixon's best friend. She also said that you need to go to college and get a Bachelor's degree, but she also said that you need a lot of patience to be a teacher and to be understanding and flexible. What she said she liked best was teaching skills to kids that could last a lifetime and seeing kids understand certain subjects. She said what she dislikes or what to be prepared for is disrespect and quick changes. Sometimes kids don't get that teachers are humans too and can be disrespectful don't take it personally is my best advice. When she says you have to be flexible probably because things change really quick, like when you expect one thing to happen it doesn't!

Working with one of these teachers that you interviewed, design and teach a lesson to a classroom at the school. Write a one page (or more) report on

what you and your teacher thought went well and what you would do differently the next time. I taught a google slide lesson on St. Patrick's Day on March 12th for 30 minutes. I started to plan this lesson the week before. I researched pictures of the Chicago River being dyed green and the parade in New York City. I also looked up different traditional meals served on St. Patrick's Day. Lastly, I learned about Irish Dancing. My teacher and I thought I did very well at being prepared. In the lesson I did, I put things about the Chicago River being dyed green, the traditional meal, and Irish dancing. Then I passed out a reading passage and questions on St. Patrick's Day. I read the first paragraph of the passage and then called on a few of my classmates to continue reading the following paragraphs. After the reading, I passed out questions about Saint Patrick's Day. I read the questions aloud and then together as a class we answered them. I wrote the answers on the board so my classmates could rewrite them on their worksheet. My teacher thought I did well with disrespect and calling on students. I didn't just call on my friends but I called on everyone! I definitely think there could have been some improvements but overall I think I did pretty well. I think when my teacher said I was prepared I think she also meant that I had enough materials. Something my teacher and I thought I could improve on or do better at is writing bigger on the board which I agree with, I'm not used to writing big on the board because I usually don't share my work. I was nervous about spelling and messing up. Hopefully I'll get better at that the more I do it! The next thing I think I could improve on is to slow down during the lesson. I think next time I shouldn't worry about the time so much and worry more about the lesson and what I'm doing at that moment. I was worried I was going to run out of time because it was right at the end of the day. My classmates were getting antsy and starting to move around towards the end of the lesson. I think I was also pretty nervous but next time maybe I won't be as nervous. The last thing my teacher said was that I could improve on having more confidence. This was my first time doing a lesson and I went in confident but came out of it with less. Honestly, I don't really know why. I still really want to be a teacher and think I will be a great one! If I were to teach another lesson I would teach a social studies lesson because I feel the most confident in social studies. I think I would be the most confident in teaching social studies.

In conclusion, I think that overall I worked really well and hard to try and get this scholarship. I actually really enjoyed doing this essay. It gives

me motivation to work hard to complete my dreams. I really hope eventually my hard work pays off in the end!

Claire did an amazing job teaching the class about St. Patrick's Day for her scholarship project! She started off confident with a cool PowerPoint that showed colorful pictures of the Chicago River turned green, shamrocks, and Irish dancing. Then, she handed out a fun reading about the history of St. Patrick's Day to all her classmates. Claire made sure everyone had a chance to read and understand the story. After that, she passed out some questions to test what everyone learned. Claire patiently went over each question, writing the answers in a clear and friendly way on the board so her fellow classmates could copy them if they needed. Her classmates were engaged and excited to learn more about this special holiday. Claire's hard work and creativity really shined through, making her an awesome teacher for the afternoon!

-Miss Dixon (Kaitlin Dixon, 5th Grade, MCSS, kdixon@msad54.org)