



**Cardinal O'Hara High School**  
**Michael F. Brannen**  
**School Spirit Scholarship Award**  
**AY 2019-2020**



1. **Purpose.** The purpose of the Cardinal O'Hara High School (COHS) Michael F. Brannen (MFB) School Spirit Scholarship Award is to recognize and reward a COHS student completing sophomore year or junior year who has demonstrated strong academic performance coupled with a strong demonstration of school spirit and service toward COHS, its members, and its community.
2. **Background.** Following graduation from St Christopher's School in 1969, Mike Brannen attended all 4 years at COHS. He was very active in sports, playing Freshmen and Junior Varsity Basketball, managing the Varsity Basketball team, and running Varsity Cross Country and Track his sophomore, junior, and senior years. During his senior year, his teammates selected him as Co-Captain of the Cross Country team and Tri-Captain of the Track team. However, Mike Brannen was much more than a great athlete and supporter of Cardinal O'Hara athletic programs. He served O'Hara on the Booster Club, the Banyan Yearbook staff, and the Student Council. The Class of 1973 recognized Mike's spirit for and service to O'Hara by his selection as Most School Spirited member of the Class. Mike took that spirit of service into his adult life, serving as a volunteer firefighter for 30 years and coaching his sons and other local area youth in baseball. He set a tremendous example of hard work and Christ-like virtue, examples he has passed on to his three sons, Tim, Steve, and John, and to other youth he mentored and coached. In 2004, while continuing to serve his community, and unbeknownst to many of his friends until much later because he didn't want to burden them, Mike was diagnosed with cancer. Throughout his 2 ½-year battle with the disease, Mike maintained his care for his family and friends, his positive spirit, and that ever-present smile. God called him home on 19 May 2007—he was only 51 years old. Mike was always...*always*...there for his teammates, his classmates, his school, his family, and his community. His life of Christ-like service and kindness to others was cut far too short. The intent of this award is to allow his spirit of service to live on and to recognize and reward those who follow Mike's example of spirit and service to COHS, its members, and its community.
3. **Qualifications.** Candidates for the COHS MFB School Spirit Scholarship Award must meet the following criteria:
  - a. Be a sophomore-year or junior-year student in the academic year (AY) in which the award selection is made.
  - b. Not be a previous winner of the COHS MFB School Spirit Scholarship Award.
  - c. Maintain a Cumulative Weighted Average of 90.0 or higher at the time of application for the award.

4. **Application.** Student applicants for the COHS MFB School Spirit Scholarship Award submit an application package according to the submittal deadline announced by the school that consists of the following:
  - a. COHS Student Transcript confirming the student applicant's graduation date, academic year, and Cumulative Weighted Average.
  - b. A typewritten narrative statement of accomplishment prepared by the student applicant including the applicant's full name and class year and documenting the applicant's activities and perspective that demonstrate the applicant's school spirit and service toward COHS, its members, and its community. This statement shall not exceed two (2) pages in length and shall include the printed name and signature of the student and name, title, and signature of a member of the COHS faculty with personal knowledge of the student's activities documented in the statement.
5. **Selection.** COHS staff forward submitted application packages to the award's sponsor and/or those designated by the award's sponsor to review the packages and recommend a winner. The award's sponsor, who may solicit and consider inputs from others including, but not limited to, COHS faculty and staff members, selects the winner of the COHS MFB School Spirit Scholarship Award. Application packages are reviewed and assessed based upon the significance of the student's activities, impact of the student's activities on school spirit, and value of the student's service toward COHS, its members, and its community, as well as package completeness and statement organization, grammar, and spelling.
6. **Presentation.** Presentation of the COHS MFB School Spirit Scholarship Award is normally made with other student recognition during the COHS spring awards assembly near the end of the academic year. The award is presented by the award's sponsor and/or someone designated by the sponsor to present the award. The award consists of:
  - a. A scholarship covering part of the winning student's COHS tuition costs for the following academic year paid directly to the winning student's COHS tuition account on the student's behalf. The award sponsor determines the amount of the scholarship prior to the application deadline.
  - b. A certificate and/or plaque presented to the winning student.
7. **Sponsor.** The COHS MFB School Spirit Scholarship Award sponsor is Colonel James A. "Mouse" Neumeister, US Air Force (Retired), a member of the COHS Class of 1973, and his wife, Lorrie Neumeister. They were close friends of Mike Brannen and his family.
8. **Questions.** Questions from students, parents, and faculty regarding the COHS MFB School Spirit Scholarship Award may be directed to COHS staff members.

**Essays are due to Mrs. Orr in the Advancement Office no later than  
March 27, 2020. Please make sure to have your transcripts and faculty  
signature before turning it in.**