

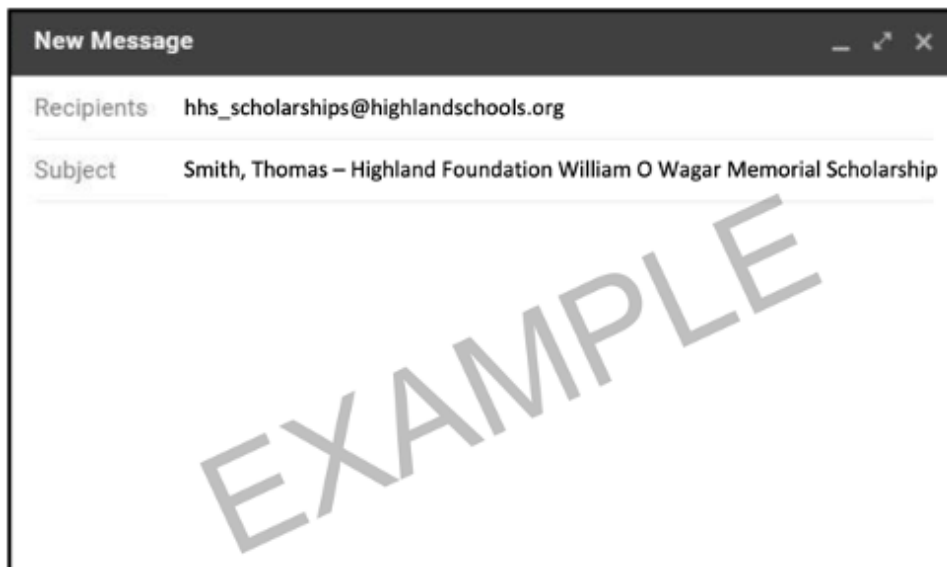
Mike Kudla Memorial

Scholarship Application

Instructions for Scholarship Submission – Please read the following carefully

Due Date – Applications must be submitted by March 15th, 2024.

1. Please read the scholarship description as well as the eligibility criteria before filling out the scholarship application. We encourage you to apply for all scholarships where you meet the eligibility requirements. Please complete the scholarship application in its entirety. If sections are missing, the application will not be accepted.
2. Each scholarship must be emailed as one PDF file to hhs_scholarships@highlandschools.org. Include the following information in the subject line of the email (example below)
 - Your Last Name
 - Your First Name
 - Name of the scholarship



3. If you are applying for multiple scholarships, please send each one in a separate email.
4. If a transcript is required, the counseling department will attach it to your submission once it is received.
5. If a letter of recommendation from a staff member within Highland High School is required, please ask the recommender to scan and submit separately to hhs_scholarships@highlandschools.org.
6. If an outside recommendation letter is requested, it must be attached as part of your scholarship application.
7. Scan and submit your completed application to hhs_scholarships@highlandschools.org.

VERY IMPORTANT - ALL PAGES OF EACH SCHOLARSHIP MUST BE SUBMITTED AS ONE PDF FILE.

Highland Foundation Scholarship Cover Sheet

This cover sheet must be submitted with your scholarship application.

The following information will be used to contact the applicant for interview appointment, questions, clarifications, public relations, etc.

Please be sure the information is current and accurate.

Student's Name (First / Last) _____

Student's Address _____

Student's School Email Address _____@HLND.ORG

Student's Personal Email Address _____

Students' Contact Number (Best phone number to reach you) _____

Parent's Name(s) _____

Parent's Email Address(es) _____

Mike Kudla Memorial Scholarship Application

This scholarship honors the hard work, determination, kindness and generosity for which Michael John Kudla was known and is remembered. Mike was a proud 2002 honors graduate of Highland High School and The Ohio State University. An honor student and four-year letter winner at both institutions, he was known for his strength on and off the football field. From overcoming the rare illness Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis in 2003 and resuming his career with Ohio State to transitioning successfully to the NFL and then succeeding as an entrepreneur, Mike credited his success to his core values and educational experiences.

In high school, Mike had over 500 career tackles and was named to several All-American teams. He finished his prep career at Highland with 495 tackles. He had 144 tackles as a senior, including 27 for loss. He was just as good at guard, where in 2000, his block led to a 2-point conversion run that gave Highland an overtime victory over Mentor Lake Catholic and the program's first playoff win. Playing with a cast on his hand and wrist, Kudla's Highland career ended when he blocked an extra point as the Hornets defeated Oak Harbor 21-20 in the first round of the D-III playoffs. Kudla hurt his hip flexor on that block and didn't play the following week when Highland fell 28-14 to Bellevue.

At Ohio State, he was a member of the 2002 National Championship Team, a two-time Big Ten Champion, First Team All-Big Ten, and 2005 Team Defensive MVP. Mike capped off his Ohio State career with a three-sack performance in a win over Notre Dame and ranks 14th in Ohio State history for career sacks. He held the record for the most sacks in a Fiesta Bowl (3 in 2006 against Notre Dame) and graduated as Ohio State's Strongest Man (610 pounds bench-press, 750 pounds squat, 430 pounds hang clean). Those records were set just seven months after surgery to rebuild his shoulder. Mike was inducted into the Medina County Sports Hall of Fame in 2012.

After his career in the NFL with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Mike embraced his entrepreneurial spirit. Using his degree, he began a career in insurance and risk management. After several years, the opportunity arose to join The Ohio State University and, in 2012, Mike was named Managing Director of Development for the Fisher College of Business. He went on to be the owner and CEO of Coreplex Enterprises, a highly successful company that built and developed medical facilities across the country. Mike was a 2017 recipient of the prestigious 40 under 40 award.

Mike Kudla was referred to by many as a man among boys. He was 6-foot-3 inches tall, weighed 265 pounds and could bench more than 500 pounds before he was old enough to drive. Mike was disciplined and had a determined work ethic. He was also kind, gentle and extremely friendly, off the field. He pushed himself, both as an athlete and as a person. His friends described him as kind-hearted and having a good sense of humor. He applied the same discipline and passion that made him a successful athlete to his business career and he was quick to give back to his community. Mike spoke at The Highland Foundation for Educational Excellence's first alumni event and was a generous supporter to the Foundation and many other organizations. In his own words: "I found that to grow and achieve your goals in life, you have to fall in love with the process of what it takes to become the best. It is not a once-in-a-while thing; it's an all-the-time thing. It is waking up early, staying late and pushing through all the obstacles that present themselves. All of these things will test you to see if you really wanted to reach your goals- or if they were simply just a thought."

The Mike Kudla Memorial Scholarship shall be awarded to a college bound Highland student who is passionate in their life goals, has the qualities needed to persevere through life's obstacles and is determined to make a difference by helping others in the community.

Mike Kudla Memorial Scholarship Application

Applicant Requirements:

1. Must be an athlete who is involved in other extracurricular activities
2. Must have a 3.0 GPA or higher
3. Must have a need for financial assistance for higher education
4. Must have a determined work ethic, focused on success and be highly-motivated
5. Must lead by example
6. Must have a strong sense of family and community
7. Top applicants will be interviewed by the scholarship committee

Name:	
Phone:	
Address:	
City, Zip:	
Email:	
College you will attend:	
Parents' or Guardians' Names:	
GPA at Highland:	
Sports you participated in throughout high school:	
Extracurricular Activities	

What are some of your life goals?

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What obstacles have you faced and how have you overcome them?

How do you make a difference at Highland and/or within the community?